



ANTH1050

Cultures and Societies: Introduction to Anthropology

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2021

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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Disclaimer

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Session 2 Learning and Teaching Update

The decision has been made to conduct study online for the remainder of Session 2 for all units WITHOUT mandatory on-campus learning activities. Exams for Session 2 will also be online where possible to do so.

This is due to the extension of the lockdown orders and to provide certainty around arrangements for the remainder of Session 2. We hope to return to campus beyond Session 2 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. You should already know if you are in one of these classes/teaching activities and your unit convenor will provide you with more information via iLearn. If you want to confirm, see the list of [units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities](#).



Visit the [MQ COVID-19 information page](#) for more detail.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Chris Vasantkumar

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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.

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

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
'Take-Home Examination' -- Final	25%	No	23:59 19/11/2021
Participation in Online Forum for external students	15%	No	23:59 Monday, weekly, starting week 2
'Take-Home Examination' -- Midterm	25%	No	23:59 12/09/2021
Weekly Reading Quizzes	15%	No	Weekly, 23:59 Friday
Mini Essay	20%	No	23:59 10/10/2021 via turnitin

'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:

- 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 ²: 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 ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 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 ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 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 ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 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

Week	Date	Lecture (Tues)	Forum Topics
1	27 July	What is Anthropology, Anyway?	<i>Nacirema and Nialartsua</i>
2	3 Aug	The Concept of Culture	<i>The Columbian Exchange</i>
3	10 Aug	Fieldwork I -- Off the Verandah	<i>WTF, FTW</i>

4	17 Aug	Fieldwork II -- Finding One's Feet	<i>Rogues' Gallery</i>
5	24 Aug	Kinship, Family and Relatedness	<i>Family Trees</i>
6	31 Aug	Sex and Gender	<i>XX/XY</i>
7	7 Sep	Anthropology Department Research Week--No Class -- Try to attend an in-person or virtual event!	
Online Midterm Open 10 Sep-12 Sep			
* Mid-semester Recess 13 Sep-26 Sep			
8	28 Sep	Race, Belonging and Exclusion	<i>The Chicken Curtain</i>
9	5 Oct	Turbulent Times: Anthropology in the Contemporary World	<i>Cancel Anthropology?</i>
	10 Oct	SHORT ESSAY Due 23:59 via turnitin	
10	12 Oct	Globalization I: Culture	<i>Authentic Culture?</i>
11	19 Oct	Globalization II: Human Economic Systems	<i>Where Does Your Stuff Come From?</i>
12	26 Oct	Magic, Science, Religion	<i>Halloween as Australian Ritual</i>
13	2 Nov	The Case for Anthropology	<i>Taking Stock</i>
Online Final Open 17 Nov-19 Nov			

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

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

Date	Description
15/07/2021	Timing of Lecture amended to Tuesday from Wednesday.