

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Winter 2023

Instructor: Dr. Thomas J. Siek
Meeting Place: BSB 238A
Meeting Time: Tuesday, 08:30-11:20

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Course Description

This course is offered in a self-directed learning format and focuses on the critical examination of the role of infectious diseases in the course of human history and contemporary societies. This is also a writing-intensive course as students will collaborate to produce a research article on a topic of their choice. At the end of term, students will upload their article to McMaster's institutional repository, *MacSphere*, providing an open-source space to showcase their research.

Course Objectives

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

- Examine and evaluate anthropological studies on infectious disease in contemporary and past societies
- Plan and implement an academic writing plan, while keeping to tight deadlines
- Perform independent research on a topic relevant to the course
- Perform peer review and give/implement constructive criticism

Required Materials and Texts

There is no required textbook for this course. Most of the required readings will be academic articles, which are accessible through McMaster's library. In some cases, where a digital copy is not easily available, a copy will be posted on Avenue to Learn

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Class Discussion Leader	10%
2. Research Article	
a. Article Proposal	20%
b. Article Outline	15%
c. Article Draft	20%
d. Peer Review	15%
e. Final Article	20%

Course Evaluation – Details

Class Discussion Leader (10%), Ongoing Throughout the Term

Each student will select one of the pre-defined course topics and give an overview of the topic and readings to the class. They will also select an additional reading for the class and develop a minimum of three questions for class discussion, which they will also lead. The additional readings may be academic articles or they may be other sources such as a podcast, a news item, a documentary, etc. More details will be given in class

Research Article

Working in pairs or solo, students will research and write a journal article about a topic of their choice, related to the anthropology of infectious disease. You will be given class time to work with your partner. At the end of term, students will upload their article to McMaster's institutional repository, *MacSphere*, and be able to say they have published a research article. This project is comprised of five components.

1) Article Proposal (20%), due 27 January

Each student group will submit a detailed proposal for their article. It will include the topic of their article, the question/aim, a preliminary annotated bibliography, and an authorship contribution agreement. Further details will be given in class

2) Article Outline (15%), due 17 February

Each student group will submit a detailed outline for their article. This outline must highlight the overall structure of your paper, including a tentative title, subheadings, key points and references. Further details will be given in class.

3) Article Draft (20%), due 10 March

Each student group will submit a first draft of their article. The draft will serve as a prototype for the final paper. Further details will be given in class.

4) Peer Review (15%), due 24 March

Each student will peer-review another student's article. Peer-reviews will be blind and offer constructive criticism. Further details will be given in class.

5) Final Article (20%), due 12 April

Each student group will submit their final article. Part of this grade will be based on the incorporation of the comments from the peer review. Further details will be given in class.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (10 January)

Course Introduction

Readings:

None.

Notes: Lecture topics and dates will be assigned by lottery during class time. Students are strongly encouraged to select a writing partner for their term project

Week 2 (17 January)

Tuberculosis

Readings:

Mason PH, Roy A, Spillane J, Singh P. 2015. Social, historical and cultural dimensions of tuberculosis. *Journal of Biosocial Science* 48: 206-232. DOI: 10.1017/S0021932015000115

Week 3 (24 January)

Black Death

Readings:

DeWitte SN. 2015. The anthropology of plague: Insights from bioarcheological analyses of epidemic cemeteries. *The Medieval Globe* 1: 97-123.

Notes: Article Proposal is due by 23:59 EST, Friday January 27, 2023 via Avenue

Week 4 (31 January)

Malaria

Readings:

Iskander D. Taking rumours seriously: Why organ thieves matter to malaria control. *Anthropology Today* 33: 9-12. DOI: 10.1111/1467-8322.12360

Week 5 (07 February)

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Readings:

Grodzicka ED. 2021. Taking vaccine regret and hesitancy seriously. The role of truth, conspiracy theories, gender relations and trust in the HPV immunization programs in Ireland. *Journal for Cultural Research* 25: 69-87. DOI: 10.1080/14797585.2021.1886422

Week 6 (14 February)

Syphilis

Readings:

Lee MJ, Siek TJ & Hirst CS. 2021. Congenital Syphilis in London's Children's Hospitals (1852-1921). *Journal of Bioanthropology* 1: 25-41. DOI: 10.54062/jb.1.1.1

Notes: Article Outline is due by 23:59 EST, Friday February 17, 2023 via Avenue

Week 7 (21 February)

Reading Week ☺

Week 8 (28 February)

Cholera

Readings:

Brichet N, Hastrup F. 2021. Epidemic objects in museums: Cholera, storytelling and ecological disturbance. *Nordic Museology* 32: 5-19. DOI: 10.5617/nm.9604

Week 9 (07 March)

Polio

Readings:

Johnstone L, Almkhatar A, DePasquale R, Warren N, Block P. 2022. Ageing with (and into) assistive technology: an exploration of the narratives of amputees and polio survivors. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*. DOI: 10.1080/17483107.2022.2131916

Notes: Article Draft is due by 23:59 EST, Friday March 10, 2023 via Avenue

Week 10 (14 March)

COVID-19

Readings:

Burton H. 2022. *Pandemic Perspectives*. Ideas Roadshow.

Notes: The documentary is available via Kanopy, and can be accessed on or off campus with your McMaster login details.

Week 11 (21 March)

HIV/AIDS

Readings:

Miller CJ. 2016. Dying for money: The effects of global health initiatives on NGOs working with gay men and HIV/AIDS in northwest China. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 30: 414-430. DOI: 10.1111/maq.12300

Notes: Peer Review is due by 23:59 EST, Friday March 24, 2023 via Avenue

Week 12 (28 March)

Smallpox

Readings:

Smith N. 2020. 'Carried off in their hundreds': Epidemic diseases as structural violence among Indigenous peoples in northwestern Australia. *History and Anthropology* 31: 526-543. DOI: 10.1080/02757206.2019.1684272

Week 13 (4 April)

Final Paper Push

Readings:

None.

Week 14 (11 April)

Final Paper Submission to MacSphere

Readings:

None.

Notes: Final Article is due by 23:59 EST, Tuesday April 12, 2023 via Avenue

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted to Avenue to Learn on the due date, by 23:59 EST, unless stated otherwise. File formats other than Word or PDF will not be accepted. 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 Submissions and Extensions

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 5% penalty for every day the assignment is late, for up to five days, including weekends. After five days from the original deadline, late submissions will not be accepted.

If you feel that your assignment will be late due to reasons out of your control, please contact Dr. Siek in advance to discuss the matter with him. Extensions will only be given under extenuating circumstances and will be no longer than three calendar days 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.

Assignment Regrading

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 instructor's feedback.
2. Seek more feedback: if you require more information about your grade, contact Dr Siek and ask for further feedback.
3. Formally request a re-appraisal via email to Dr Siek. Write a 400-word (min.) statement explaining why you believe the assessment was mistaken and submit it to Dr Siek along with the original assignment (with feedback). Your statement must directly reference the assignment guidelines.
4. Dr Siek will re-assess your work, and return it to you within 72 hours. Please note, requesting a re-appraisal does not guarantee that your grade will be increased.

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
63-66	C	
60-62	C-	

MARK	GRADE	Qualitative Scale (Unofficial)
57-59	D+	material; acceptable but uninspired work, not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigour.
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.

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.

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.

