

Anthropology 1AA3 – Fall 2016 – McMaster University
Introduction to Anthropology: Sex, Food and Death

Instructor: Dr. Karen McGarry

E-mail: mcgarry@mcmaster.ca

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

Office Hours: Mondays 10:45 a.m. - noon or Thursdays 11 a.m. - noon

Phone: 905-525-9140 ext. 23901 (Note that e-mail is the best way to get in touch with me)

Lectures: Tuesdays 2:30-3:20 p.m. and Thursdays 2:30-3:30 p.m. in TSH 120. Note that we do NOT have lectures on Fridays.

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 and Thursdays at 2:30. Fridays are spent working on projects, on films or other assignments that will normally be due by 5 p.m. on various Fridays listed below in the course outline.

Teaching Assistants/Who is my TA?:

Note: There are no weekly tutorials for this course but your TA's have weekly office hours (see times/places below) except during the October reading break.

You have been assigned a TA on the basis of your last name. Please ensure that you know who your TA is, and direct any questions about your assignments to them.

Group 1:

Lori D'Ortenzio: Office hours - Thursdays 12:30-1:20 p.m. in CNH 517.

Email: dorteni@mcmaster.ca

Students: Last name beginning with all A's up to and including Den Ouden

Group 2:

Peter Wallace: Office hours – Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m. in CNH 533.

Email: wallacep@mcmaster.ca

Students: Last name Deng up to and including Jaber

Group 3:

Loretta Janes: Office hours – TBA

Email: janesl@mcmaster.ca

Students: Last name Jafarzadeh-Maleki up to and including Middlemost

Group 4:

Jessica Hider: Office hours – TBA

Email: hiderj@mcmaster.ca

Students: Last name Miecznikowski up to and including Simoes

Group 5:

Beatrice Fletcher: Office hours – TBA

Email: fletchba@mcmaster.ca

Students: Simpson up to and including all Z's

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:

I. Sex, Food and Death – Anthropology IAA3. Third Custom Edition for McMaster University. NOTE: This text is new, effective September 2015. It has a white cover. DO NOT use or purchase a version with a black or burgundy cover as it contains outdated material.

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

1. **Test #1: 25%** - In class on October 25
2. **Four course activities/assignments – 4 @ 10% each** (see the due dates on the syllabus below). You can only do **one per week**, which means that you cannot do both options 1 and 2 (where available) during any one week. You have **5 to choose from**.
3. **Final Exam - 35%** -- In class on November 29

Exams: The exams will consist of multiple choice questions only. They will cover all assigned readings, lectures, films, guest talks (if applicable), and other course material.

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:

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. 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 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 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 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.

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>

Lecture Capture/Podcasts: will be posted on Avenue approximately 3-4 days after each lecture date.

NOTE: films and guest lectures (depending upon copyright agreements) may NOT be postcast. In addition, the podcast system is not 100% accurate, so please do not rely upon podcasts only. It is best to attend class regularly. Podcasts are available for online streaming and individual student use only.

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:

REMEMBER: when choosing assignments, you will pick 4/5 only. You also cannot do two the same week.

Tuesday September 6: Introduction to the course/What is a blended learning class?

Thursday September 8: What is anthropology?

Readings: Text, pages 1-18

Friday September 9: Remember there are no classes on Fridays. Please watch this film: *Death of the Iceman* -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-I6YQsNYffc>

Additional Reading (copy and paste this link into your browser):

<http://news.discovery.com/history/archaeology/new-tattoos-found-on-otzi-the-iceman-150127.htm>

Tuesday September 13 and 15: How are men and women different? Or are they? What is the difference between sex and gender? What are gender roles?

Readings: Textbook chapter 2, pages 19-61

Friday September 16: Watch this film: “Codes of Gender.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvuthwvIE_8

Tuesday September 20: Anthropology of Sex and Gender, con’t

Thursday September 22: Anthropology of Sexuality

Reading: chapter 2, con’t

Friday September 23: Assignment #1 due by 4 p.m. to Avenue Drop box.

Tuesday September 27: Film in class, “Guardians of the Flutes” – note that this film is not podcast and it is not available anywhere online. It is also on the exam.

Thursday September 29 and October 4: Illness

Textbook, pages 167-192 and pages 218-223; also read the chart on p. 186

Also read: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/suffer-the-children/201203/why-french-kids-dont-have-adhd>

Thursday October 6: What happens to bodies after death? What can we learn from the human skeleton?

Reading: Textbook, pages 195-210

Friday October 7: Assignment #2 is due by 4 p.m. today to Avenue drop box.

Week of October 10: No classes. Mid-term Recess.

Tuesday October 18: What happens to bodies after death? What can we learn from the human skeleton? – con’t from October 6

Reading: Textbook, pages 195-210

Thursday October 20: No class. Study Day!

Tuesday October 25: Midterm test in class.

Thursday October 27, November 1, 3 and 8: Humans, Bodies and Environments, chapter 5
Reading: chapter 5

Friday October 28: Assignment #3 is due by 4 p.m. today to Avenue drop box.

Thursday November 10 and 15: Food!: Agriculture
Readings: 105-119; 80-82 and 146-152

Friday November 11: Film to watch at home. Film TBA.

Thursday November 17: Food and Culture: Fetishes and Taboos!
Readings: none

Friday November 18: Assignment #4 due by 4 p.m. today to Avenue drop box. Also watch this film at home: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hcAjyOFX1M>

Tuesday November 22 and Thursday November 24: Food and the Environment
Readings: text, 124-138 and 161-166

Tuesday November 29: Final test in class

Thursday December 1: Why Anthropology? What can I do with it?

Tuesday December 6: Assignment #5 is due today by 4 p.m. to Avenue drop box.