ANTH800

Applied Anthropology: Why Does Culture Matter?

S1 Evening 2019

Dept of Anthropology

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor
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Contact via via email
Hearing Hub
TBA

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MDevStud or MGlobalHlthDevStud or GradCertGlobalHlthDevStud or MDevStudGlobalHlth or GradCertDevStudGlobalHlth or MAppAnth or MDevCult or MSocEntre or GradCertSocEntre or MPASR or GradDipPASR or GradDipPP or MPPP or MSecStrategicStud or MCrim or MIntell or MCTerrorism or MPPPMDevStud or MPASRMDevStud or MSecStrategicStudMCrim or MSecStrategicStudMIntell or MSecStrategicStudMCyberSec or MSecStrategicStudMCTerrorism or MIntellMCrim or MIntellMCyberSec or MIntellMCTerrorism or MCTerrorismMCrim or MPPPMPASR or 4cp in ANTH units at 800 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status
Co-badged with ANTH800

Unit description
This unit examines the uses of culture in professional settings at various levels, from the management of urban communities and interpersonal conflicts to the international strategies of corporations and governments. The objective of this unit is to train students for situations in a variety of contexts in which decisions have to be made based on contested cultural claims.

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:

Students are capable of discussing the role of culture, both from a theoretical

perspective and from a practitioners point of view. They can explore and critique the literature and professional practices about relevant theories.
Students are capable of discussing, debating and evaluating various theories of anthropology concerning cultural issues. They can explain and critically assess the extent to which culture matters in different realities.
The students will be able to employ applied anthropology methods in oral and written form and present the results of research and work carried out in a detailed and appropriately structured report. They also demonstrate effective oral, written and visual communication skills that are appropriate to the purpose, medium and audience.
Students are aware of ethical issues in professional contexts. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society. They should have a high level of cultural literacy.
Students have sound interpersonal skills and demonstrate discernment in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They can design, implement, manage, monitor and evaluate projects in real-world contexts. They are capable of risk assessment and capable of handling ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

General Assessment Information

Late Submission Faculty Policy

Unless **a Special Consideration request** has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will be applied - two (2) marks out of 100 will be deduced per day for assignments after the due date and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submission will be accepted for timed assessments-- eg. quizzes, online tests.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Seminar Participation	10%	No	Weekly starting Seminar 2
Weekly Homework	20%	No	Seminar 2
Outline for the final essay	10%	No	Week 9
iLearn Online Quiz	30%	No	Week 7
Final Essay	30%	No	Week 12

Seminar Participation

Due: **Weekly starting Seminar 2**
Weighting: **10%**

Before the end of each tutorial, all students are required to complete a short questionnaire in which they will answer a few questions concerning their tutorial group work. Forms will be provided at the start of each tutorial, to be returned at the completion of the tutorial. The students will receive a mark from 0 (if the form is incomplete or if it is incoherent or extremely minimal) to 1.

Note: No form will be provided for week 1, 12, 13 (so overall you will receive 10 forms).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Students are capable of discussing the role of culture, both from a theoretical perspective and from a practitioners point of view. They can explore and critique the literature and professional practices about relevant theories.
- Students are capable of discussing, debating and evaluating various theories of anthropology concerning cultural issues. They can explain and critically assess the extent to which culture matters in different realities.
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Weekly Homework

Due: **Seminar 2**
Weighting: **20%**

Before the tutorial, students are required to answer a weekly question. The question will be made available on the iLearn, under Assessment Questions, six days in advance.

Each student will have a blog in which they can post the answer to the weekly question. The

answer should be around 250-300 words.

Students will receive a mark from 0-2 according to the standards described in the rubric. You can find the "Weekly Question Rubric" posted in the iLearn Assessment section.

Note: there will be no weekly questions for week 1, 12, 13 (so overall you will answer 10 questions).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Students are capable of discussing the role of culture, both from a theoretical perspective and from a practitioners point of view. They can explore and critique the literature and professional practices about relevant theories.
- Students are capable of discussing, debating and evaluating various theories of anthropology concerning cultural issues. They can explain and critically assess the extent to which culture matters in different realities.
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Outline for the final essay

Due: **Week 9**
Weighting: **10%**

Students are required to provide the lecturer with a title and an outline of their final essay. The outline, should have a short bibliography list (4-5 titles) linked to the argument the student wishes to discuss in the essay. The summary should be no more than 600 words (excluding the references). This summary is to be submitted through Turnitin.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Students are capable of discussing the role of culture, both from a theoretical perspective and from a practitioners point of view. They can explore and critique the

literature and professional practices about relevant theories.

iLearn Online Quiz

Due: **Week 7**
Weighting: **30%**

The online quiz consists of **30 multiple choice** and true/false questions that focus on the material of the course.

