

Anthropology 1AA3: *Introduction to Anthropology: Sex, Food and Death*

Spring, 2020

Instructor: Dr. Karen McGarry

E-mail: mcgarry@mcmaster.ca

Lectures: posted online weekly

Office hours: please email me anytime. We can also set up a phone or other virtual appointment via email.

Teaching Assistants:

There are no tutorials for this class. Your TA is the person that you can go to if you have questions about assignments, grading, etc. You have been assigned a TA (see below) based upon your last name. We have two PhD candidates in anthropology who are TA's for this summer: Sarah Duignan and Samantha Price. I will also grade a portion of assignments. Please ensure that if you have any queries about grading/assignments, you ask the right person. Contact info is below. Note that TA groups are subject to change if enrollments change. You will be notified if this is the case.

Group #1 (Last name all A's up to and including Keus)

TA: Sarah Duignan

Email: duignase@mcmaster.ca

Group #2 (Last name Khan up to and including Tobala)

TA: Samantha Price

Email: prices1@mcmaster.ca

Group #3 (Last name Tsui up to and including all Z's)

TA: Karen McGarry

Email: mcgarry@mcmaster.ca

Course Description:

WELCOME TO THE COURSE!

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.

Course 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 Materials and Texts:

Sex, Food and Death – Anthropology 1AA3. Custom Course Kit for McMaster University. Oxford University Press, 2017. NOTE: Please DO NOT use or purchase any versions of this text that are older than September 2017 as the readings are completely different, and test and assignment questions are based upon the readings in this text, not older ones. Given that the university bookstore is closed due to COVID, here are two different options for links to purchase an electronic version of the text, and a third option if you prefer a hard copy:

For electronic access:

Redshelf (note price is in USD at this website):

<https://www.redshelf.com/book/1559677/anthropology-1559677-9780199016563>

OR

Vitalsource (note price is in CAD):

<https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/anthropology-v9780199016563?term=9780199016563>

If you prefer a hard copy:

Go to the online bookstore (McMaster) and they can ship you a hard copy:

https://campusstore.mcmaster.ca/cgi-mem/ws/txsub.pl?wsTERMG1=201&wsDEPTG1=ANTHROP&wsCOURSEG1=4DD3&wsSECTIONG1=DAY%20C01&crit_cnt=1

Class Format:

Weekly lectures posted via links to Echo 360 to Avenue. You will be able to stream lectures via a link on Avenue (check under “Content”). There are no tutorials for this class, but the midterm and final tests are held on TUESDAY EVENINGS (dates listed below).

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

1. **Final test: 40%**
2. **Two course activities/assignments: 30% each**

Course Evaluation – Details

Two course activities/assignments: You will choose two written/essay-based assignments to complete. Each is worth 30% of your final grade. Assignment 1 due May 20-22 by 11 p.m. each evening (three parts to assignment; more details to follow). Assignment 2 is due June 12 by 11 p.m. to Avenue

Final test: The final test is worth 40% of your final mark and it will consist of multiple choice questions only. They will cover all assigned readings, lectures, films, guest talks (if applicable), and other course material. Test date: Tuesday June 16, evening

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: 10% 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:

If you are concerned or confused about the grading of your assignment after you get it back, then your first step is to discuss your work with your TA (unless your TA is Karen!). After this, if you still have questions, then please discuss the situation with Professor McGarry. 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. **This must be done WITHIN TWO WEEKS of the release date of your grade.**

How does the process work? The Professor (or an assigned TA) 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 at least 10-15% 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).

Please note – all deferred and makeup exams will be in essay format – no multiple choice.

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.

Avenue to Learn (ATL) -Lectures will be presented using Power Point and Echo 360, which will be posted on ATL by Wednesday evening of each week. 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 – We will check 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.

NOTE THAT ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED: Because each type of assessment in this course is worth 25%, you cannot use an MSAF. In the event of illness, you would have to request (with documentation) a faculty-issued MSAF exception. If granted, note that we do not re-distribute/re-weigh grades in the event of an MSAF. An MSAF simply gives you an extension of 48 hours (from receipt of MSAF) 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.**

RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS AND SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student's religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

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://studentsuccess.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.*

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Note: Lectures will be posted online by Wednesday evenings.

Week of May 4: Introduction to the course/what is anthropology?

See lectures posted online by Wednesday evenings each week.

Readings: Textbook, Chapter 1, pages 27-42, and this article:

<https://www.sfu.ca/~palys/Miner-1956-BodyRitualAmongTheNacirema.pdf>

Video: Watch this short video on Richard III:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=459&v=yYY-usw9K_U&feature=emb_title

Week of May 11: Anthropology of Sex and Gender - How are men and women different? Or are they? What is the difference between sex and gender? What are gender roles?

Readings: Textbook pages 45-99

See lectures posted online by Wed. evening

Film: Watch this film: “Codes of Gender.”

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

Week of May 18: Death and Illness

Readings: Textbook, pages 201-213 (skip the section on “Evolutionary Perspectives on Health); 219-222 (skip the “Interpretive Approaches...” and “Medical Anthro” sections); 225-241; 254-258; 266-305

******ASSIGNMENT 1 (part 1) is due by 11 p.m. on May 20. Follow-up (part II) due by 11 p.m. on May 21; submit your responses to BOTH sections to Avenue Drop box by 11 p.m. May 22 (all details on the assignment sheet handout, posted under Content)**

Week of May 25: What happens to bodies after death? What can we learn from the human skeleton?

Reading: Textbook, pages 175-200.

Videos: Watch these short videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2UgIMQ_III&feature=emb_title

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9s-z6-ALE0>

Week of June 1: Humans, Bodies and Environments?

See lecture posted to Avenue by Wednesday evening

Reading: Textbook, 103-172; see also: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/02/22/587662842/cave-art-may-have-been-handiwork-of-neanderthals>

Week of June 8: Anthropology of Food, Part I

Lectures posted to Avenue by Wed. June 10.

Topic 1: Agriculture -- Textbook, pages 399-403 and 309-351;

Topic 2: Taboos - Textbook, pages 375-389, 394-398 and 409-413

Topic 3: Globalization, Textbook, 432-443

******* Friday June 12: Assignment 2 is due by 11 p.m. to Avenue**

June 16: Final test held the evening of Tuesday June 16 (online, multiple choice; more details provided the second week of class)