

## 1AB3: Introduction to Anthropology: Identity, Race, and Power

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Fall 2012

Location: TSH 120

Mon/Wed: 11:30-12:20

Fri: 13:30-14:20

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**INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Antonio Sorge.** *Office:* CNH 531. *Office hours:* Wed. 1:00-2:00; Fri. 2:30-3:30. *Tel.:* (905) 525-9140 (x23901). E-mail: [asorge@mcmaster.ca](mailto:asorge@mcmaster.ca) Anthropology Main Office: CNH 524

**Graduate Teaching Assistants:** office hours and contact information TBA

### Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the field of Anthropology and its sub-disciplines through the discussion of some of the big questions that anthropologists investigate in contemporary and past societies. Some of the issues explored in this course include; identity, race, world views, power and inequality, mobility, and globalization 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.

### Learning Objectives:

Through this course, you will:

- Discover the diversity of research in the sub-disciplines of anthropology related to specific themes;
- Acquire a sound grasp of the scope of anthropological research and practice, as well as a sensitivity to anthropological forms of understanding and knowledge;
- Improve your ability to develop an argument, research evidence to support your position, and express your ideas effectively in written language.

### Learning Assessments:

1. Midterm exam: 30%
2. Two writing assignments 40% (20% + 20%)
3. Registrar-scheduled final examination: 30%

### Writing Assignments:

The two writing assignments will be conducted through the Peer Scholar online writing system.

Please register and login at the following website: <http://www.pearsoned.ca/highered/peerscholar/>.

**You must register using your McMaster e-mail address.** Once you have registered, join this class by using class code IVJDLFG3WSE5. Instructions for the writing assignments will be provided on a separate handout.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
1	Sept. 7-14	What is unique about the field of Anthropology? How does the field of Anthropology bridge both the sciences and the humanities? Why should students study Anthropology? What can you do with a degree in Anthropology?	Ch. 1
2	Sept. 17-21	What are the varieties of identity? How do people identify themselves?	Ch. 2
3	Sept. 24-28 (SEPT. 24: ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE)	How does culture shape personality and identity? What do we know about identity in the past?	Ch. 2
4	Oct. 1-5	What are race and racism, ethnicity and ethnocentrism? Is race a biological or social phenomenon? What do we know about race in the past? Why is there inequality among the world's different ethnic and racial groups?	Ch. 3
5	Oct. 8-12	What are the varieties of inequality? What are the institutions of power?	Ch. 4
6	Oct. 15-19	How do people resist power and inequality? What do we know about power and inequality in the past?	Ch. 4
7	<b>OCT. 22: MIDTERM</b> Oct. 24-26	What are the varieties of belief systems and religious ideology, and what do they tell us about a society? How do people make sense of the world?	Ch. 5
8	Oct. 29-Nov. 2	What are some important aspects of religious change in contemporary times? What do we know about belief and ideology in the past?	Ch. 5
9	Nov. 5-9	What are the causes of conflict and violence within a society and between societies? How do individuals and societies resolve conflict and maintain peace?	Ch. 6
10	Nov. 12-16 (NOV. 16: ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE)	Is it possible to live without government, or is a state necessary to maintain social order? Have the forms of violence and expressions of conflict changed over time?	Ch. 6
11	Nov. 19-23	What are the major categories of migration? What are the cultural effects and legacies of mobility and migration? How do anthropologists contribute to migration policies and programs? How are contemporary forms of mobility and migration different from historic and prehistoric forms?	Ch. 7
12	Nov. 26-30	What is globalization? Is globalization a new or old phenomenon? What are the urgent global problems of today? How can Anthropology help us to understand identity, race, and power from a global perspective?	Ch. 8
13	Dec. 3	Wrap-up and Conclusion	

### **Missed Exams and Assignments–**

Students are responsible for arranging make-up exams/assignments with the instructor. Please note that policies concerning the use of MSAFs (McMaster Student Absence Forms) have changed (see <http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>). *Also note that make-up exams will be fully in essay format.*

### **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 me to go over it again. Chances are if you do not understand something, other people in the class are in the same position. **Turn off your cell phone (including text messaging, Twitter, etc.), and arrive on time for class.** Laptop computers may be used in class for taking notes, but students using their computers for any purpose unrelated to lecture will be asked to turn them off.

*Correspondence* - Please correspond with me and the TAs through ‘Avenue Mail’ (in Avenue to Learn). I will check my messages twice weekly, so you can expect a response within ~48 hours. Please note that you must be **in** Avenue to Learn in order to send a message to me (you cannot send email into Avenue mail through your regular McMaster email account). Please put **1AB3 in the subject line** of your email and **include your name and student number** at the end of all correspondence.

### **Course Materials and Avenue to Learn (A2L) -**

Lectures will be presented using Power Point, an abbreviated version of which will be posted weekly on A2L. You must be registered in the course to have access to the 1AB3 site. **Please familiarize yourself with the Avenue to Learn system.**

You can access A2L at: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/?logout=1>

### **Special Accommodations -**

Any student with special learning needs should contact Dr. Sorge by the end of the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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/>

**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.**

## 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](http://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.

## 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.