**DASA SAE Optional Modules 2024-25**

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# LC Semester 1 – 10 Credit Modules

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| **LC Introduction to African Politics – Prof Gerald Mazarire** |
| **Module code: 37070****Semester 1****Credits:** **10** |
| **Module Description:**This module introduces students to past and present political systems of Africa. Students will learn how African political systems have developed out of and in contestation with the colonial encounter, and will interrogate how African states continue to shape regional and global political structures today. The module pays particular attention to key African issues in contemporary political action and aims to be critical of how politics has been characterised on the continent. |
| **Assessment:**1 x 1500-word written assignment (100%) |

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| **LC Ethnographic Film – Dr Fuad Musallam** |
| **Module code: 38038****Semester 1****Credits: 10** |
| **Module Description:**This module will introduce students to visual anthropology via ethnographic film. In five two-hour sessions, we will view and discuss five ethnographic films representing a range of approaches to ethnographic film making and covering a range of anthropological themes. Key readings will help to situate the films in relation to the genre of ethnographic films, the field of visual anthropology, and the wider debates the films engage. |
| **Assessment:**1 x 1500-word written assignment (100%) |

# LC Semester 1 – 20 Credit Modules

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| **LC Anthropology of Africa – Dr Juliet Gilbert** |
| **Module code: 28904****Semester 1****Credits:** **20** |
| **Module Description:**This module introduces students to a variety of diverse societies across sub-Saharan Africa, enabling students to understand the fundamental aspects of social life in Africa. Engaging with key anthropological texts, from the colonial birth of the discipline to contemporary writings, the module encourages students to reflect critically on the different ways in which anthropologists represent African societies. Topics include how African societies conceptualise personhood, marriage and gendered relations; how power is linked to religion and witchcraft beliefs; how historical memory is performed; and how political state failure is experienced in everyday livelihoods. Ethnographic texts are used throughout the module to familiarise students with African societies and anthropological methodology, and ethnographic videos are used to support the readings |
| **Assessment:**1 x 1000-word written assignment (30%) and 1 x 2000 -word written assignment (70%) |

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| **LC Thinking Anthropologically – Dr Marco Di Nunzio** |
| **Module code: 18770****Semester 1****Credits: 20** |
| **Module Description:**This module provides a broad introduction to anthropological approaches to society and culture. It asks questions about social life and examines them in comparative perspective. Examples may include: What is a gift? What is dirt? What is in a name? How universal are experiences of emotions? In the process of studying how different people around the world might answer these apparently simple questions, students are shown the point of anthropology – to see life through the eyes of other people, and to question one’s own assumptions. The module also focuses on ethnography (the practice of 'doing anthropology'). We use written texts and film to open up and discuss central ideas and debates.  |
| **Assessment:**1 x 1000-word written assignment (30%) and 1 x 2000 -word written assignment (70%) |

# LC Semester 2 – 10 Credit Modules

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| **LC Introduction to African Cultures – Dr Juliet Gilbert** |
| **Module code: 38698****Semester 2****Credits: 10** |
| **Module Description:**This module introduces students to the study and appreciation of African cultures. It emphasises diversity, complexity, and dynamism of cultures across the continent, and challenges the often held and overly simplistic assumption that Africa is a homogenous cultural world. By studying the content and form of cultural genres such as (but not limited to) oral literature, performance, masquerade, visual art, photography, and film, students will gain important insights into a range of African cultures. With a focus on how cultural forms are continually adapted to changing tastes, aesthetics, and politics by Africans on the continent and in diaspora, and how guardianship and representations of African culture underpin decolonial debates, the module equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to intelligibly discuss issues pertinent to the study of contemporary Africa. |
| **Assessment:**1 x 1500-word written assignment (100%) |

