

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

ANT 2070B
WINTER 2026
PSYCHOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Instructor: Jared Epp

Office Hours: Fridays 2-3pm on Zoom—Link in course Brightspace page

Email: jaredepp@cunet.carleton.ca

Brightspace course page link: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/363813>

Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses: There are no pre-requisites for the course

Method of Delivery: This is a synchronous online class. Students are expected to attend the online lectures.

In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

Course Description and Objectives: In this course we will explore how psychological anthropology provides a unique opportunity to understand the relationship between the individual and their social world. Anthropology focuses on the universal and particular of human experience, the relationship between aspects shared across cultures and how they manifest in unique contexts. In this course we take this fundamental interest to explore individuality amidst our social experience. The goal is to explore the shifting and fluid thresholds between normativity and madness, aging and dementia, the outsider and the mainstream and how social concerns shape individuality as well as how divergent individuality creates new social contexts.

Anthropologist Clifford Geertz once argued that anthropology is an interpretive science in search of meaning (1973). In this course, we take this idea as a jumping off point to engage with madness, dementia and marginality, to understand what it comes to mean as a social reality as well as personal experience. What does madness or dementia mean on a societal level, as a category of experience, and social phenomena sometimes requiring institutional intervention. What does it mean on a personal level, how do people who live under the label of madness or diagnosis of dementia articulate their experience and their relationship to normativity. Further what does madness mean in different cultural contexts, how is it experienced and understood when situated within spirituality. Through these contexts, we can explore thresholds of difference in which the center and periphery are defined. The second half of the course will look at specific contexts of individuality in relation to social normativity or acceptability. We engage these questions through explorations of addiction, precarity, art and experiences on the border of normalcy. Through these contexts we hope to understand how the construction of social reality, the self, and normativity are lived and negotiated.

Learning Outcomes (at least 3):

- 1) Providing an understanding of how anthropology engages with the intersection of the individual and their social world
- 2) Providing a framework to understand the importance that social context and culture play in the diagnosis, treatment, resistance and experience of mental illness or madness as well as dementia
- 3) Providing a space to explore and unpack situations in which individuals challenge normative assumptions of what it means to be a 'functioning' member of a community

Reading(s)/Textbook(s): All course material will be available for download through the course Brightspace page. The material is located in the content section of each week's class.

Class Schedule: The class meets from 6:05 to 8:55 every Tuesday evening. The zoom link will be available in the course Brightspace page.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Reflection Responses: 20%

There will be 4 short reflection responses assigned throughout the semester, each worth 5%. Each reflection response should be around 250 words or one page double spaced. Responses must be submitted by the following Friday after each class, through the course Brightspace page. Responses are an informal way to demonstrate your thought process and engagement with the course. Grades for the reflection responses will be posted by the following Wednesday after submission.

Critical Response Take Home Exams: 40%

There will be two take home exams in the course, each worth 20%. The first, due **Mar. 2**, deals with material from the first half of the course. The second, due **March 25** deals with material from the second half of the course. The take home exams will include two long answer questions that summarize course material. Students are required to connect course material with their own critical thinking. Guidelines and questions will be distributed in class the week before the due date. Assignments must be submitted through Brightspace.

Final Take Home Essay: 30% - Due April 23

Students must complete a 1500 word essay that deals broadly with a specific week's topic. Students can take that general topic and develop their own unique essay of a topic of interest within that broad theme. Students must use a mix of sources from in class as well as peer reviewed sources of their own choosing. Guidelines and expectations will be discussed in the second half of the course.

Participation 10%

Students are expected to attend lectures and participate in class discussions, either by asking questions and comments through the zoom chat or by speaking directly during the lecture. The TA will monitor each lecture, documenting participation. Lecture slides will be posted on Brightspace but the lectures will not be recorded. Students will not be required to turn on their cameras but participation in lectures is required.

Late Exam and Assignment Policy

All assignments must be handed in on time. Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the professor. All requests for extensions must be communicated before the deadline. Without discussing with the professor first, marks will be docked, 2% per day, for assignments handed in late. I understand that life happens, please communicate with me before the deadline of an assignment. No extensions will be granted for the 4 short reflection responses.

The deadline of the final essay is fixed for the last day of the exam period. Extensions can not be requested through the professor and must be treated through the process of a deferred final exam.

