

Anthropology 1AA3 – Summer 2019 – McMaster University
Introduction to Anthropology: Sex, Food and Death

Instructor: Dr. Karen McGarry

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Office Location: Chester New Hall (South wing), Room 531

Lectures: Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5-6 p.m.

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the field of Anthropology and its sub-disciplines through the discussion of some big questions that anthropologists investigate in contemporary and past societies. Some of the issues explored in this course include; sex, gender, food, illness, and death from archaeological, biological, cultural and linguistic perspectives. Through this course, you will develop an understanding of how the anthropological approach can be used to better understand the human condition, past and present.

Blended Learning: Note that this course is a BLENDED LEARNING class. This means that we will meet in person in class on Tuesdays. Thursdays are spent working on projects, on films or other assignments that will normally be due on various Tuesdays.

Learning Objectives:

Through this course, you will:

- Discover the diversity of research in the sub-disciplines of anthropology related to specific themes
- Understand the theories, methods, and techniques used by anthropologists
- Develop an understanding of the human place in nature from an anthropological perspective
- Appreciate the relevance of anthropological knowledge and practices to society as a whole
- Think critically about contemporary issues and debates
- Enhance your comparative, analytic, and critical thinking skills through reading and written assignments

Required Course Materials:

Sex, Food and Death – Anthropology 1AA3. Custom Course Kit for McMaster University. Oxford University Press. NOTE: This text is new, effective September 2017. Please DO NOT use or purchase any pre-2017 versions of this text as the readings are completely different, and test questions are based upon the readings in the new text, not the old one.

Assessments: - Course grades will be assigned based on the following learning assessments:

Two course activities/assignments – 2 @ 25% each (see due dates below)

Final Exam – 50% - In class on August 6th.

Policy on the Submission of Assignments - Assignments submitted by e-mail **will not be accepted**. No extensions will be given unless written certification, approved by your Faculty office, is provided. Please note that policies concerning the use of MSAFs (McMaster Student Absence Forms) have changed (see <http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>). Please see the assignment for directions on using an MSAF on our assignments as there are restrictions in place.

Late penalties: 20% off per 24-hour period (or part thereof late) for assignments, up to 72 hours (including weekends). After 72 hours, a grade of 0 is allocated.

Policy on Reappraisals of Assignments:

I cannot communicate with you over email re: grades. You must see me in person during office hours. If you are concerned or confused about the grading of your assignment after you get it back, then please see Professor McGarry or the TA who marked your work. Remember that I grade your work carefully and rarely change grades. If you would like me to reappraise your work, then please submit (to Professor McGarry) the original paper with a maximum 300-word (typed) explanation of why you think you deserve a higher mark. The Professor will read your paper and your grade may go up, go down or stay the same. Generally speaking, marks do not tend to increase. There was only one case last year of a grade increase. Remember that in first year university courses, student grades, on average, tend to decrease an average of 16% from high school averages...and that's assuming that you are putting a lot of effort into your work. In other words, it takes a lot more effort and hard work to achieve the "A" grade that you may have easily received in high school. Please also note that marks are not awarded (unfortunately!) for effort but for the quality of the final product (achievement). Requests for reappraisals must be made via email to Dr. McGarry no later than **7 calendar days** from the grade release date of your assignment/paper.

Please note – all deferred or makeup exams will be in essay format.

MSAF (McMaster Student Absence Form)

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work". Please note these regulations have changed beginning Spring/Summer 2015.

1AA3 MSAF policy: You cannot MSAF any of the components of this course because each component is worth 25% or more. If you are ill, then take your documentation to your faculty office and see if you can apply for a MSAF exception. A MSAF exception will provide you with a 48-hour extension on an assignment. This includes weekends and holidays. We do NOT re-weight assignments under any circumstance, including medical reasons.

Avenue to Learn (ATL) -Lectures will be presented using Power Point, an abbreviated version of which will be posted on ATL. You must be registered in the course to have access to the 1AA3 site. **Please familiarize yourself with the Avenue to Learn system.**

You can access ATL at: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/?logout=1>

Correspondence - I will check my email regularly throughout the week, so you can expect a response within approximately **48 hours**. Please put **1AA3 in the subject line** of your email and **include your name and student number** at the end of all correspondence.

