

SOCA1020: What is Anthropology?

Callaghan, Ourimbah and Online
Semester 2 - 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

You are invited on a journey to different places and different times. You will be introduced to peoples whose names you may never have heard and hear about diverse ways of living and being. You will be asked to reflect on cultural differences and similarities, and, through your new knowledge about other cultures, reflect on your own cultural home, worldview(s) and society.

This course offers an introduction to social and cultural anthropology. Through an exploration of the history of anthropology, anthropological methods and anthropological thought, you will gain insights into how anthropology has come to be a critical voice giving insight into everyday life, meaning making, social structure and cultural practice. You will learn about how regional studies at the level of village and community ('small places') have led to insights into the essence of what it means to be human ('large questions'). You will be introduced to the nature of anthropological fieldwork and distinct theoretical, empirical, and methodological debates within the discipline. At the same time as you will learn about the discipline of anthropology, you will be introduced to a number of anthropological theories and gain insights into how the study of other cultures and societies can help us deal with urgent problems confronting our own societies and the contemporary world.

Contact Hours

Callaghan and Ourimbah Lectorial

Face to Face On Campus
2 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 1

Online FutureLearn Online

Equivalent of 2 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 1

Unit Weighting Workload

10
Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au
CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Callaghan and Ourimbah Dr Hedda Askland Hedda.Askland@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4921 7067 Consultation: by appointment Online Mr Egbert Wits Egbert.Wits@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: by appointment
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences Social Sciences Building Callaghan HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500 School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences HO1.43 Humanities Building Ourimbah HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content	<p>The course introduces the history of anthropology and of anthropological thought, and the nature and practice of anthropological fieldwork (ethnography). Topics may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The historical development of modern social and cultural anthropology;• Ethnography;• Cultural relativism and ethnocentrism;• Culture and identity;• Ethnicity;• Constructions of 'the other';• Basic theoretical and analytic models applied in anthropology, including kinship theory;• Symbols and rituals;• The relationship between society and environment;• The impact of global economic and cultural processes on small-scale, localised regions and communities;• The variety and transformations of forms of social and political organisation and cultural expression among indigenous people(s);• Anthropology of urban societies, the variety and form of ethnic and cultural expression in post-colonial and cosmopolitan settings in a rapidly changing world;• Gender and sexuality in a cross-cultural context;• 'Seeing the world from below': how study of small-scale societies can help answer large questions about the human condition.
Course Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Interrogate what the discipline of anthropology is and how it relates to the concepts of 'culture' and 'society';2. Explain the concepts of life-worlds (local) and system world (global) and identify their interconnections;3. Investigate processes of social and cultural transformation by applying a systematic, critical and sympathetic understanding of the contemporary world;4. Demonstrate an introductory understanding of ethnography and the nature of social and cultural research more broadly;5. Apply academic skills relevant to anthropology, including critical appraisal of anthropological literature and effective written communication.

Course Materials

Required Reading:

Barley, N. 2011 [1983]. *The Innocent Anthropologist. Notes From a Mud Hut*. London: Penguin Books

We will be reading one chapter a week from this text, and so will read an entire ethnography over the course of the semester. The book is available through the University bookshop and the relevant weekly chapters are available via Course Readings on CANVAS.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week begins	Topic	Readings	Teaching program and assignments
1	17 Jul	Introduction: studying culture and intellectual ancestry No tutorial	Barely – Chapter 1 Eriksen TH. 2015. <i>Small Places, Large Issues. An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology</i> (3 rd ed), Chapter 1. London: Pluto Press Jackson M. 2007. Chapter 1: In the footsteps of Walter Benjamin. In <i>Excursions</i> . London: Duke University Press, pp. 1-22	Herodotus the tourist. Tourist or ethnographer? Meeting new people: reading group allocation What I did in the holidays: start building writing skills
2	24 Jul	Fieldwork and ethnography	Barely – Chapter 2 Geertz C. 2005 [1973]. Deep play: notes on the Balinese cockfight. <i>Daedalus</i> 134(4): 55-86 Rosaldo R. 1993. Introduction. Grief and a headhunter's rage, pp.1-21. <i>Culture and Truth</i> . Boston: Beacon Press	The skills of the anthropologist: learning to observe and write. Start work on Assignment 2 Ethnographic writing – Bonki writing exercise. Introduction to task and presentation of ethnographic material (due in Week 4).
3	31 Jul	What does our relationship with non-humans tell us about ourselves?	Barely – Chapter 3 Power E. 2008. Furry families: making a human-dog family through home. <i>Social and Cultural Geography</i> 9(5), 535-555 Senior K, Askland HH, Groizard J, SOCA1020 Class of 2020. 2021. A dog called Neville. Using dog names to explore theory and method in anthropology. <i>Practicing Anthropology</i> 43(4), 8-14 For interest: watch 'A dogs world' with Tony Armstrong, episode 1: Friendship. Available at iview.abc.net.au	Dogs: pets or family? Did COVID Lockdowns change our relationship with pets? Start work on Assignment 1 Participant observation exercise – what dogs tell us about being human? Group poster presentations (due in Week 8) – Group allocation
4	7 Aug	Kinship	Barley – Chapter 4 Levine NE. 2008. Alternative kinship, marriage, and reproduction. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> , 37: 375-389	Exploring the meaning of kin. Kinship diagrams. Who are kin? Are animals kin? Start work on Assignment 3 Kinship diagram (due in Week 5). DUE Assignment 2: Ethnographic Writing (10%). Sunday 13 August by 11:59pm
5	14 Aug	Living culture	Barley – Chapter 5 Miner H. 1956. Body Ritual Among the Nacirema. <i>American Anthropologist</i> 58(3): 503-507	What is going on in the Nacirema? Assignment 4: Exploring Culture: Writing Exercise – Introduction to and initiation of writing task

