



ANTH1050

Cultures and Societies: Introduction to Anthropology

Session 2, Online-flexible 2023

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

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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://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-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

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

*This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). **Late submission of time sensitive tasks** (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) **will only be addressed by the unitconvenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.***

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
'Take-Home Examination' -- Final	25%	No	5 Nov 2023
Weekly Reading Quizzes	15%	No	Weekly
Participation in Online Forum for external students	15%	No	Weekly

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
'Take-Home Examination' -- Midterm	25%	No	9 Sep 2023
Mini Essay	20%	No	7 Oct 2023

'Take-Home Examination' -- Final

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **5 Nov 2023**

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.

Weekly Reading Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 6 hours

Due: **Weekly**

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.

Participation in Online Forum for external students

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Weekly**

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: **9 Sep 2023**

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 ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **7 Oct 2023**

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 [Writing Centre](#) 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	24 Jul	What is Anthropology, Anyway?	<i>Nacirema and Nialartsua</i>
2	31 Jul	The Concept of Culture	<i>The Columbian Exchange</i>
3	7 Aug	Off The Verandah: Anthropological Fieldwork in Focus	<i>WTF, FTW</i>
4	14 Aug	Fieldwork Controversies	<i>Rogues' Gallery</i>
5	21 Aug	Kinship, Family and Relatedness	<i>Family Trees</i>
6	28 Aug	Sex and Gender	<i>XX/XY</i>
7	4 Sep	Race, Belonging and Exclusion	<i>The Chicken Curtain</i>
		<i>Online Midterm Open 7 Sep-9 Sep</i>	
* Mid-semester Recess 11 Sep-24 Sep			
8	25 Sep	Turbulent Times: Anthropology in the Contemporary World	<i>Cancel Anthropology?</i>

9	2 Oct	No class due to Labor Day Holiday	
	7 Oct	SHORT ESSAY Due 23:59 via turnitin	
10	9 Oct	Globalization I: Culture	<i>Authentic Culture?</i>
11	16 Oct	Globalization II: Human Economic Systems	<i>Stuff Happens</i>
12	23 Oct	Magic, Science, Religion	<i>Halloween as Australian Ritual</i>
13	30 Oct	The Case for Anthropology	<i>Taking Stock</i>
		Online Final Open 3 Nov-5 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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 Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault

- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.