Student Behavior and Responsibilities –

Your learning – it is your responsibility to **keep up with the readings** – do not leave them until the night before the exams. Attendance in this class is **essential** if you want to do well in this course. You are expected to think about the readings and integrate them into the information and concepts presented during lecture.

Classroom behavior – Please **do not be afraid to ask questions** or provide constructive comments! If you do not understand something, or if I have gone over a concept too fast, stop me and ask a question. Chances are if you do not understand something, other people in the class are in the same position.

Please ensure that cell phones are turned off (including text messaging, Twitter, etc...) and

arrive on time for class. If you have to leave class early, please sit near one of the exits.

Laptop computers may be used in class for taking notes, but students using their computers for any other purpose (e.g., checking Facebook) will be asked to turn their computers off. Please be polite to your neighbours and **keep conversation to a minimum.**

NOTE THAT ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED: We do not re-distribute/re-weigh grades in the event of an MSAF. An MSAF simply gives you an extension on work missed.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. **If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.**

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, Appendix 3, www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g., the submission of work that is not one's own for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Special Accommodations -

Any student with special learning needs should contact Dr. McGarry by the end of the **second week** of classes at the latest. You must have written confirmation from Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Center for Student Development). Students can contact SAS to arrange assistance in the completion of exams. <http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>. SAS is located in **MUSC-B107 905-525-9140 x28652**
NOTE: Disclosure of disability-related information is personal and confidential.

Student Accessibility Services offers various supports for students with disabilities. We work with full time and part time students. SAS provides or assists students with their academic and disability-related needs, including: Learning Strategies, Assistive Technologies, Test & Exam Administration, Note-Taking Programs, Classroom Accommodations. Please inform the instructor if there are disability needs that are not being met.

McMaster University Policy on Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities & McMaster University Anti-Discrimination Policy

- <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf>

Student Success Centre: <http://studentssuccess.mcmaster.ca> GH-110 905-525-9140 x24254

Provides the following services: student orientation, academic skills, leadership, service-learning, volunteerism, educational planning, employment and career transition.

Student Wellness Centre <http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/> MUSC-B101& B106 905-525-9140 x27700

Provides services in: Personal and Psychological Counselling, Mental Health Support, Medical and Health Services

***NOTE:** The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.*

Course Schedule:

June 25: Introduction to the course/What is a blended learning class?

July 2: What is anthropology?

Readings: Textbook, Chapter 1, pages 27-42; Body Ritual among the Nacirema (posted to Avenue)

Thursday July 4: Remember there are **no classes on Thursdays**. Please watch this film -- *Iceman Reborn* -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbZo1doXhMc>

Tuesday July 9: How are men and women different? Or are they? What is the difference between sex and gender? What are gender roles? What is the nature of inequality?

Readings: Textbook pages 45-99

Thursday July 11: Watch this film: “Codes of Gender.”

<https://mcmaster.kanopy.com/welcome/video/codes-gender>

Tuesday July 16: Death and Illness

What constitutes death?; How do different cultures conceptualize death?; What happens to bodies after death? What can we learn from the human skeleton?

Readings: Textbook, pages 175-200; pages 201-213 (skip section on “Evolutionary Perspectives on Health); 219-222 (skip the “Interpretive Approaches...” and “Medical Anthro” sections); 225-241; 254-258; 266-305; also read Bigham, Blair, “When is Dead Actually Dead?”: <https://thewalrus.ca/death-when-is-dead-actually-dead/>

Also read, (posted to Avenue): “How Death Imitates Life”

Thursday July 18: *****Assignment 1 is due by 11 p.m. to Avenue

Tuesday July 23: Humans, Bodies and Environments, chapter 5

Reading: Textbook, 103-172

Thursday July 25: Watch this film - "Big Sugar:"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hcAgyOFX1M&t=231s>

Tuesday July 30: Food!

Readings: Textbook, pages 399-403 and 309-351; pages 394-398 and 409-413, and 432-443

Thursday August 1: ***Assignment 2 is due by 11 p.m. to Avenue**

Tuesday August 6: Final test in class