				Start work on Assignment 4 <i>Exploring culture</i> (due in Week 6). DUE Assignment 3: Kinship diagram (10%). Sunday 20 August by 11:59pm
6	21 Aug	Ritual, identity and symbols	Barley – Chapter 6 Gmelch, G. 1978, <i>Base Ball Magic</i> , <i>Human Nature</i> , 1: 32-40	Ethnographic film: Trobriand Cricket What are rituals? What are symbols?? How is identity reinforced? Start preparing for Assignment 5 <i>Fieldwork diary Part 1 – Introduction of task</i> . How to write field notes? How to use the app? DUE Assignment 4: Exploring culture (10%). Sunday 27 August by 11:59pm
7	28 Aug	Contested domains	Barley – Chapter 7 Wolf ER. 1990. Distinguished Lecture: Facing Power – Old Insights, New Questions. <i>American Anthropologist</i> 92(3): 586-596 Podcast: Patient Zero: first outbreak	What is a contested domain? Trobriand Team time
8	4 Sept	Power and resistance	Barley – Chapter 8 Abu-Lughod L. 1990. The romance of resistance: tracing transformations of power through Bedouin women. <i>American Ethnologist</i> 17(1): 41-55	DUE Assignment 1: Participant Observation Exercise (10%). Callaghan and Ourimbah students, in class. Online students on Future Learn Trobriand cricket time
9	11 Sept	Lived experience	Barley – Chapter 9 Farmer P. 2004. On suffering and structural violence. Social and economic rights in the global era. In <i>Pathologies of Power. Health, Human Right and the New Way of the Poor</i> , pp. 29-50. Berkeley CA: University of California Press	What is structural violence? Where is structural violence? Trobriand cricket time Assignment 7 preparation: Essays – tips and questions
10	18 Sept	Local lives, global forces	Barley – Chapter 10 Inda JX, Rosaldo R. 2002. Introduction. <i>A World in Motion</i> . In JX Inda and R Rosald (Eds.) <i>The Anthropology of Globalization: a Reader</i> , pp. 1-34. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publisher	Exploring the anthropology of globalisation. Trobriand cricket time
Mid-Semester Break 25 September – 6 October				
11	9 Oct	Living in an overheated world	Barley – Chapter 11 Stensrud AB. 2016. Climate Change, Alter Practices and Relational Worlds in the Andes. <i>Ethnos</i> 81, 1: 75-98	Accelerated change. What does it mean to live in an overheated world? Trobriand cricket time

				DUE Assignment 7: Essay (30%). Sunday 15 October by 11:59pm
12	16 Oct	Making anthropology matter	Barley – Chapter 12 and 13 Clifford J. 1986. Introduction: partial truths. In J Clifford and GE Marcus <i>Writing Culture. The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography</i> , pp. 1-27. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press	Callaghan and Ourimbah: Trobriand Cricket Match. Assignment 6 Fieldwork diary, Part 2.
13	23 Oct	No class		DUE Assignments 5 and 6: Field Work Diary Part 1 (15%) and Field Work Diary Part 2 (15%). Sunday 29 October by 11:59pm
Semester ends 29 October				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 7 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Participant Observation Exercise (10%)	Callaghan/Ourimbah: In class Week 8 Online: On Future Learn Week 8	Group	10%	1, 4
2	Ethnographic writing (10%)	13 August 2023, 11:59pm	Individual	10%	1, 4, 5
3	Kinship Diagram (10%)	20 August 2023, 11:59pm	Individual	10%	4
4	Exploring culture: writing exercise (10%)	27 August 2023, 11:59pm	Individual	10%	1, 4, 5
5	Fieldwork diary Part 1 (15%)	29 October 2023, 11:59pm	Individual	15%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
6	Fieldwork diary Part 2 (15%)	29 October 2023, 11:59pm	Individual	15%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7	Essay (30%)	15 October 2023, 11:59pm	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 5

