

Anthropology 2AN3

The Anthropology of Food and Nutrition



Class Schedule: Tuesdays 7:00-10:00 pm

Location: BSB/B135 (Burke Science Building)

Instructor: Dr. L. D'Ortenzio

Office: Chester New Hall, room to be announced

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm, or by appointment

E-mail: dortenzl@mcmaster.ca

Anthropology Main Office: Chester New Hall, Room 524

Phone: 905-525-9140, ext. 24423

Teaching Assistants:

Creighton Avery, Email: averylc@mcmaster.ca

Sarah Duignan, Email: duignase@mcmaster.ca

Course Description

This course looks at human food use and nutrition from a broad anthropological perspective. We begin by examining the diets of our human ancestors, food origins, and human food revolutions, including contemporary industrial and biotechnological food production. The focus then shifts to the economic aspects of food production and distribution, as well as the cultural and social significance of food and nutrition. Some of the fundamental questions we consider in this course: How do social-cultural factors affect our basic biological food needs? How does our biological need for food influence our social organization? What is the role of social factors in mediating food access and distribution? How does the environment affect human nutrition?

Course Objectives:

- To appreciate and apply the biocultural approach to understanding human diet and nutrition
- To consider past, present and future dimensions of human food production, acquisition and consumption
- To critically analyse current food systems and consider possible alternatives

Learning Assessments:

Assignment 1:	- 25% - Short answer (essay) question.
Midterm (in class) examination:	- 25% - the midterm exam will be a series of fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and long answer (essay) questions.
Assignment 2:	- 25% - Short answer (essay) question.
Take home examination:	- 25% - the take-home exam will consist of three essay questions, about 3-4 pages (double-spaced) each.

Required Text: Dufour, DL, Goodman, AH, and Pelto, GH (2013) *Nutritional Anthropology. Biocultural Perspectives on Food and Nutrition*, second edition. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

Class Schedule

Hot Topics



Jan 8: The biocultural approach & human nutrition basics

Required Reading: Chapters 1 & 2

Jan 15: Reconstructing and interpreting non-human primate and prehistoric diets

Required Reading: Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 9

Jan 22: The agricultural revolution and food processing

Required Reading: Chapters 10, 11, & 12

Jan 29: Agriculture, the biotechnological revolution and the environment

Required Reading: Chapters 15, 16, & 23

Feb 5: Food origins and food as a commodity and delocalization

Required Reading: Chapters 31, 38

Feb 8: 1st assignment due

Feb 12: Food and adaptation

Required Reading: Chapters 24 & 26

Feb 19 - 22 MID-TERM RECESS – no classes

Feb 26: Mid-term examination

Mar 5: Food systems, cultural identity, and ritual

Required Reading: Chapter pp. 131-133, 18, 51, 53 & 54

Mar 12: Undernutrition and Overnutrition

Required Reading: Chapters 17, 34, 37, 46

Mar 19: Global food and power; social aspects of food access and distribution

Required Reading: Chapter 22, 40 & 42

Mar 22: 2nd assignment due

Mar 26: Nutrition, health and disease

Required Reading: Chapter 25, 48 & 55

Apr 2: Cultural ecology of infant feeding

Required Reading: Chapters 43 & 44

April 9: Course review

Take-home examination available on A2L April 11, 2019

April 18, 2019 - Submit take-home examination – submit through A2L Turnitin- by 4:00pm - no extensions

Important Dates to Remember!

- 🕒 Feb 8 - 1st assignment due by 4:00pm
- 🕒 Feb 26 - midterm examination
- 🕒 Mar 22 - 2nd assignment due by 4:00pm
- 🕒 Apr 11 - Take-home Exam available
- 🕒 Apr 18 - Take-home Exam due by 4:00pm

Course Policies:

Please note that all assignment guidelines and supplemental materials for the course will be available only on **Avenue to Learn**. Please check Avenue frequently for course announcements. Lecture notes will be posted on Avenue, but not before the lectures are presented.

Policy on the Submission of Assignments:

Assignments must be submitted through A2L Turnitin. Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any special learning requirements. There is a late penalty of **5% per day** including weekend days. Assignments submitted by e-mail will not be accepted. No extensions will be given unless written medical certification, approved by your Faculty office, is provided.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

MSAF

- The MSAF should be used for medical and non-medical (personal) situations.
- Approval of the MSAF is automatic (i.e. no documentation required)
- Rules governing the MSAF are as follows: The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to **3 days**.
 - o The upper limit for when an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from 'less than 30%' to '**less than 25%**' of the course weight.
 - o The 'one MSAF per term' limit is retained.
 - o As per the policy, an automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. Students must immediately follow up with their instructors. Failure to do so may negate their relief.

Policy: The MSAF policy can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar under General Academic Regulations > Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work or here: [http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work](http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests_for_Relief_for_Missed_Academic_Term_Work)

Note: All work in this class must be completed.
GRADES IN THIS COURSE WILL NOT BE RE-WEIGHTED.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior 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 types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AODA

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact Delia Hutchinson at 905-525-9140 extension 24523 or email hutchin@mcmaster.ca

All difficult circumstances that require an extension for assessments (above 25%) or not involving short-term illness (more than 5 days) should be reported to your Faculty office.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student’s religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

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.

Course Modification

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.