# ANTH1050

Cultures and Societies: Introduction to Anthropology

Session 2, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2021

*Macquarie School of Social Sciences*

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## Disclaimer

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## Notice

Some on-campus classes have moved online for the first two weeks of Session, before returning to campus in Week 3. If you are studying a unit outside of the primary Session 2 timetable, please contact your teaching staff team for further details.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. To find out if you are enrolled in one of these classes/teaching activities, you can check to see if your unit is on the list of units with [mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities](#).

Your Unit Convenor will provide more information via an iLearn announcement when your iLearn unit becomes available.
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Chris Vasantkumar
chris.vasantkumar@mq.edu.au

Payel Ray
payel.ray@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit introduces students to the field of sociocultural anthropology, which seeks to explore and understand human diversity from a holistic and relativistic perspective. Highlighting important contributions anthropologists past and present have made to the understanding of human cultures and societies, emphasis will be placed on how to study and represent cultural diversity in the contemporary world. Topics to be examined include: the history and development of the culture concept; race and ethnicity; sexuality and gender; magic, religion and secularism; kinship and the family; economic systems; key controversies in the field; and tourism, mobility and globalization. We will also pay special attention to anthropological fieldwork methods and ethics, closely examining how anthropologists both conduct long term field research and write about their findings in anthropology's characteristic written output, the ethnography. The unit will demonstrate the relevance of applying anthropological thinking to your career and personal lives.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Describe the central concepts and themes in cultural anthropology, particularly, the characteristics of culture, the techniques involved in ethnographic research, the
processes and consequences of globalisation, and the importance of culturally relativistic thinking.

**ULO2:** Establish a framework for describing and understanding the complexities of the world through the concepts of culture, power, and identity and their various manifestations.

**ULO3:** Develop the ability to provide a holistic and relativistic description of ‘familiar’ and ‘distant’ cultural practices.

**ULO4:** Evaluate assumptions (whether personal or from the media) about other cultures and cultural differences.

**ULO5:** Apply ethnographic and anthropological perspectives and knowledge to issues in your own academic, professional, and personal lives.

**ULO6:** Question commonly held and taken for granted assumptions about what is ‘natural’ or ‘normal’ human experience.

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**General Assessment Information**

**Faculty of Arts Late Submission Policy**

Unless a Disruption to Studies request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – 10 marks out of 100 credit will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted seven days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Weekly 23:59 Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Tutorial Discussions (for internal students)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Ongoing, Tutes scheduled for W Th or F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>’Take-Home Examination’ -- Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:59 12/09/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:59 10/10/2021 via turnitin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Take-Home Examination' -- Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:59 19/11/2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weekly Reading Quizzes**

Assessment Type: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task: 6 hours
Due: **Weekly 23:59 Friday**
Online Weekly Reading Quizzes

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the central concepts and themes in cultural anthropology, particularly, the characteristics of culture, the techniques involved in ethnographic research, the processes and consequences of globalisation, and the importance of culturally relativistic thinking.
- Establish a framework for describing and understanding the complexities of the world through the concepts of culture, power, and identity and their various manifestations.
- Apply ethnographic and anthropological perspectives and knowledge to issues in your own academic, professional, and personal lives.

Participation in Tutorial Discussions (for internal students)

Assessment Type: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task: 20 hours
Due: Ongoing, Tutes scheduled for W Th or F
Weighting: 15%

Active participation in weekly on campus tutorial discussion of topics related to weekly readings and lecture topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop the ability to provide a holistic and relativistic description of ‘familiar’ and ‘distant’ cultural practices.
- Evaluate assumptions (whether personal or from the media) about other cultures and cultural differences.
- Apply ethnographic and anthropological perspectives and knowledge to issues in your own academic, professional, and personal lives.
- Question commonly held and taken for granted assumptions about what is ‘natural’ or ‘normal’ human experience.
'Take-Home Examination' -- Midterm

Assessment Type: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task: 25 hours
Due: 23:59 12/09/2021
Weighting: 25%

Online Midterm

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Describe the central concepts and themes in cultural anthropology, particularly, the characteristics of culture, the techniques involved in ethnographic research, the processes and consequences of globalisation, and the importance of culturally relativistic thinking.
- Evaluate assumptions (whether personal or from the media) about other cultures and cultural differences.
- Question commonly held and taken for granted assumptions about what is ‘natural’ or ‘normal’ human experience.

Mini Essay

Assessment Type: Essay
Indicative Time on Task: 20 hours
Due: 23:59 10/10/2021 via turnitin
Weighting: 20%

Short Essay on Anthropology-related topic

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Establish a framework for describing and understanding the complexities of the world through the concepts of culture, power, and identity and their various manifestations.
- Develop the ability to provide a holistic and relativistic description of ‘familiar’ and ‘distant’ cultural practices.
- Evaluate assumptions (whether personal or from the media) about other cultures and cultural differences.
- Question commonly held and taken for granted assumptions about what is ‘natural’ or
'Take-Home Examination' -- Final

Assessment Type: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task: 25 hours
Due: 23:59 19/11/2021
Weighting: 25%

Online Final

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the central concepts and themes in cultural anthropology, particularly, the characteristics of culture, the techniques involved in ethnographic research, the processes and consequences of globalisation, and the importance of culturally relativistic thinking.
- Establish a framework for describing and understanding the complexities of the world through the concepts of culture, power, and identity and their various manifestations.
- Develop the ability to provide a holistic and relativistic description of ‘familiar’ and ‘distant’ cultural practices.
- Evaluate assumptions (whether personal or from the media) about other cultures and cultural differences.
- Apply ethnographic and anthropological perspectives and knowledge to issues in your own academic, professional, and personal lives.
- Question commonly held and taken for granted assumptions about what is ‘natural’ or ‘normal’ human experience.

1 If you need help with your assignment, please contact:
- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Learning Skills Unit for academic skills support.

2 Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

**Delivery and Resources**

Many readings will be drawn from the free online anthropology textbook by Michael Wesch, *The
Art of Being Human, available at anth101.com. Other readings will also be available online.

**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture (Tues)</th>
<th>Tutorial Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>27 Jul</td>
<td>What is Anthropology, Anyway?</td>
<td>Nacirema and Nialartsua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 Aug</td>
<td>The Concept of Culture</td>
<td>The Columbian Exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10 Aug</td>
<td>Fieldwork I -- Off the Verandah</td>
<td>WTF, FTW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>17 Aug</td>
<td>Fieldwork II -- Finding One's Feet</td>
<td>Rogues' Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>24 Aug</td>
<td>Kinship, Family and Relatedness</td>
<td>Family Trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>31 Aug</td>
<td>Sex and Gender</td>
<td>XX/XY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7 Sep</td>
<td>Anthropology Department Research Week -- No Class -- Try to attend an in-person or virtual event!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Online Midterm Open 10 Sep-12 Sep</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>Race, Belonging and Exclusion</td>
<td>The Chicken Curtain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>5 Oct</td>
<td>Turbulent Times: Anthropology in the Contemporary World</td>
<td>Cancel Anthropology?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>12 Oct</td>
<td><strong>SHORT ESSAY</strong> Due 23:59 via turnitin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>19 Oct</td>
<td>Globalization I: Culture</td>
<td>Authentic Culture?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Mid-semester Recess 13 Sep-26 Sep
Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy (Note: The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au
Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment
- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

Student Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes since First Published

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15/07/2021</td>
<td>Lecture timing amended from Wed to Tues</td>
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