

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 1001 A
2026 FALL
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Instructor: Matthew Hawkins

Office Hours: Thursdays 1:00pm – 2:30pm; Fridays 10:00am – 11:00am; office is Loeb A707

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[Brightspace course page link](#)

Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses: Precludes additional credit for HUMS 1005 (no longer offered)

Method of Delivery: In-person lectures Fridays 11:35am – 1:25pm; In-person TA group either 1:35pm-2:25pm or 2:35pm-3:25pm

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:

Socio-cultural anthropology is the study of the diverse ways of being human: the different ways people think and act and about the relationships that they form with other people, beings, and things. This course will introduce you to how anthropologists explore these cultural differences and learn from different cultural examples from around the world. We will look at concepts of power, race, the nation, gender, the environment, economy and development, memory, and reconciliation to better understand the conditions of how people make social relationships. We will read ethnographies, which represent one of the important ways that anthropologists share knowledge about society and culture. In this class we will learn about social and cultural differences from around the world and in Canada. We will be exposed to ethnography and practice some of the anthropologist's research methods.

To write or create an ethnography, anthropologists use a research method called participant-observation. The researcher participates in the lived realities of other people and observes how they construct meaning in their lives to gain an understanding of what we call "culture".

Fundamental to how anthropologists do research is the concept of cultural relativity. Cultural relativity is not moral relativity, which would be to say all ways of being/acting are equally good. Rather, as anthropologist Marshall Sahlins writes, cultural relativity "is the simple prescription that, in order to be intelligible, other people's practices and ideals must be placed in their own historical context [and] in the field of their own cultural relationships." To learn about other people's culture therefore is to engage in a relationship with other people and to be present in and participate with their lived realities.

Learning Outcomes:

- To learn about the cultural diversity that exists in many aspects of human life.
- To recognize and critique ethnocentrism and the importance of cultural relativism.
- Be introduced to ethnography and learning from descriptions of lived experiences.
- Be able to define and apply core concepts (power, gender, colonialism, racialization and racism, space/place, etc.) to analyze a sociocultural phenomenon.
- Engage in reflective activities about different social, economic, political, and cultural realities

Course Format:

Course content is organized by a theme or topic each week. Lectures will be delivered every Friday in-person. Assigned materials will be available and/or linked on Brightspace. You will be asked to submit a question about the readings each week on the Brightspace forum.

You will also attend a 1-hour TA discussion group each Friday. TA groups will include discussions on that week's course content (lecture and readings) as well as activities to facilitate your academic skills. You should complete the assigned materials before the TA discussion group to be able to fully participate in your TA group.

Check Carleton Central to see your section's meeting time and location.

Assessments (details below):

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|---|-----|
| • TA Group Attendance and Participation | 20% |
| • In-class response activities (4 x 5% each) | 20% |
| • Observation, Description, Analysis Assignment | 30% |
| • Final Exam | 30% |

TA Group Attendance and Participation – 20%

TA Groups will begin on Friday September 18. Check your Carleton Central to see which TA Group you have registered in and its location.

Your attendance grade will be made up between your attendance (you are allowed 2 grace days out of the 10 planned instructional groups) worth 10% of your grade and your participation evaluated by your TA worth the other 10% of your grade.

Participation will be evaluated on your consistent efforts to engage in discussions, share your ideas and understandings, ask questions, and your ability to draw upon course materials (assigned readings and lecture) either in your questions or responses.

In-class response activities – 20%

Dates: Sept 18, Oct 2, Oct 16, Nov 13, Nov 27 – completed in your TA groups.

There will be five (5) opportunities in your TA group to complete a written response based on a prompt given in your TA group on that day that will connect to course materials (lecture and readings). The response will be completed in your TA Group. You will be given the final 25-30 minutes of your TA group to write your response.

Your best 4 grades will count towards your final grade (and so you will not be penalized for missing one of the responses). If you miss two or more responses because of legitimate reasons (medical issues, family emergencies) you must contact the professor **before** November 27 to make appropriate accommodations.

You are encouraged to hand write your response in a small notebook that you can submit and receive back the following week. If you have the appropriate learning accommodations recognized through the Paul Menton Centre (PMC), you will be able submit a digital document of your response to your TA by email.

Your responses will be marked out of 10 based on 0.25 scale.

Marking criteria will change depending on the requirements of the prompt, but in general you will be marked based upon completeness in addressing the prompt, appropriate inclusion of course materials (including your ability to reference assigned materials), and your ability to incorporate course concepts presented in lecture into your reflection.