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Participant Observation Exercise (10%)

Assessment Type Description

Tutorial / Laboratory Exercises

You will form groups of a maximum of 3 students to observe people and their interactions with their dogs, which you will present as a poster and talk in Week 8.

Weighting

10%

Length

250-500 words

Due date

In class/on Future Learn in Week 8

Submission Method

In class, week 8

Assessment Criteria

Quality of observation, team collaboration, analysis of key themes, quality of poster

Return Method

Online

Feedback Provided

Online

Assessment 2 - Ethnographic writing (10%)

Assessment Type	Tutorial / Laboratory Exercises
Description	You will read articles by Geertz (2005) and Rosaldo (1993) in preparation (see Course Readings, week 2). In addition, you will view an excerpt of the film Bonki and write a response to it using (a) thick description and (b) emotion.
Weighting	10%
Length	Up to 500 words
Due Date	Sunday 13 August, by 11:59pm.
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Understanding of the two approaches to observation and writing. Ability to use thick description and emotion to write a written response to the short film Bonki.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 3 - Kinship Diagram (10%)

Assessment Type	Practical Demonstration
Description	You will practice drawing and complete a kinship diagram of your own family, going back three generations. The diagram will include the corresponding keys and a brief explanation. We will start this assessment in class.
Weighting	10%
Length	Equivalent to 300 words
Due Date	20 August 2023, 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Understanding of kinship diagram conventions; clear presentation of diagram; and, lastly, clear explanation of your family diagram.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 4 - Exploring culture: writing exercise (10%)

Assessment Type	Tutorial / Laboratory Exercises
Description	You will explore Miner's piece of writing 'the Nacirema' and experiment with writing your own Nacirema piece to explore an everyday ritual from the perspective of an outsider to the particular culture.
Weighting	10%
Length	500 words
Due Date	27 August 2023, 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Understanding insider in comparison to outsider perspectives; selection and description of a ritual; ability to create an engaging piece of writing.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 5 - Fieldwork diary Part 1 (15%)

Assessment Type	Tutorial / Laboratory Exercises
Description	You will keep a fieldwork diary from week 6 to week 12, for the purpose of describing the activities of the Trobriand Cricket league, including the development of team identity, the rituals and symbolism. You will need to describe the dynamics of the team. The diary may include photographs, drawings and interviews with other team members. Maximum: 1 page per week
Weighting	15%
Length	500-1000 words
Due Date	29 October 2023, 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Quality of observations and descriptions; ability to question what you have observed; reflexivity.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 6 - Fieldwork diary Part 2 (15%)

Assessment Type	Tutorial / Laboratory Exercises
Description	Reflexive diary and analysis of the cricket tournament from the perspective of a participant observer; be attentive to ritual and symbolism; use photographs, drawings and interviews to enhance your data.
Weighting	15%
Length	500-1000 words
Due Date	29 October 2023, 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Quality of observations and descriptions; ability to question, analyse and describe observed rituals, identity building and symbolism; demonstration of making the game "live" through your descriptions of it.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 7 - Essay (30%)

Assessment Type	Essay
Description	You will choose one of three essay topics which will each require the observing and describing a setting or event. You will use the literature and key anthropological theories to develop your essay and write using thick description. The three topics are: 1. an auto-ethnography of a health experience; 2. a description of a ritual which you have experienced; or 3. a description of observations at a supermarket.
Weighting	30%
Length	1500 words (excluding references)
Due Date	15 October 2023, 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Ability to define and critically explore a question supported by the literature; ability to describe data obtained through participant observation; ability to describe the experience using thick description; ability to describe key themes arising from the data; and: ability to reference correctly.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following

		disciplinary action.
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*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods	Communication methods used in this course include:
Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
Oral Interviews (Vivas)	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure . In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule .
Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35 .
Adverse Circumstances	<p>The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;3. you are requesting a change of placement; or4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement. <p>Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</p>
Important Policy Information	<p>The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.</p>

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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