McMaster University
Anthropology 3F03

Anthropology and the “Other” (3F03)
Term 2 – (Jan – April 2014)

Instructor: Dr. Kee Howe Yong
Office Hours: Thurs. 13:00 –14:00
xtd: 23907

Thurs. 14:30 – 17:20 @ UH 112
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Course Description and Objectives:
This course provides an introduction to some of the concepts in socio-cultural
anthropology with which you are probably familiar - culture, race, ethnicity, nationalism,
memory, and so on. We will use these concepts to address the question of human
universals and where do cultural differences come from. Are these more or less
significant than biological differences and what is the cause of social inequality? We will
use what anthropology has to say about both the distant and “exotic” locales that have
been its traditional focus of study, as well as anthropological studies of urbanized and
familiar locations. At the base of all our “conversations” for this course, we will attend to
the questions of the “Other.” Who are the “Others”? Under what foundational history are
the “Others” created and maintained? In a Ranciérean sense, who among these “Others”
have speech, and who among them have only noises? How intrinsic are the “Others” to
the creation of the modern? Indeed, how have these dialectical underpinnings affected
our emotion, our creativity, representation, and so on?

Course Policy:
All readings must be completed before the week in which the given topic(s) is being
discussed. Class attendance and active participation is part of the grade. Students who
are absent more than two times will have a point taken off their final grade. Latecomers
may, at the discretion of the instructor, incur an official absence. Students must accept the
responsibility to respect the ethical standards in meeting their academic assignments and
are encouraged to be active co-producers of knowledge. Students will hand a midterm
and a final essay. Essay questions will be distributed in advance.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent
means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment,
loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for
academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your
responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the
various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy,
Appendix 3, www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Plagiarism, e.g., the submission of work that is not one’s own for which other
   credit has been obtained. (Insert specific course information, e.g., style guide)
2. Improper collaboration in group work. *(Insert specific course information)*
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
*(If applicable)* In this course we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY**
Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. **If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.**

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:
http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html
*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link

**Instructor responsibilities:**
To present class material in clearly understandable language, to assist students in thinking critically about concepts and ideas, to respect student opinion and value each student’s contributions equally, and to give feedback on student progress early and often; to be accessible during office hours, and to return all course materials, graded, in a timely fashion.

**Grading:**
- Attendance and class participation 20%
- Midterm essay 30%
- Final essay 50%

**Books for the Course:**
*The follow books will be put on reserve at the Mills Library:*


Course Schedule:
Jan 9: British Social Anthropology
Under what context did anthropology developed into a professional discipline? How has anthropology changed since the mid-nineteen century?

Jan 16: The Aesthetic of the Nation-State
One of the hallmarks of the modern nation-state is the ability to camouflage violence and disorder beneath the construction of its nationalized imagined glorified past and intended destiny. Some scholars have called this the “aestheticizing impulse” of the nation-state.


Jan 23: First World, Other World


Jan 30: The Meanderings of Mass Media
What are the increasing important roles the mass media play in the quotidian realities of people all over the world? Are we seeing a homogenize subjectivities in a global sense or distinctively parochial through the discourses of nation and sexual desire as well as a sense of linkage to distant but familiar Others? This section also aims to show that when it comes to global cultural influence, the West is not the only player in town.


Feb 6: Mass Media (continuation)
Feb 13:

Feb 20: Midterm Recess

Feb 27:

- MIDTERM ESSAY DUE IN CLASS

Mar 6: Eco/Indigenous Tourism
What are some of the politics and economics behind the development of Eco Tourism, even Indigenous Tourism? Why are Ecology and Indigenousness marketed along the same narratives?

Mar 13: Marginal People: Life Without Thought for Tomorrow
This section deals with ethnographic accounts of marginalized people who are associated with life that are focus in the present and with autonomy, that present-oriented self where duration is transformed into a present without beginning or end.
Mar 20: Internal Others:

Mar 27: Controlled spaces / Surveillance Society
Urban spaces are becoming increasingly surveilled where various technologies are being used to monitor populations. What are the impacts of these technologies on daily life and how do they shape our experience of the city? Are we living in “surveillance societies?”

April 3: Voluntary and Involuntary Footsteps
We will next address issues of others that transcend the nation-state. This section traces the transnational roots and histories of immigrant populations, analyzing the nature of transnational identity, global politics, and the adaptive strategies of new immigrants. We will discuss the connections between post-colonialism, cities, and racial and political identities.

  o Wrapping Up!!

Final Exam Essays due on April 15th at my office CNH 535 (from twelve noon to 4 p.m.)

*Updated December 24, 2013*

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.