

ANTH 393 A05 - Spring 2023

An Anthropology of the Future

INSTRUCTOR: Mark McIntyre

Course Description and Objectives:

Within anthropology, there is growing interest in concepts of the future, hope, anticipation, and imagination, integrated here under, "Anthropology of the Future." An anthropology of the future corresponds to the methodological, theoretical, interventional, and interdisciplinary approaches to inquiry from the unknown to the yet-to-come; from the uncertain to the imagined. This course explores anthropological investigations of cultural responses to the processes of worldmaking, as well as various possible ontological understandings of the notion of time, and, by extension, the presence of alternative futures.

Skills Development:

Intended Learning Outcomes and Skills Development

By the end of the course students should:

- Have a greater familiarity with the concepts of future, hope, anticipation, and imagination, from an anthropological perspective.
- Engage with some of the methodologies that anthropologists undertake to study future orientated concerns.
- Think critically and analytically from an anthropological perspective about historical and contemporary events/processes that inform future making.
- Develop critical thinking skills for engaging with the various cross-cultural constructions of future.

This class will offer the opportunity to exercise a wide variety of skills that are crucial in students' academic and professional careers. These skills include but are not limited to:

- Critical reading and writing.
- Analytical thinking.
- Secondary research skills through online and library research resources.
- Effective communication skills through individual writing
- Build upon existing research and analysis skill
- assignments, group work, and group presentations.
- Media literacy