Students will have a 48-hour window in which to complete the work. The quiz will be timed (50 minutes). The quiz will not be repeated for any reason other than an approved Special Consideration. More information will be available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Students are capable of discussing, debating and evaluating various theories of anthropology concerning cultural issues. They can explain and critically assess the extent to which culture matters in different realities.
- The students will be able to employ applied anthropology methods in oral and written form and present the results of research and work carried out in a detailed and appropriately structured report. They also demonstrate effective oral, written and visual communication skills that are appropriate to the purpose, medium and audience.
- Students have sound interpersonal skills and demonstrate discernment in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They can design, implement, manage, monitor and evaluate projects in real-world contexts. They are capable of risk assessment and capable of handling ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

Final Essay

Due: **Week 12**
Weighting: **30%**

Students will write one essay for the course, based on the outline they have written. This essay should be no less than 2500 words (10% +/-). A Rubric for the essay and more information (included a guide and suggestions on how to write an essay in anthropology) can be found in iLearn in the Assessment section.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Students are capable of discussing the role of culture, both from a theoretical perspective and from a practitioners point of view. They can explore and critique the literature and professional practices about relevant theories.
- Students are capable of discussing, debating and evaluating various theories of

anthropology concerning cultural issues. They can explain and critically assess the extent to which culture matters in different realities.

- The students will be able to employ applied anthropology methods in oral and written form and present the results of research and work carried out in a detailed and appropriately structured report. They also demonstrate effective oral, written and visual communication skills that are appropriate to the purpose, medium and audience.
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Delivery and Resources

- All students are expected to be in a class no later than 5 minutes from the start of the seminar.
- A short break (about 5 minutes) will be provided between the first 40 minutes and the group discussion of 30 minutes.
- The seminar will end 5 minutes before the official time (due to the Macquarie University railway station being closed and to ensure the students and staff are able to catch the bus replacement)
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Structure of the seminar

The seminar will be divided into the following parts:

1) Introduction (Lecturer) - 40 minutes

Information about the course and updates; presentation of the topic; discussion of the main points of the readings, introducing the questions for group discussion

2) Group discussion - 30 minutes

The discussion will be guided by means of questions focusing on the material discussed. Students will work in groups. At any time, students may raise their hand should they need any help from the lecturer.

3) Debriefing - 20 minutes

Each group will provide the class with a summary of their discussion and answers. Both the lecturer and the students can ask questions concerning the answers provided by the groups.

4) Conclusion: -15 minutes.

The lecturer will summarise the main points derived from the group works and will bring the seminar to a conclusion. Final questions if any.

Students Code of Conduct

Students should be familiar and read the Macquarie Student Code of Conduct carefully (see link).

Students may disagree with ideas and concepts, nonetheless, being exposed to new ideas is part of academic life. Although opinions can be debated and criticised, such criticism should be expressed with kindness and wisdom (see the "freedom of expression" section in the Code of Conduct).

I also wish to point to the Macquarie University campaign Championing Respect. Now. Always. Additional information can be found at this link.

Students are required to participate actively in the seminars, They should not use Facebook and other distracting tools in class.

Assessment:

All information about the course assessments, rubrics, guides and links to the assessment submissions can be found in iLearn, in the "Assessment Section". Students are required to familiarise themselves with the assessment tasks. Please do not leave assessments at the last minute.

An iLearn forum called "Assessment Q&A" can be found in the Assessment Section of iLearn. Please use this forum to ask general questions about the assessments if you think other students can benefit from the answer. Marks will be visible in iGrade. Remember that marks are not considered official until the university approves them.

Communication with the Lecturer

Written communication with the lecturer should be conducted through the iLearn communication tool. Please use the iLearn link "Contact Dr G. Marranci". Write your message as if it were an email. Please, be respectful.

Messages will be replied within 24 hours or sooner. Check your communication tool and other iLearn announcements each day!

Unit Schedule

Week 1 Introduction

Reding: no reading required

This first week we will have an open debate about the concept and idea of "culture". Students will

have an occasion to reflect on the idea of culture and share their different views. Some of the points that will be explored are: What is culture? Where is culture located? In societies? In human minds? In human/social interactions? Is there one single idea of culture? Do we need a concept of culture? If so, why? Is culture a Western concept?

Week 2 Anthropological Understanding of Culture

Compulsory Reading:

a) Muller, Adam, ed.Concepts of culture: Art, politics, and society. University of Calgary Press, 2005. Introduction

b) Ingold, Tim. "Introduction to culture."Companion encyclopedia of anthropology: Humanity, culture, and social life(1994): 329-349.

This week we will observe the development of the concept of culture in anthropology. Some points that we will explore and discuss are:

- The different views about culture in the humanistic discipline.
- The main differences or similarity with anthropology.
- Different understandings of culture in anthropology.
- Material culture.
- Comparisons between Ingold's and Muller's opinions on the concept of culture.

