

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY: SEX, FOOD AND DEATH

Fall 2022

Instructor: Dr. Thomas J. Siek
Email: siektj@mcmaster.ca
Phone: 905-525-9140 Ext. 24159
Office: CNH 513

Lecture: PGCLL 127, Mon/Wed,
11:30-12:20 (C01), 16:30-17:20 (C02)
Office Hours: Mon, 13:30-15:30 (C01)
Thurs, 15:30-17:30 (C02)

Contents

Course Description	2
Course Objectives	2
Required Materials and Texts.....	3
Class Format	3
Teaching Assistants (TA's).....	3
Course Evaluation – Overview	3
Course Evaluation – Details	4
Writing Assignment 1 (25%), due 3 October	4
Midterm (25%), 17 October	4
Writing Assignment 2 (25%), due 28 November	4
Final Exam (25%), McMaster Final Examination Period	4
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings	4
Week 1 (7 September)	4
Week 2 (12 & 14 September).....	4
Week 3 (19 & 21 September).....	4
Week 4 (26 & 28 September).....	5
Week 5 (3 & 5 October)	5
Week 6 (10 & 12 October)	5
Week 7 (17 & 19 October)	5
Week 8 (24 & 26 October)	5
Week 9 (31 October & 2 November).....	6
Week 10 (7 November & 9 November).....	6
Week 11 (14 & 16 November).....	6
Week 12 (21 & 23 November).....	6
Week 13 (28 & 30 November).....	6
Week 14 (5 & 7 December).....	7

Course Policies.....	7
Email Policy.....	7
Submission of Assignments	7
Late Assignments.....	7
MSAF (McMaster Student Absence Form)	7
Assignment Reappraisal	8
Avenue to Learn	8
Turnitin.com	8
Grades	9
University Policies	9
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy	9
Privacy Protection	9
Course Modification	10
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	11
REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK	11
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)	11
COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING	12
EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES	12

Course Description

This course will introduce students to 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, and sociocultural 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

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- 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
- Enhance your comparative, analytic, and critical thinking skills through reading and written assignments

Required Materials and Texts

There is one required textbook for this course, and it is available for purchase through the McMaster Bookstore.

Introduction to Anthropology: Sex, Food and Death. 2022. Custom edition for McMaster University. Oxford University Press.

This textbook is available in either paperback or e-text.

****Please note:** The contents of this custom edition textbook are updated every year, thus it is strongly recommended you do not purchase older editions.

Class Format

This course is split into two sections (C01 & C02), with each having two scheduled lectures per week. Although the sections are identical in terms of content and assignments, it is strongly recommended you only attend the section for which you are enrolled. This is a blended learning course. This means that, in lieu of having a third lecture or a tutorial each week, you will spend this time working on projects, watching films, or completing other assignments.

Lecture slides will be posted on Avenue to Learn at the end of the week in PDF format. These PDFs will be abbreviated versions of the lecture slides with only key terms and concepts; they are for reference only and are not meant to replace attending lectures.

A video recording of each lecture will also be posted on Avenue to Learn. These recordings will only be available for seven calendar days and are intended to act as a reference if something was missed during class; they are not meant to replace attending lectures. Moreover, these will be live recordings and I do not have control over the recording process. Keep in mind that video and audio quality may vary week to week. Sound may be muffled due to masks, you may hear background noises from students, rustling papers in the lecture hall, etc. On average, about 5-7% of in-class lectures in the past have a technical issue (no sound, low sound, etc.) that the professor cannot control or fix.

Remember: The onus is on the student to come to class, take notes, and use the videos and posted slides as referential backups of lectures, not replacements.

Teaching Assistants (TA's)

There are eight TA's assigned to this course and they will be assisting Dr. Siek in grading assignments. Their names, office hours, and contact information will be posted on Avenue to Learn.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Writing Assignment 1	25%
2. Midterm	25%
3. Writing Assignment 2	25%
4. Final Exam	25%

Course Evaluation – Details

Writing Assignment 1 (25%), due 3 October

You will write a 1200–1400-word review for an academic, anthropological journal article. There will be three articles to choose from, relevant to the themes of the course (sex, food, and death). Details regarding the assignment will be reviewed during class.