Observation, Description, Analysis Assignment – 30%

Due: Nov 27 at 11:59pm through Brightspace

Proposal due: Oct 16 at 11:59pm through Brightspace

An activity that includes practising your observation skills and applying analytical concepts to the description of your experience. You will choose one location where you can conduct a cumulative 2 to 3 hours of observation in late October to early November, documenting your experience in fieldnotes. You will submit your description of your observations with an analysis linked to course concepts (~1500 words). You will be asked to submit a short paragraph outlining your proposed observation location by October 16 so your TA can highlight any ethical considerations and give you guidance on your observations.

Further instructions and grading rubric will be provided on Brightspace. Your assignment will be marked out of 100. Submitting your proposal by the due date will result in a 3-mark bonus.

Late Penalty: 2 marks out of 100 per day late unless you have made arrangements before the due date. If you need accommodations after the due date because of illness please contact the professor.

Final Exam – 30%

Exam schedule will be posted by October 9, 2026 by Carleton.

There will be an in-person final exam scheduled during the examination period at the end of the semester. The final exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions that will test your knowledge of course materials – including knowledge of the course readings – and ability to apply course concepts.

Important Note about Expectations:

For the instructor:

You can expect me: to share my knowledge about anthropology through original content (lectures), assign meaningful materials to read, listen and watch, and design this course to facilitate your learning. I will provide clear instructions and clarify when needed and maintain a fair assessment standard for all students. I am to be fair and understanding of your circumstances and to make accommodations where necessary to help you succeed.

I can be reached for personal issues through email (I aim to respond within 1-2 days and respect weekends) or during the posted office hours.

For Teaching Assistants:

Teaching assistants are a core part of the teaching team with significant knowledge about anthropology and university skills to share with you. They will provide you fair and meaningful assessment on your assignments and help me to facilitate your education. They will lead a weekly TA Group.

For the students:

I expect you to regularly engage with the course, which includes attending lecture, engaging with the assigned course materials and participate in your TA groups. I expect you to complete assignments on time. Overall, I expect you to apply yourself to your own learning, recognizing that readings may be difficult, that you may encounter ideas and histories you are not familiar with and that you will have to apply yourself to develop your skills and knowledge.

Also, please let me know as soon as possible if physical/mental health, personal/family issue, technological access, and/or workload is affecting your ability to fulfill your responsibilities in this course, and we will work towards an accommodation.

For everyone:

Finally, we all have different backgrounds and life experiences that provide different perspectives on issues and understandings about what is most important in our lives. Some topics in this class include explorations of how people have been politically and socially marginalized, excluded, and exploited based on their gender, sexuality, religion, economic class and through processes of colonization and racialization. My expectation is that we all work towards an inclusive classroom and society; this project requires all of us to think and act with care and be open to the possibilities of rethinking how our experiences should influence our own knowledge and actions with a goal of ending the ways in which people are marginalized, excluded, and exploited.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI use in this course: Students may use AI tools for basic word processing and formatting functions, including:

- Grammar and spell checking (e.g., Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor)
- Basic formatting and design suggestions (e.g., Microsoft Word's formatting tools, PowerPoint Design editor)

Students may also have a few other limited uses for AI tools:

- AI assistance as a research tool to find relevant resources for your Observation, Description, and Analysis assignment. Be aware that AI tools continue to incorrectly cite and may make-up citations. It is important that you download and read sources you are using, and to correctly cite your sources.
- AI tools may be helpful for creating summaries of readings, but such summaries are not a replacement for doing the reading yourself. For your own growth and success in the course, if you are using AI tools as reading aid, that you still should complete the entire reading on your own.

Documenting AI use: It is not necessary to document the use of AI for the permitted purposes listed above. If you have questions about a specific use of AI that isn't listed above, please consult me.

Reading(s)/Textbook(s):

Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course. Readings will be provided/linked through the course's Brightspace page.

Students are recommended to bring a notebook and pen to class and TA group.

Class Schedule and Assigned Materials

1: Introduction Friday September 11	Concepts: socio-culture anthropology, ethnography
Reading: Syllabus.	
2: Ethnography and being human Friday September 18	Concepts: Culture, cultural relativism, ethnocentrism, ethnography
Reading: De León, J. (2024). "Introduction" and "Papo and Alma." In <i>Soldiers and Kings: Survival and hope in the world of human struggling</i> . Viking.	
Response activity 1	
3: Power and the state Friday September 25	Concepts: Power, the state, common-sense
Reading: Adunbi, O., & Ololajulo, B. (2025). "Who Morality Epp ?": Economic Anxiety and the Practice of Faking Militancy in Nigeria's Niger Delta. <i>Current Anthropology</i> , 66(1), 70–94.	
4: Gender, sexuality and violence Friday October 2	Concepts: Gender, biological sex, violence
Reading: Zengin, A. (2019). The Afterlife of Gender: Sovereignty, Intimacy and Muslim Funerals of Transgender People in Turkey. <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> , 34(1), 78–102.	
Response activity 2	
5: Racialization, class and the nation Friday October 9	Concepts: Nation/nationalism, race and racialization, social class
Reading: Pinho, P. (2021). "Whiteness Has Come Out of the Closet and Intensified Brazil's Reactionary Wave," In <i>Precarious Democracy: Ethnographies of Hope, Despair, and Resistance in Brazil</i> . Rutgers University Press.	
6: Indigeneity and decolonizing Canada Friday October 16	Concepts: colonialism, reconciliation, cultural appropriation, knowledge
No assigned materials this week.	
Response activity 3	
Observation, Description, Analysis proposal due by 11:59pm.	
7: Colonialism, genocide, and resistance Friday October 23	Concepts: settler-colonialism, genocide, resistance
Reading: Assali, H. (2024). Opacity in Gaza: Intimate Relations as Resistance. <i>Arab Studies Journal</i> , 32(2), 40–50.	