Week 3 Interpretative Theory of Culture

Compulsory readings:

Geertz, Clifford. "Thick description: Toward an interpretive theory of culture."Turning points in qualitative research: Tying knots in a handkerchief3 (1973): 143-168.

This week, our aim is to try to understand one of the most influential theories of culture in anthropology: Clifford Geertz's interpretive theory of culture. Some of the points that we will explore and discuss:

- Differences between E. B. Tylor 's and Geertz's definition of culture.
- Geertz 's 'semiotic concept of culture'.
- Geertz understanding of culture as "webs of significance."
- Geertz distinction between "an experimental science in search of law" and "an interpretive [science] in search of meaning".
- Geertz suggestion that "ethnography is thick description."

Week 4 Cultural Relativism and its Critics

Compulsory reading

Geertz, Distinguished Lecture. "Anti Anti-Relativism, Anthro263 (1984): 264 Spiro, Melford E. "Cultural relativism and the future of anthropology."Cultural Anthropology1, no. 3 (1986):

259-286.

Spiro, Melford E. "Cultural relativism and the future of anthropology."Cultural Anthropology1, no. 3 (1986): 259-286.

In this Seminar, we will discuss what cultural relativism is and the central place that it has in the anthropological understanding of culture. We also look to the criticism that scholars, such as Ernest Gellner, have advanced on cultural relativism. Some of the points we will explore are:

- The concept of cultural relativism.
- Cultural relativism and its functions within anthropological studies and fieldwork.
- The difference between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism.
- Criticisms concerning cultural relativism.

Week 5 Beyond Culture Worry

Compulsory reading:

Richard G. Fox and Barbara J. King -Introduction: Beyond Culture Worry

In this seminar, we will discuss how some anthropologists have questioned the utility or even the possibility of a universal concept of culture. We will explore themes such as:

- The reasons why some anthropologists find the debate about the concept of culture extremely problematic.
- Anthropologists' concerns about a single definition and universal concept of culture.
- Is the idea of culture as a notion ethnocentric in itself.
- Why primatologists vigorously debate the definition of culture.
- Can animals have "culture."

Week 6 Ontological turn in Anthropology: a debate.

Compulsory reading

Paleček, Martin, and Mark Risjord. "Relativism and the ontological turn within anthropology." Philosophy of the Social Sciences 43.1 (2013): 3-23.

This week we will discuss the so-called Ontological turn within Anthropology and the debate that has been created within the discipline. We will explore themes such as:

- Why the topic has generated much discussion within the discipline.
- The Ontological approach as an effort to move beyond the understanding of cultures as systems of belief and symbols.
- The idea that there is not just one world and many worldviews (the traditional anthropological relativism), but many worlds and worldviews.
- Criticism of the Ontological turn in anthropology
- Week 7 Cognitive Anthropology and its approach to culture

Week 7 Cognitive Approaches to Culture

Compulsory reading

Boyer, Pascal. "Cognitive predispositions and cultural transmission."P. Boyer, & J. Wertsch, Memory in Mind and Culture(2009): 288-319. Chapter 13

This week we will discuss the field of Cognitive Anthropology. Following the advancements in cognitive psychology, some anthropologists, such as Pascal Boyer, have criticised interpretative approaches to culture and instead suggest the importance of focusing on the universal elements of it. We will explore themes such as:-

- The main aspects of Cognitive Anthropology.
- How Cognitive Anthropology understands "culture".
- How Cognitive Anthropology understands cultural transmission.
- Criticism of Cognitive Anthropology.

Week 8 Nature Versus Nurture and Maybe Beyond

Compulsory reading

Ingold, Tim. "Beyond biology and culture. The meaning of evolution in a relational world."Social anthropology12, no. 2 (2004): 209-221.Harvard

In this seminar, we will observe the culture Vs nurture debate. Recently, evolutionary biological theories have been popularised in newspapers and TV; this has revitalised the discussion of whether human behaviour is more influenced by nature or culture. However, anthropologists like Tim Ingold have advanced the idea that we can go beyond the divide biology vs culture. We will discuss themes such as:

- Neo-Darwinism and the impact that it has on anthropology.
- The criticism of Neo-Darwinism.
- Approaches, such as Tim Ingold's, that look beyond Nature/Culture debate and propose a holistic ecological approach to explain human behaviour.

Week 9 Applied Anthropology: Challenges and New Directions

Compulsory Reading

Rylko-Bauer, B., Singer, M., & Willigen, J. V. (2006). Reclaiming applied anthropology: Its past, present, and future. American Anthropologist, 108(1), 178-190.

This week, we will focus on applied anthropology, its history, development and challenges. Some anthropologists have called for more engaged anthropology which can have an impact in social-political life and the global arena. In particular in addressing misconceptions and social injustices. We will explore topics such as:-

- The history of Applied Anthropology.

