

Introduction to Anthropology: Sex, Food, Death

Choose 2/3 Essay Assignments

Due Oct 16th, Nov 6th, and/or Nov 27th (depending on your choice)

Each Assignment /20

Goal:

Critically think about anthropological concepts related to sex, food, and death. How do these apply to your life? Can you discuss these topics from an anthropological perspective? Demonstrate your knowledge and your insight by completing 2/3 of the following short-essay assignments.

Instructions:

Choose two of the three essay themes below (Biocultural Evolution, Sex & Gender, and/or Food & Diet) to write your assignment on. **Note that each theme corresponds to a different due date!** Once you have chosen your main themes, write your short-essay assignment to answer *either* option A or B (NOT both). Options A and B have been included as inspiration and examples for you to use during your writing.

While some of your essay will be opinion based, you should **draw on examples and information provided in the assigned popular-articles, lecture, your textbook, as well as external, peer-reviewed resources to back up your facts, ideas, and interpretations.**

Formatting Specifics:

Each essay must be ~4 pages long (1000wds). The text must be type-written, double spaced, and in Times New Roman 12 point font. Margins must be set at 1 inch (2.5cm). Please number your pages. Make sure that your name, student number, TA's name, and date/time of your lab session are included.

Please write in essay and paragraph format. Proof-read for spelling and grammar errors before submission. Divide your writing into clear paragraphs, each centered on a single theme. Do NOT use slang, conjunctions (e.g., isn't, weren't, they're), or text-speak (e.g., 2, u, lol). Define any new terms you are using. Grades will be assigned for writing competence.

CHOOSE TWO OF OPTIONS BELOW:

Option 1) Biocultural Evolution Due Oct 16th

What does 'biocultural' mean? Choose one of the following articles/case studies to help you explain and further investigate how humans are biocultural beings, especially in the context of how both biological and cultural processes have (and continue) to contribute to our evolution. Remember to do some peer-reviewed research to back up your facts, ideas, and interpretations.

- A) Agriculture-evolution <https://www.sapiens.org/body/human-teeth-evolution/>
OR
- B) Communication-evolution <https://www.sapiens.org/evolution/human-eyebrow-evolution/>

Option 2) Sex & Gender Due Nov 6th

Choose one of the following articles/case studies and use it to discuss how cultural conventions can influence gendered identities and roles. Consider how your own experiences, and your own cultural background may influence how you perceive gendered roles; that is, think like an anthropologist and work to recognise and describe your cultural bias. Be objective. How can you overcome this bias? Although your essay will be partly based on personal experience and opinion, I expect you to do some peer-reviewed research to back up your facts, ideas, and interpretations.

- A) <https://www.sapiens.org/culture/icelandic-fisherwomen-forgotten/>
OR
- B) <https://www.sapiens.org/culture/fiji-rugby-racial-sexual-politics/>

Option 3) Food & Diet Due Nov 27th

Choose one of the following articles/case studies and use it as inspiration for and examples to discuss how culture influences what, how, and/or when we eat. Reflect on your own diet and food-norms, and identify at least one food/eating habit that you practice that is governed by your cultural background and may differ among those of other cultural backgrounds. Think holistically and do some research to explain why this practice (and/or taboo?) you have identified exists. Although your essay will be based in personal experience and reflection, I expect you to do some peer-reviewed research to back up your facts, ideas, and interpretations.

- A) Food Taboos (& Death Ritual) <https://www.sapiens.org/body/cannibalism-ritualized-sacred/>
OR
- B) Food Insecurity <https://www.sapiens.org/culture/food-insecurity-canada/>

References:

Use **APA citation style** to cite your text, lectures, news article, and journal articles (original and supporting), as well as any other supporting information. You must include in-text citations and a reference list in APA style. You may also use and integrate additional relevant and reliable sources. If you are unsure, please contact your TA. There are various library resources available to help you learn to cite correctly (e.g., <http://libguides.mcmaster.ca/APA>)

Citation examples:

Scholarly Journal Article:

Smith, A.B. (2018). Evolution and physical anthropology: new findings. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 127(1), 345-347.

Book:

Keenleyside, A., & Lazenby, R. (2015). *A human voyage: Exploring biological anthropology*. Toronto: Nelson Education.

Lecture:

Gilmour, R. (2017). *Evolution: Facts, proofs, theories, & myths* [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>

Submitting your Assignment:

Your assignment is due in the correct Avenue to Learn Assignment dropboxes on **each respective due date (see due dates in Option list above)**.

Any assignment submitted later than the due date/time will be considered one day late and will be penalized 15% per day for each day (including weekends) that your assignment is late. Assignments more than five days late will not be accepted.

File Format: Word and pdf documents are acceptable. Do NOT submit your assignment as a .pages file – it cannot be read by Avenue or your TA and may result in late marks.

Academic dishonesty:

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour 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 behaviour 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 other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Plagiarism detection software will be used to assess the originality of your submitted assignments.

Marking Scheme:

<p>Formatting</p> <p>The essay is formatted as per the assignment guidelines (e.g., double spaced, page numbers, correct font and size, etc.). Please refer to the assignment guidelines.</p>	<p>/2</p>
<p>Style & Structure:</p> <p>The observations, arguments, and content should be well organized and laid out, with a clear and logical flow. The content should be focused and presented in a clear and coherent manner.</p> <p>The assignment should be carefully constructed, with attention paid to ensuring the writing is free of spelling/grammar errors and uses proper paragraph structure. The content should be focused and presented in a clear and coherent manner. The writing should avoid the use of conjunctions (e.g., weren't, aren't), text-language (e.g., u, 2, lol), and other colloquialisms and slang.</p>	<p>/6</p>
<p>Content & Critical Reflection</p> <p>The assignment demonstrates that the student has an excellent grasp of the anthropological thought, questions, and themes. The presented information and critique is thoughtful and insightful. When facts and supporting arguments are introduced, they are logical and based on correct and factual information. An outstanding critique will also use reliable information presented in other appropriate, supporting material (i.e., other than lectures and the text).</p>	<p>/8</p>
<p>Referencing:</p> <p>Appropriate and correct use of citations both in-text and in the references cited. References adhere to APA style.</p>	<p>/4</p>
<p>TOTAL</p>	<p>/20</p>