

Department of Anthropology
ANTH 2222G - 001
Debates in Sociocultural Anthropology
BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2023

Version date: August 5, 2022



Course Instructor:

Douglas Campbell: dcampb62@uwo.ca
Contact Hours: TBA

Teaching Assistant:

TBA

Classes:

In person, winter term, Monday evenings 7:00-10:00.
Classroom: SSC-3014

Requisites:

Antirequisites: None; **Prerequisites:** None.

Debates in Sociocultural Anthropology is an invitation to explore ongoing questions about why, and how, sociocultural anthropologists do what they do. Through weekly lectures, discussions, readings, and audio and visual media, we will investigate concepts, issues, challenges, and debates that define the discipline while reflecting on our own developing identities as sociocultural anthropologists.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- critically analyze why and how sociocultural anthropologists do what they do
- critically analyze the representational practices sociocultural anthropologists use to shape ideas about others and ourselves
- investigate the world with an anthropologically informed sensibility
- recognize how sociocultural anthropology contributes to understandings about what it means to be human

Course Assignments:

Assignment	Value	Due Date
Weekly in-class quizzes	20%	
Summary/Response Assignment 1	15%	February 6
Summary/Response Assignment 2	15%	February 27
Object-Identity Assignment	10%	March 13
Create a Culture Paper	20%	March 27
Create a Culture Proposal	20%	April 10



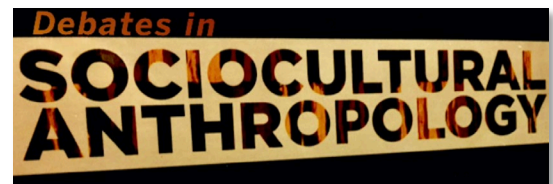
Detailed descriptions of the content, structure, and formatting of course assignments will be provided before the first day of class on the course's OWL site and on the course syllabus. Comprehensive instructions for all assignments will be provided during lectures.

In order to pass this course students must complete all, and pass three, of five writing assignments.

Course Materials:

All course materials can be accessed through the course's OWL portal. Students are not required to purchase any readings or other materials for this course.

This is a PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE. It will be revised as the course progresses. Readings and media may be updated to reflect current research and happenings. The schedule may be adjusted to accommodate guest speakers or allow us to go where our curiosity takes us.



PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE:

Lecture # and Date / Topic / Readings / Media

LECTURE 1 January 9

Topic: **Stories**
Readings: Wesch, *The Power of Storytelling*
Media: Chimamanda Adichie – *The Power of the Single Story*
Thomas King – *The Truth About Stories PART 1*
Mike Wesch - *TEDxNYED*

LECTURE 2 January 16

Topic: **Forget Culture**
Readings: Lavenda and Schultz, *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology: Culture*
Li, *The Spy Who Came in from the South*
Media: Darryl Li – *The Relationship Between Transnational Jihadists and the U.S. Empire*

LECTURE 3 January 23

Topic: **The Activist Imaginary**
Readings: Angelotti and Povinelli, *Karrabing is not a clan, ... It is an aspiration*
Engelhart, *Media Activism in the Screening Room*
Levine, *Documentary Film and HIV/AIDS*
Media: *Steps for the Future (TBA)*
Povinelli Darnell Lecture Dec 2020

Karrabing Film Collective, *The Mermaids, or Aiden in Wonderland*

LECTURE 4 January 30

Topic: **Representation**
Readings: Trask, *Natives and Anthropologists: The Colonial Struggle*
Keesing, *Creating the Past: Custom and Identity in the Pacific*
Media: Campbell/VYPP, *Reality Comes to Vanuatu* (excerpt)
Waititi, *Two Cars, One Night*

Summary/Response Assignment 1 - Due: February 6

LECTURE 5 February 6

Topic: **Cover Controversy**
Readings: Bonilla and Thomas, *An Interview with the Editor of American Anthropologist about the March 2020 Cover Controversy*
Thomas, *Statement about March 2020 Cover*
Colwell, *Is It Ever OK to Publish Photographs of Human Remains?*
Hughes, *The Reinvention of Humanity by Charles King* review
Menand, *How Cultural Anthropologists Redefined Humanity*
Media: *How One Anthropologist Reshaped How Social Scientists Think About Race*
Anthropology in/of Disaster: Yarima Bonilla and Laurence Ralph

LECTURE 6 February 13

Topic: **Identity**
Readings: Eriksen, *Understanding Cultural Change* (pages 132-135)
Proctor, *Policing the Fluff* (pages 485-491, 500-507)
Read, *From Otherkin to Transethnicity*
Media: Dodd, *Opioid crisis: why aren't we moved to action*
Campbell, *Wendake: A Place Set Apart* (excerpt)

Summary/Response Assignment 2 - Due: February 27

LECTURE 7 February 27

Topic: **Nostalgia and Solastalgia**
Readings: Lofgren, *Order Chaos and Desperation: The Hyper-materiality of Everyday Life*
Highmore, *Familiar Things* (pages 58-59)
Stewart, *Nostalgia—A Polemic* (pages 227-228, 234-241)
Mack, *Authentically Overwhelmed*
Media: *Solastalgia and why we long for places we once knew*

LECTURE 8 March 6

Topic: **Explaining the World**
Reading: Shorter, *Spirituality*
Media: TallBear, *Science v. the Sacred, a Dead-end Settler Ontology - - And Then What?*

Object-Identity Assignment - Due: March 13

LECTURE 9 March 13

Topic: **Posthuman Anthropology**
Readings: Whitehead and Wesch, *Introduction: Human No More*
Allison, *Afterword: Human No More*

LECTURE 10 March 20

Topic: **Mining Memory**

Readings: Yon, *Connectivity*
Yon, *Race-Making/Race-Mixing: St. Helena and the South Atlantic World*
Media: Yon/Campbell, *Mining Memory*

Create a Culture Paper - Due: March 27

LECTURE 11 March 27

Topic: **Cultural Survival**
Readings: Lavenda and Schultz, *Chapter 1: Anthropology* (6 - 12)
Lavenda and Schultz, *Chapter 12: Theory* (196 - 201)
Media: Davis, *Dreams from Endangered Cultures*

LECTURE 12 April 3

Topic: **Anthropology Meets World**
Reading: Ortner, *Dark Anthropology and Its Others*
Media: Solnit, *Falling Together (On Being with Krista Tippett)*

Create a Culture Research Proposal - Due: April 10

Please refer to the ANTHRO 2222G-001 Course Outline in the Syllabus folder on the course's OWL site for **Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course; Course Specific Statements and Policies; Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations; Statement on Plagiarism; and Institutional Statements and Policies.**