- The issues linked to the colonial past of anthropology.
- Criticism of Applied Anthropology.
- New approaches to Applied Anthropology.
- The role of advocacy in Anthropology.

Week 10 Applied Anthropology - Case study: Female circumcision in Singapore

Compulsory reading

Marranci, G. (2015). Female circumcision in multicultural Singapore: The hidden cut. The Australian Journal of Anthropology, 26(2), 276-292.

This week we will observe an example of applied anthropology through my own experience in advising the Singaporean institutions about the practice of "female circumcision" still performed today among Singaporean Malay Muslims. In Singapore, such ritual is officially legal, as long as it is carried out in a medical facility. I was asked to research such ritual and to provide Singaporean policymakers with an understanding of the reasons behind such practice, in particular when it is not a requirement in Islam. We will observe the methodology I used in such research and the results of the study and how my research was discussed and used by the Singaporean authorities.

Week 11 Applied Anthropology: case study: A study of Prison Radicalization

Compulsory reading:

Rhodes, Lorna A. "Toward an anthropology of prisons."Annual Review of Anthropology30, no. 1 (2001): 65-83.

Marranci, Gabriele.Faith, ideology and fear: Muslims identities within and beyond prisons. A&C Black, 2011. Chapter 4

This week I will share my experience in researching prisons in the UK and my involvement as an anthropologist in helping HM Scottish Prison Service as well as HM Prison Service in England to understand radicalisation in prison. We will observe how anthropological insights can benefit policy-making due to the specific anthropological methodology based on participant observation.

Week 12 Research Week (No Seminar)

There is no seminar since students are highly encouraged to attend the Anthropology department Research week and its activities and workshops for postgraduates.

Week 13 Conclusions

In this last seminar, we will summarise the main points discussed. This final seminar will be conducted as a class discussion. This final seminar is also an occasion to provide your constructive feedback about the course.

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.)*

Undergraduate 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/study/getting-started/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 improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and 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.

Student Enquiries

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

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.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Students are capable of discussing the role of culture, both from a theoretical perspective and from a practitioners point of view. They can explore and critique the literature and professional practices about relevant theories.
- Students are capable of discussing, debating and evaluating various theories of anthropology concerning cultural issues. They can explain and critically assess the extent to which culture matters in different realities.
- The students will be able to employ applied anthropology methods in oral and written form and present the results of research and work carried out in a detailed and appropriately structured report. They also demonstrate effective oral, written and visual communication skills that are appropriate to the purpose, medium and audience.

- Students are aware of ethical issues in professional contexts. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society. They should have a high level of cultural literacy.
- Students have sound interpersonal skills and demonstrate discernment in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They can design, implement, manage, monitor and evaluate projects in real-world contexts. They are capable of risk assessment and capable of handling ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

Assessment tasks

- Seminar Participation
- Outline for the final essay
- iLearn Online Quiz

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Students are capable of discussing the role of culture, both from a theoretical perspective and from a practitioners point of view. They can explore and critique the literature and professional practices about relevant theories.
- Students are capable of discussing, debating and evaluating various theories of anthropology concerning cultural issues. They can explain and critically assess the extent to which culture matters in different realities.
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Assessment tasks

- Seminar Participation
- Weekly Homework
- Outline for the final essay
- iLearn Online Quiz

- Final Essay

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Students are capable of discussing the role of culture, both from a theoretical perspective and from a practitioners point of view. They can explore and critique the literature and professional practices about relevant theories.
- Students are capable of discussing, debating and evaluating various theories of anthropology concerning cultural issues. They can explain and critically assess the extent to which culture matters in different realities.
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Assessment tasks

- Seminar Participation
- Weekly Homework
- Outline for the final essay
- Final Essay

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create

new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Students are capable of discussing the role of culture, both from a theoretical perspective and from a practitioners point of view. They can explore and critique the literature and professional practices about relevant theories.
- Students are capable of discussing, debating and evaluating various theories of anthropology concerning cultural issues. They can explain and critically assess the extent to which culture matters in different realities.

Assessment tasks

- Seminar Participation
- Weekly Homework
- Final Essay

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Students are capable of discussing the role of culture, both from a theoretical perspective and from a practitioners point of view. They can explore and critique the literature and professional practices about relevant theories.
- Students are capable of discussing, debating and evaluating various theories of anthropology concerning cultural issues. They can explain and critically assess the extent to which culture matters in different realities.
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- Students are aware of ethical issues in professional contexts. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society. They should have a high level of cultural

literacy.

Assessment tasks

- Seminar Participation
- Weekly Homework
- Outline for the final essay
- Final Essay

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Students are capable of discussing the role of culture, both from a theoretical perspective and from a practitioners point of view. They can explore and critique the literature and professional practices about relevant theories.
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Assessment tasks

- Seminar Participation

- Outline for the final essay