

SCHOOL OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND MUSEUM ETHNOGRAPHY

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From the office of the Head of School

Examinations and Assessments in

MSc Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology

MSc, MPQ, and MPhil Medical Anthropology

MSc, MPQ, and MPhil Social Anthropology

MSc, MPQ, and MPhil Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology

Following the recent message from the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education)

(<http://newsletter.admin.ox.ac.uk/q/119z7TxcW0Yk/wv>), I am now in a position to confirm how your course will be assessed in Trinity Term 2020, as a result of the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

As the email from Professor Williams explained, the University's approach focuses on supporting all students as much as possible. We are taking steps to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on academic performance as much as we can, and to consider your individual circumstances and particularly your mental and physical needs. We have worked towards a solution that is as simple and uniform as it can be – to reduce complexity, minimise disruption, and provide an equitable approach for all candidates. We are working to ensure as many students as possible can complete their degrees and graduate on time.

Special arrangements in Trinity Term 2020

Examinations

Your exams will be replaced with alternative forms of assessment in Trinity Term 2020.

In the case of PGT degrees in SAME (MSc, MPQ, and MPhil), all exams will be replaced by week-long assessments within a period of four weeks (Weeks Three to Six of term).

A. Week-long assessments

All papers that were originally planned to be assessed by a sat three-hour exam will now be converted to a different form of assessment. These assessments will be submitted via WebLearn. For each paper, you will write **two 2,500-word essays** from a choice of nine questions (or in the case of Medical Anthropology core papers, twelve questions). The questions will be released on a Monday and will be due the following Monday. No one will have to write more than a total of 5,000 words in one week.



The School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography incorporates:

The Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology
The Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology
The Institute of Human Sciences
The Centre for the Study of Social Cohesion

The Centre on Migration, Policy and Society
The Institute for Science, Innovation and Society
and has close links with The Pitt Rivers Museum



Core Papers in Medical Anthropology (3 papers), Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology (3 papers), Social Anthropology (1 paper), Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology (1 paper), and Option papers

	Papers	Paper released	Paper due in
Week Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory Experience in Therapeutics • Anthropology of Law 	May 11 th	12 noon on May 18 th
Week Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthropologies of the Body • Anthropology of the Middle East • Principles of Evolution and Behaviour 	May 18 th	12 noon on May 25 th
Week Five	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Medical Anthropology • Anthropology of Japan • Evolution and Human Behaviour 	May 25 th	12 noon on June 1 st
Week Six	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biocultural Approaches to Medicine • Theories, Approaches, and Themes in Social Anthropology • Mind and Culture • Fundamental Concepts in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology 	June 1 st	12 noon on June 8 th

Essay questions will be circulated by email. Once completed, essays should be uploaded to WebLearn as a pdf before the deadline.

Option Papers assessed by Coursework

All Option Papers that are being assessed by coursework have been granted an extension of one week for submission, so the deadline for those assessments is now May 14th.

B. Cancelled Assessments

Two assessments in the MPhil in Social Anthropology and the MPhil in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology have been cancelled:

- An Essay in the Field of General Social Anthropology [A11248S1]
- An Essay in the Field of General Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology [A13797S1]

These MPhils will now be assessed as follows: Dissertation (80%), Option paper (20%).

Dissertations

Projects and dissertations will largely proceed as planned although your topic may need to change. However, deadlines may be extended, and factors such as lost lab work, fieldwork, and reduced library and archive access will be fully taken into account (see the attached document on accessing on-line resources).

Submission of all dissertations will be online via WebLearn.

All fieldwork permission has been revoked. All dissertations this year (and for MPQ students also, since current circumstances may last through the summer) will need to be based on library and/or online research. Online research involving human subjects (unless based solely on publicly and freely available information) will still require completion of a CUREC form and permission from the DREC before you do it.



Under current circumstances, you may experience difficulties in accessing materials to complete your thesis or other coursework. We understand that there will be some items that you simply cannot access. If you feel that your thesis has been negatively affected by insufficient access to materials, we invite you to submit a separate statement (**maximum 400 words**) at the start of your thesis or coursework. The statement will not be included in your word count. It should:

- be clearly marked as a statement separate from the thesis proper;
- explain which materials you would have liked to consult and why;
- explain the steps that you took to try to access these materials;
- **not** reveal your identity in any way.

MPhil dissertations

We have sought and been granted by the Proctors a blanket extension of the MPhil thesis deadline of three weeks for those taking the MPhil in VMMA and the MPhil in Social Anthropology this year. The deadline for all MPhil theses will now be noon on Thursday of Week Five, Trinity Term, i.e. 28th May 2020.

If you are able to submit your thesis by this deadline, we would strongly encourage you to do so, as this will enable completion of your degree by the end of June and graduation in July, rather than waiting for the Exam Board in September. A longer blanket extension would prevent the dissertations from being marked in time for the final Exam Board.

We know it is likely that some students may fall ill over the coming period, and some students will be trying to study whilst dealing with difficult family circumstances and in a range of different environments. It will be possible to submit a Mitigating Circumstances Notice. However, the normal processes will be simplified as we want to make it as easy as possible for students to explain their circumstances at this exceptional time. Further details of how to do this will be available through your college. Please also refer to the [Student Advice page](#) of the University.

MSc dissertations

Arrangements for the MSc dissertations are unchanged, for the moment. If there are any changes, you will be notified as soon as possible.

Regular communications

We appreciate that you will have many questions and concerns about these exceptional measures. We will continue to communicate with you as things develop and please continue to let us know of your concerns. Please also check the [student coronavirus advice page](#) and read the University Student News regularly for all the help that is available to you.

If you have any questions about these arrangements, please feel free to contact me by email.

Thank you for playing your vital part during these extraordinary times.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Ewart', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Ewart, Head of the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography