ANTH7000
Core Issues in Anthropological Theory I
Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024
Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Chris Houston
chris.houston@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
The seminars deal with a selected number of theoretical, methodological and interpretative issues that are currently being debated by anthropologists. These issues will vary from unit to unit according to contemporary developments in anthropology and the interests of the course convenor, and in terms of how current concerns in the discipline link to the theoretical issues addressed by students at undergraduate level. Others may be more enduring, such as the theoretical issues related to the ‘writing culture’ debate, ‘orientalism’ and the problem of the ‘other’, cultural relativism, politics and power, and the relation between individual and society.

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:

UL01: apply core anthropological theories to both your own life as a member of society and to the social processes of the world around you
UL02: demonstrate a mastery of emerging themes in the discipline of anthropology by writing an essay and participating in weekly seminar discussions
UL03: conceptualize the ways that different writers have theorized the creation of culture by subjects as well as the creation of subjects by culture, or what might usefully be described as the mutual co-constitution by cultured subjects (ethnics) and society of each other.
ULO4: consider the issues of social reproduction and domination; the creation of subjectivity through intercultural and inter-subjective encounter; the self-institution of society; and the individual as creator of their world beyond their conditioning by pre-existing cultural frameworks.

**General Assessment Information**

To successfully complete ANTH 7000 students are required to do the following:

1. Prepare for and attend the Class Seminar.
2. Attend, where possible, the Anthropology Colloquium series on Wednesday mornings.
3. Satisfactorily complete an essay; participate in the class seminar; and introduce a reading (see Assessment above).

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 non-timed written assessments (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc) is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams/quizzes, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Dates to be decided upon through discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Essay</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Friday 31st May, Week 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Seminar Presentation**

Assessment Type: Presentation
Indicative Time on Task: 4 hours
Due: **Dates to be decided upon through discussion**
Weighting: 10%

Over the duration of the seminar, depending on student numbers, each student will give one brief introduction to the week’s reading(s), drawing out its main themes and selecting a number
of questions or puzzles for the seminar to discuss. These introductory remarks are intended merely to get the seminar rolling – students might wish to focus on something interesting, maddening or confusing about the reading for example.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply core anthropological theories to both your own life as a member of society and to the social processes of the world around you
- conceptualize the ways that different writers have theorized the creation of culture by subjects as well as the creation of subjects by culture, or what might usefully be described as the mutual co-constitution by cultured subjects (ethnics) and society of each other.
- consider the issues of social reproduction and domination; the creation of subjectivity through intercultural and inter-subjective encounter; the self-institution of society; and the individual as creator of their world beyond their conditioning by pre-existing cultural frameworks.

Seminar Participation
Assessment Type 1: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 60 hours
Due: Continuous
Weighting: 20%

To facilitate seminar discussion, non-presenting students are required to submit a one page response to the readings each week, structured according to the three ‘Is’ – Insight, Interest, and Incomprehension. Find in the article what you thought was the author’s main insight; something of particular interest to you; and something that seemed confusing or even incomprehensible that you would like to discuss in the class. The seminar mark will be awarded on the basis of the written work, as well as on seminar participation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate a mastery of emerging themes in the discipline of anthropology by writing an essay and participating in weekly seminar discussions
- conceptualize the ways that different writers have theorized the creation of culture by subjects as well as the creation of subjects by culture, or what might usefully be described as the mutual co-constitution by cultured subjects (ethnics) and society of each other.
- consider the issues of social reproduction and domination; the creation of subjectivity through intercultural and inter-subjective encounter; the self-institution of society; and the individual as creator of their world beyond their conditioning by pre-existing cultural frameworks.

**Major Essay**

Assessment Type 1: Essay  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 60 hours  
Due: **Friday 31st May, Week 13**  
Weighting: **70%**

The essay should relate, compare and critically assess the work of two or more of the authors to the major themes of the unit – cultural creativity, agency (agents), structures and world-making. In your essay, critically focus on where the authors identify sources of creativity or change, and how the texts articulate society and the individual – or in what terms.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- apply core anthropological theories to both your own life as a member of society and to the social processes of the world around you
- demonstrate a mastery of emerging themes in the discipline of anthropology by writing an essay and participating in weekly seminar discussions
- conceptualize the ways that different writers have theorized the creation of culture by subjects as well as the creation of subjects by culture, or what might usefully be described as the mutual co-constitution by cultured subjects (ethnics) and society of each other.
- consider the issues of social reproduction and domination; the creation of subjectivity through intercultural and inter-subjective encounter; the self-institution of society; and the individual as creator of their world beyond their conditioning by pre-existing cultural frameworks.

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
ANTH 7000 focuses on one key conundrum in anthropological theory and research, the question of the relationship between the individual and the broader social world in which they dwell. We explore the ways that different writers have conceptualized and theorized the creation of culture by subjects as well as the creation of subjects by culture, or what might usefully be described as the mutual co-constitution by cultured subjects (ethnics) and society of each other. The works of Bourdieu, Jackson, Castoriadis, and Rapport etc. focus on different aspects of this relationship: on social reproduction and domination; on the creation of subjectivity through intercultural and inter-subjective encounter; on the self-institution of society; and on the individual as creator of their world beyond their conditioning by pre-existing cultural frameworks. The seminar readings and discussion are designed so that your reading and reflection feeds into your fieldwork/thesis, both as aid to facilitate its completion, and as grit to problematize your thinking.

The unit runs as a two-hour seminar. Students are expected to read the weekly material so as to be able to join in the discussion.

All readings are found on the iLearn page of the course.

Unit Schedule

Cultural Creativity, Agency, and Social Life

“Humans are gifted with the capacity and the will to take consciously a stand towards the world and to give it meaning” Max Weber

PROVISIONAL SEMINAR SCHEDULE & CONTENT

Session One: Creativity and Agency


Session Two: Structuring Society, Making Individuals


Session Three: Altering Society, Altering Self


Session Four: Gendered Subjects

Session Five: **Structuring Dispositions: A Theory of Practice (as a Middle Way)**


Session Six: **Phenomenology in Anthropology**.


Session Seven: **Phenomenology in Anthropology II**.

*Reading*: Case study of phenomenology in interpretive action, on the topic of student interest.

Session Eight: **Intersubjectivity in Anthropology**


Session Nine: **Instituting Society**


Session Ten: **Individuality**


Session Eleven: **Society and Subjects**


Session Twelve: **Events and Subjects**


Session Thirteen: TBC.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](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). 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) 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](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](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/162665/unit_guide/print). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2024.01R of the [Handbook](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/162665/unit_guide/print).