8: Development and economies Friday November 6	Concepts: Economies, capitalism, extraction
Reading: Jaramillo, P. (2020). Mining Leftovers: Making Futures on the Margins of Capitalism. <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> , 35(1).	
9: Urban anthropology Friday November 13	Concepts: Space and place, place-making, urban ethnography
Reading: Raposo, O. R. (2023). Street Art Commodification and (An)aesthetic Policies on the Outskirts of Lisbon. <i>Journal of Contemporary Ethnography</i> , 52(2), 163–191.	
Response activity 4	
10: Climate change, adaptation and ecological justice Friday November 20	Concepts: Ecology, environment, human-nonhuman relationships (ecology)
Reading: Gagné, K. (2025). The Feel of Climate Change: Attuning to the Shifting Ice of the Zanskar River. <i>Current Anthropology</i> , 66(1), 147–154.	
11: Care and the Human Body Friday November 27	Concepts: Medical anthropology, the body, care, health,
Reading: Wright, J. (2023). Chapter 4 Hug: Reconfiguring Lifting. In: <i>Robots won't save Japan: An ethnography of eldercare automation</i> . ILR Press, an imprint of Cornell University Press.	
Response activity 5	
Observation, Description, Analysis Assignment due by 11:59pm.	
12: Conclusion and Review Friday December 4	Concepts: no new concepts
No new readings this week. Will be reviewing concepts and course material for exam.	

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	

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 October/November examinations is **October 1, 2026** and **November 15, 2026** for December 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/>.

Date	Activity
FALL TERM 2026	
August 31, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications from potential fall (November) graduates.
September 2, 2026	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full fall, early fall, and fall/winter courses.
September 7, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
September 8, 2026	Academic orientation (undergraduate and graduate students).
	Orientation for new Teaching Assistants.
	All new students are expected to be on campus. Class and laboratory preparations, departmental introductions for students, and other academic preparation activities will be held.
September 9, 2026	Fall term begins. Full fall, early fall, and fall/winter classes begin.
September 15, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in early fall courses.
September 18-20, 2026	Full summer and late summer term deferred final examinations will be held.
September 22, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full fall, late fall, and fall/winter courses.
	Last day to withdraw from early fall 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 fall 2026 and must register for the fall 2026 term.
September 30, 2026	Last day to withdraw from full fall and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.

Date	Activity
October 1, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from early fall courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for Oct/Nov 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.
October 9, 2026	December examination schedule (fall term final and fall/winter mid-terms) available online.
October 12, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
October 15, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the winter term from applicants whose documents originate from outside Canada or the United States.
October 16, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in early fall term undergraduate courses, before the official Oct/Nov final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
October 23, 2026	Last day of early fall classes.
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned in early fall 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 a course instructor as a due date for term work for early fall courses.
October 26, 2026	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in late fall courses.
October 26-30, 2026	Fall break, no classes.
October 31-	Final examinations in early fall undergraduate courses will be held.

Date	Activity
November 1, November 7-8, 2026	
November 2, 2026	Late fall classes begin.
November 13, 2026	Last day to withdraw from late fall term courses with a full fee adjustment.
November 15, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for December full fall and late fall examinations and fall/winter midterm 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.
	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the winter term.
November 20-22, 2026	Early fall undergraduate deferred final examinations will be held.
November 27, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full fall term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official December final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
November 30, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications from potential winter (February) graduates.
December 4, 2026	Last day for graduate students to submit their supervisor-approved thesis, in examinable form to the department.
	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in late fall 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

Date	Activity
	Graduate Calendar).
December 11, 2026	Fall term ends.
	Last day of full fall and late fall classes.
	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
	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.
	Last day that can be specified by an instructor as a due date for term work for full and late fall courses.
	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate degree program transfers for winter term.
December 12-23, 2026	Final examinations in full fall and late fall courses and mid-term examinations in fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
December 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.
December 24, 2026 at noon through January 1, 2027 inclusive	University closed.