Use of AI Policy

From ChatGPT to other forms of Generative AI, this technology is everywhere and becoming more and more common place. However, using this technology is an act of plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Cases of AI use will be treated the same as any form of plagiarism and will be dealt with accordingly (see Carleton's policy on plagiarism later in the course outline). Within this class steps will be taken to craft assignments in ways that make the use of AI responses more obvious and easier to detect. Students must write in the first person and draw from their own experience and critical thinking.

Citation Style The Chicago author-date citation style (17th edition) is to be used in the assignments and papers of this course. For more information, please see:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html

Additional Information

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F= Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course	DEF = Deferred	

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (<https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>). For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at **613-520-6608** or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for February/March examinations is **February 1, 2026** and **March 15, 2026** for April examinations.

For Religious Obligations:

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For Pregnancy:

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools (e.g. ChatGPT)

Unless explicitly permitted, either generally or for a specific assignment, any use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content is considered a violation of academic integrity standards. As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

Note: Students can also access resources related to citing Generative AI on the [MacOdrum Library website](#).

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; resubmission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

What are the Procedures?

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Statement on Student Mental Health:

“As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>”

Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))

- Crisis/Urgent Counselling Support: 613-520-6674 (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30)
- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service
<https://walkincounselling.com>

Important Information:

- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton's Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) within the university.
- In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your [MyCarletonOne account](#) through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the [MyCarleton Portal](#).
- Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <https://students.carleton.ca/>.

COURSE STRUCTURE WEEK BY WEEK

Week 1, January 6 (Course introduction)

-We will go through the syllabus, discuss course plan and expectations

Week 2, January 13: An Introduction to Psychological Anthropology from Foundations to the Contemporary

Read: Simon Dein, “Chapter One: Introduction,” *Culture and Psyche* 1-18

Tanya Luhrmann, “Introduction” *Our Most Troubling Madness* 1-25

[supplemental reading] Emily Martin, “Introduction,” *Experiments of the Mind* 1-11

Week 3, January 20: Socio-Historical Context of Madness

Read: Michel Foucault, “Madness and Civilization,” *Madness: Language, Literature* 17-34

Michel Foucault, “Preface” *Madness and Civilization* xi-xiv

Watch (in class): *Madness: A History* BBC documentary

First Reflection Response Due January 23

Week 4, January 27: Mad Resistance, Anti-Psychiatry and Challenging the Institution of Madness

Read: “Introducing Mad Studies,” in: *Mad Studies Reader: Interdisciplinary Innovations in Mental Health* edited by Bradley Lewis, Alisha Ali and Jazmine Russell (1-17)

-Thomas Szasz “*The Myth of Mental Illness*” *American Psychologist* 15(2) 113-118

Week 5, Feb. 3: The Individual and the Institution

The lecture for this week will be pre-recorded. There will be no live lecture.

Watch: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*

Second reflection response Due Feb. 6

Week 6, Feb. 10: The Individual and the Institution

Read: Erving Goffman, *Asylum* (The Moral Career of a Mental Patient) 127-169

Week 7, Feb. 17 Reading Week

Enjoy the Break!!!

Week 8, Feb 24: Erin Dej, “Psychocentrism and Homelessness: The Pathologization/Responsibilization Paradox,” *Studies in Social Justice* 10(1) 117-135

Tanya Luhrmann, “The Culture of the Institutional Circuit in the United States”
In *Our Most Troubling Madness* 153-166

Watch: Death is Dangerous

Take home critical response due midnight March 2

Material up to this week covered on first critical reflection assignment

Take home critical response questions distributed

Week 9, March 3: Diagnosis and identity across cultures

Read: Read: Tanya Luhrmann, “I’m Schizophrenic!”: How Diagnosis Can Change Identity in The United States” In *Our Most Troubling Madness* 27-41

Amy June Sousa, “Diagnostic Neutrality in Psychiatric Treatment in North India,” *Our Most Troubling Madness* 42-54

Watch: *The Spirit Possession of Alejandro Mamani* by Hubert Smith and Neil Reichline

**Week 10, Mar 10:
Madness in Different Cultural Context**

Read: Anubha Sood, “Madness Experienced as Faith: Temple Healing in North India,” In *Our Most Troubling Madness* 127-138

Vincent Crapanzano, *Tuhami: Portrait of a Moroccan* (a selection)

Guest Lecture: Mark Schemeit, discussing his ethnographic research on Islamic healing and mental illness amongst Turkish youth in Berlin

Third Reflection Response: Due Mar. 13

Week 11, Mar 17 Anthropologies of Dementia: On Recognition

Read: Janelle S. Taylor, “On Recognition, Caring and Dementia,” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (313-345)

Fourth Reflection Response due March 20

Take Home Critical Response #2 Guidelines and Prompts Distributed Due March 25*

Week 12, Mar 24 Anthropologies of Dementia: Normativity and Difference in ‘Healthy Aging’

Cynthia Lazzaroni and Annette Leibing. “Aging Affordances: Navigating expectations of dementia prevention for aging adults in Canada,” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (1-14)

Take Home Critical Response #2 Guidelines and Prompts Distributed Due March 24*

Week 13, Mar 31 The Outsider and the Mainstream

Read: Colin Rhodes, *Outsider Art Spontaneous Alternatives* (Chapter One) 6-23

Rita Elizabeth Risser, “Insiders Curating Outsider Art,” *Museum Anthropology* 40(1) 79-87

Watch (in class): *Turning the Art World Inside Out* By Alan Yentob

Take home Critical Response #2 Due March 24

Week 14, April 7 Course Wrap Up and Discussion of Final Essay Due April 23

WINTER TERM 2026 – Important Dates and Deadlines

Date	Activity
WINTER TERM 2026	
December 29, 2025	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full winter and early winter term courses.
January 5, 2026	University reopens.
	Winter term begins. Full winter and early winter classes begin.

Date	Activity
January 9, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in early winter courses.
January 16, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full winter and late winter courses.
	Last day to withdraw from early winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
	Graduate students who have not electronically submitted their final thesis copy to Graduate Studies will not be eligible to graduate in winter 2026 and must register for the winter 2026 term.
January 23-25, January 30- February 1, 2026	Full fall and late fall term deferred final examinations will be held.
January 31, 2026	Last day to withdraw from full winter courses and the winter portion of fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
February 1, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from early winter courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for Feb/Mar final examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
February 6, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in early winter undergraduate courses, before the official Feb/Mar final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).

Date	Activity
February 13, 2026	Last day of early winter classes.
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned in early winter courses, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
	Last day that can be specified by an instructor as a due date for term work for early winter courses.
	April examination schedule available online.
February 16, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in late winter courses.
February 16-20, 2026	Winter break, no classes.
February 21-22, February 28-March 1, 2026	Final examinations in early winter undergraduate courses will be held.
February 23, 2026	Late winter classes begin.
February 27, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in late winter courses.
March 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the fall/winter session

Date	Activity
	from applicants whose documents originate outside Canada or the United States.
	Last day for receipt of applications to Bachelor of Architecture, Bachelor of Industrial Design, Bachelor of Information Technology (Interactive Multimedia and Design), Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Social Work degree programs for the fall/winter session.
	Last day for receipt of applications for admission from candidates who wish to be guaranteed consideration for financial assistance (including Carleton fellowships, scholarships and teaching assistantships) administered by Carleton University. Candidates whose applications are received after the March 1 deadline may be considered for the award of a fellowship, scholarship or teaching assistantship (Graduate students only).
March 6, 2026	Last day to withdraw from late winter term courses with a full fee adjustment.
March 13-15, 2026	Early winter undergraduate deferred final examinations will be held.
March 15, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for April full winter, late winter, and fall/winter final examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.

Date	Activity
March 25, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full winter term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official April final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
April 1, 2026	Last day for graduate students to submit their supervisor-approved thesis, in examinable form to the department. Last day for receipt of applications from potential spring (June) graduates.
	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in late winter term undergraduate courses, before the official final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
April 3, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
April 8, 2026	Winter term ends. Classes follow a Friday schedule. Last day of full winter, late winter, and fall/winter classes.
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.

Date	Activity
	Last day that can be specified by an instructor as a due date for term work for full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses.
April 9-10, 2026	No classes or examinations take place.
April 11-23, 2026	Final examinations in full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
April 23, 2026	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
May 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate internal degree transfers to allow for registration for the summer session.
May 15-27, 2026	Full winter, late winter term, and fall/winter deferred final examinations will be held.
June 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate program for the fall/winter session except for applications due March 1.
June 15, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate degree program transfers for the fall term.