ANTH1050
Cultures and Societies: Introduction to Anthropology
Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2021

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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Disclaimery
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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  
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:chris.vasantkumar@mq.edu.au">chris.vasantkumar@mq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit points</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Corequisites</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-badged status</td>
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### 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](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.

### 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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'Take-Home Examination' -- Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:59 19/11/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Online Forum for external students</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:59 Monday, weekly, starting week 2</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>Weekly Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Weekly, 23:59 Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:59 10/10/2021 via turnitin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 'Take-Home Examination' -- Final

**Assessment Type 1:** Quiz/Test  
**Indicative Time on Task 2:** 25 hours  
**Due:** 23:59 19/11/2021  
**Weighting:** 25%

Online Final

On successful completion you will be able to:
Unit guide ANTH1050 Cultures and Societies: Introduction to Anthropology

- 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.

Participation in Online Forum for external students

Assessment Type 1: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task: 20 hours
Due: 23:59 Monday, weekly, starting week 2
Weighting: 15%

Each student will be responsible for answering one to two weekly discussion questions (1-2 paragraphs) and commenting on at least one other student contribution. (This required task substitutes for face-to-face tutorial participation and will be supplemented by recommended live weekly drop in zoom sessions with tutor).

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.

Weekly Reading Quizzes

Assessment Type: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task: 6 hours
Due: Weekly, 23:59 Friday
Weighting: 15%

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.

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 ‘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>Forum Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>27 July</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>
</tbody>
</table>
### 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:

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
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<td><strong>Online Midterm Open 10 Sep-12 Sep</strong></td>
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<td>*</td>
<td>Mid-semester Recess 13 Sep-26 Sep</td>
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<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>Authentic Culture?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>26 Oct</td>
<td>Magic, Science, Religion</td>
<td>Halloween as Australian Ritual</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>2 Nov</td>
<td>The Case for Anthropology</td>
<td>Taking Stock</td>
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<td><strong>Online Final Open 17 Nov-19 Nov</strong></td>
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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.
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

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>15/07/2021</td>
<td>Timing of Lecture amended to Tuesday from Wednesday.</td>
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