Midterm (25%), 17 October

The midterm will include all previously covered material in class, including any online postings. The midterm will be available online on the above date from 09:00 – 17:30. Once you start the midterm, you will have one hour to complete it. Details regarding its format will be discussed in class.

Writing Assignment 2 (25%), due 28 November

You will write a 1200–1400-word essay based on a choice of assigned topics and questions, relevant to the themes of the course (sex, food, and death). Details regarding the assignment will be reviewed during class.

Final Exam (25%), McMaster Final Examination Period

The final exam will be cumulative and be held during the university's final exam period (9-22 Dec). The date and time of the exam will be determined by the Registrar's Office. Details regarding its format will be discussed in the final week of class.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (7 September)

Introduction & Syllabus Review

Readings:

None

Week 2 (12 & 14 September)

What is Anthropology?

Readings:

Textbook: Chapter 1

Week 3 (19 & 21 September)

What is a Human? Primates and Human Origins

Readings:

Textbook: Chapter 2, pages 24-26, 35-37, "Are There Patterns in Primate Evolution?"

Textbook: Chapter 3, pages 47-63

Textbook: Chapter 4, pages 70-72, 78 "What Happened to the Neanderthals?"

Goodall J. 2003. "What separates us from chimpanzees?" *TED* [Watch Here](#)

Week 4 (26 & 28 September)

Sex and Gender Part I

Readings:

Textbook: Chapter 5, pages 88-99

Kralick A. 2021. "What our skeletons say about the sex binary". *The Leakey Foundation*. [Read it Here](#)

Week 5 (3 & 5 October)

Sex and Gender Part II

Readings:

Textbook: Chapter 5, pages 100-109

Lambert J. 2019. "No 'gay gene': Massive study homes in on genetic basis of human sexuality". *Nature News*. [Read it Here](#)

Documentary: Livingston J. *Paris is Burning*. 1990. Miramax

Note: The documentary is available via Kanopy and can be accessed with your McMaster log in details. Writing Assignment 1 due 3 October on Avenue to Learn by 23:59 EST

Week 6 (10 & 12 October)

Reading Week ☺

Week 7 (17 & 19 October)

17 Oct. Midterm

Readings:

None

Note: There is no scheduled lecture for 17 October. The midterm will be available on Avenue to Learn from 09:00-17:30. Once started, you will have 60 minutes to complete the midterm.

19 Oct. Agriculture Part I

Readings:

Textbook: Chapter 12

Week 8 (24 & 26 October)

Agriculture Part II

Readings:

Textbook: Chapter 12

Documentary: Hurt B. *Soul Food Junkies*. 2012. Media Education Foundation.

Note: This documentary is available via Kanopy and can be accessed with your McMaster log in details

Week 9 (31 October & 2 November)

Food Traditions, Taboos and Fetishes

Readings:

Textbook: Chapter 16

Heffernan T. 2022. "Should you feed child guests dinner? What #Swedengate tells us about food culture and social expectations." *The Conversation*. [Read it Here](#)

Lasco G. 2022. "Why do (some) humans love chili peppers?" *Sapiens*. [Read it Here](#)

Week 10 (7 November & 9 November)

Bioarchaeology

Readings:

Ward A. 2019. "Osteology (Skeletons/Body Farms) with Daniel Wescott". *Ologies with Alie Ward*. [Listen Here](#)

Mannermaa K, Malyutina A, Zubova A, Gerasimov D. 2022. First evidence of human bone pendants from Late Mesolithic Northeast Europe. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 43. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2022.103488>

Note: A transcript of the podcast is available on their website.

Week 11 (14 & 16 November)

Forensic Anthropology

Readings:

Textbook: Chapter 23

Week 12 (21 & 23 November)

Death and Illness

Readings:

Textbook: Chapter 9, pages 157-167

Guest Lecturer: Dr Sarah-Louise Decrausaz, "The Human Pelvis and the Obstetrics Paradox"

Note: Dr. Decrausaz may assign an extra reading in preparation for her guest lecture. If so, you will be informed in advance.

