

ME33KD Key Debates in Anthropology

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ME33KD Key Points

- ▶ Based on Level 2 Anthropology course
- ▶ 15 credits
- ▶ Two one-hour lectures per week (Monday and Tuesday)
- ▶ One hour tutorial per week (probably Thursday/Friday)
- ▶ Possibly a dedicated ME33KD tutorial
- ▶ Required readings each week
- ▶ Two coursework assessments
- ▶ Three topics: Species, Race, Community

Topics

- ▶ Each of the three topics run over two weeks.
- ▶ **Species difference:** How do we understand human relations with other species? Are humans an exceptional species? Multispecies dimensions of health and disease.
- ▶ **Race and ethnicity:** Is race biologically real or a cultural construct? If it's the latter, does it still have health implications? Is ethnicity a better term to use?
- ▶ **Community, place and identity:** How do we become who we are? How do we come to belong to some communities and not others? How is a person made up? Implications of new reproductive technologies and cross-cultural ideas of what a person is.
- ▶ Each theme has two tutorials associated with it.
- ▶ The first will be a regular tutorial, with required readings
- ▶ The second will be a debate. In each debate, at least two students will present - one or more on each side of the motion.

Assessment

- ▶ One essay (1500 words each) 40%
- ▶ Debate project (2,000 words) 60%
- ▶ Debate project will build on the debate you present at
- ▶ Essay and Debate Project need to cover different topics
- ▶ *How can anthropological approaches that focus on multispecies relations provide new understandings of disease and biosecurity?*
- ▶ *Does it make a difference to talk about ‘race’ or ‘ethnicity’ in considering health outcomes?*
- ▶ *Compare and contrast the ways people are understood to be ‘made’ in Britain and Melanesia. What are the main differences? What are the similarities?*

Feedback

The staff, particularly the course coordinator, were always available to answer questions, and gave very prompt responses to emails/blackboard messages. [The tutor] was very helpful, and eased us in nicely to the ways of social sciences, and gave us good detailed advice and guidance for assessments.

The ability to debate was very interesting. This is not often done in medicine as there is one answer based off a guideline. The topics were incredibly interesting.

The course I feel really pushed me academically in a good way. It really enlightened me to the complexity of anthropological debates, and kind of mirrors some of the uncertainty that we also face in medicine. I liked that we had the option do more medicine-focused anthropology questions, which I feel will really benefit our future careers.