Week 13 (28 & 30 November)

Anthropologists at Work

Readings:

Guest Lecturer: Dr Jennifer Austen, "Non-Adults and Non-Adult Health"

Note: Writing Assignment 2 due 28 November on Avenue to Learn by 23:59 EST. Drs. Austen and Lewis may assign an extra reading in preparation for their guest lectures. If so, you will be informed in advance.

Week 14 (5 & 7 December)

Exam Review and Final Remarks

Readings:

None.

Course Policies

Email Policy

All emails to Dr. Siek and the TA's must come from your McMaster email address and include the course code in the subject line. Please allow up to 48 hours for a reply. In general, emails sent during the weekend or in the middle of the night (i.e., after 22:00) will not receive a reply until the morning of the next business day. Before emailing with questions about course content, deadlines, assignments, etc., please refer to the course syllabus, the Anthropology Department website, and the university website. Please reserve emails to Dr. Siek and the TA's only when you have exhausted all other options or if it is a personal concern that will affect your performance in the class.

Submission of Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted to Avenue to Learn on the due date, by 23:59 EST. Please convert all assignment files to PDF before submission. File formats other than PDF will not be accepted, unless stated otherwise. If you have technical problems when submitting an assignment, take a screenshot that shows your submission screen and desktop clock/date as a timestamp. Refer to Avenue to Learn Support page for help.

Late Assignments

You are expected to submit all assignments on the due date. All assignment deadlines are clearly marked in the syllabus and are made known to students at the beginning of the term by the instructor. There will be a 3% penalty for every day the assignment is late, for up to five calendar days, including weekends. After five calendar days from the original deadline, late submissions will not be accepted and you will receive a grade of zero (0%) for that assignment. If you feel that your assignment will be late due to reasons out of your control, please contact your TA at least 24 hours in advance of the due date to discuss the matter. Extensions will only be given under extenuating circumstances and will be no longer than one week after the original due date. Ensure you frequently make backup copies of your work and please note that having a lot of other course work is not grounds for an extension.

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 that all coursework and exams must be completed and we do not re-weight any assignments or tests. Since each assessment in this course is worth 25%, you cannot use a regular MSAF. In the event of prolonged absence, you will have to request (with documentation) a faculty issued MSAF exception. If you receive a faculty-issued MSAF, then you still must complete all work within up

McMaster University, Department of Anthropology, ANTHROP 1AA3 C01 & C02
to one calendar week of the original due date. Please refer to the University's policies concerning the use of MSAFs (McMaster Student Absence Forms) (<https://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>).

Assignment Reappraisal

Your assignments are marked by the TA's using a grading key provided by the instructor, which is based on the criteria outlined in the assignment guidelines. Grades are not awarded based on demonstrated effort, but on demonstrated achievement. It is normal for a student's average grade in university classes to be lower than their average grade in high school. If you disagree with a grade that you have received, please follow these steps:

1. Wait 24 hours after viewing your mark, then re-read your assignment. Consider the assignment criteria guidelines and your TA's feedback.
2. Seek more feedback: if you require more information about your grade, contact your TA and ask for further feedback.
3. Formally request a re-appraisal via email to Dr. Siek. You must write a 300-word (min.) statement explaining why you believe the grader's assessment was mistaken and submit it to Dr. Siek along with the original assignment (with TA feedback). Your statement must directly reference the assignment guidelines.
4. Dr. Siek will re-assess your work using the same grading key as was used by your TA and return it to you within 72 hours.

Please note: requesting a re-appraisal does not guarantee that your grade will increase. Most re-appraisals do not produce a different mark than the original assessment, and some produce a lower mark.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE	Qualitative Scale (Unofficial)
90-100	A+	Exceptional performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
85-90	A	
80-84	A-	
77-79	B+	Competent performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
73-76	B	
70-72	B-	
67-69	C+	Adequate performance: understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; acceptable but uninspired work, not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigour.
63-66	C	
60-62	C-	
57-59	D+	
53-56	D	
50-52	D-	
0-49	F	Inadequate performance: little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

University Policies

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.

Privacy Protection

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class.
2. Return of materials to students during office hours.
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail.
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

Course Modification

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 his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

ADVISORY STATEMENTS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour 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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**. It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): 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": <https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=44&navoid=9020#requests-for-relief-for-missed-academic-term-work>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors. The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