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| **LC Anthropologists at Work – Dr Jessica Johnson** |
| **Module code: 38695****Semester 2****Credits: 10** |
| **Module Description:**This module focuses on the application of anthropological knowledge and training to professional fields beyond the academy. Taking seriously the idea of applied or engaged anthropology, and thinking carefully about distinctions between academic and non-academic anthropology, the module considers a range of examples of trained anthropologists who work in other fields. These may include, for example, journalism, law, the charity sector, marketing, communications, and public or global health. Students will consider specific real-world case studies and reflect on how a background in anthropology informed their subsequent careers. Students will be encouraged to think about what anthropology can contribute beyond academia by means of transferable skills, including the development of particular sensibilities and distinctive approaches to knowledge and enquiry. |
| **Assessment:**1 x 10 minute individual presentation (100%) |

# LC Semester 2 – 20 Credit Modules

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| **LC Urban Encounters: Anthropology in Birmingham – Dr Marco Di Nunzio** |
| **Module code: 38037****Semester 2****Credits:** **20** |
| **Module Description:**This module will introduce students to a broad range of topics from the Early Modern period (c.1500-1800). It will examine many aspects of the early-modern world, including its social, economic, military, political, intellectual, religious and cultural history, some of which will be framed within a global context. Drawing on particular areas of staff expertise in social, economic, religious, gender, cultural history and material culture, the module will discuss the important changes that took place during this period and expose students to the ways these can be studied. The module will include introductions to topics taught as modules in Yr 2 and 3. Students will be taught through lectures and analysis of relevant primary and secondary source material, including visual and material culture, online resources and accessible locations, to gain first-hand experience of some of the issues involved in the scholarly study of this period. |
| **Assessment:**1 x 500-word written assignment (20%) and 1 x 2500-word reflective portfolio (80%) |

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| **LC Writing Worlds: Ethnography as Craft – Dr Fuad Musallam** |
| **Module code: 37968****Semester 2****Credits: 20** |
| **Module Description:**This module is built around full-length ethnographic monographs. Students are required to read the books in full over the course of the module. Lectures and seminars help to situate and contextualise the texts in relation, for example, to the identity and career of the anthropologists who wrote them; the development of the discipline of anthropology over time; the various scholarly debates with which they engage; and their reception (contemporary and subsequent). Strong emphasis is placed on the craft of ethnographic writing. Students examine ethnographic writing as a genre and consider different ways in which descriptive and analytical writing are woven together to build an argument. This requires thinking carefully about the nature of ethnographic evidence, the methodological underpinnings of anthropological research, the authors’ positionality and related ethical considerations, and the ways in which other forms of evidence are drawn upon to support ethnographic observation. Students engage with broad anthropological concerns, such as the relationship between the particular and the general, and the ethics and politics of representation, through close engagement with the texts. |
| **Assessment:**1 x 1000-word written assignment (30%) and 1 x 2000-word written assignment (70%) |

# LI Semester 1 - 20 Credit Modules

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| **LI Anthropology and/of Activism – Dr Fuad Musallam (39836)** |
| **Semester 1****Credits:** **20** |
| **Module Description:**This module is about attempts to radically transform the world. Across social and cultural contexts, there have always been people who reject the status quo, and people who want things to be different. And across anthropology's history, there have always been anthropologists interested in understanding that 'impulse to act' – and, indeed, interested in acting themselves. In exploring anthropologies of activism, and anthropologists' relationship to activism, we will ask the following questions: What is activism, and what is it not? Who are activists, and how do they engage with the world? Can anthropologists be activists? Across a range of ethnographic contexts, we will investigate different forms of political action (which may include revolutionary insurgency, NGO work, everyday resistance), key concerns in the literature (which may include agency, subjectivity, temporality, forms of organisation and association, emotions and affect), and our relationship as anthropologists to our own activism and to that of our interlocutors. |
| **Assessment:**Essay 1 (40%); Essay 2 (60%) |

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| **LI Anthropology of Migration – Dr Leslie Fesenmyer (31403)** |
| **Semester 1****Credits:** **20** |
| **Module Description:**Migration as a global phenomenon dominates much of our attention today. It is at the centre of many local, national, and international debates about citizenship, security, and development, as well as about issues of identity, belonging, and diversity. Taking as its point of departure the lived experiences of migrants, refugees and other diasporic people, the course will explore how and why people move, while paying attention to how mobility is regulated and controlled. It will also consider how migration unsettles anthropological concepts and methods, such as, culture, place, the ‘field’, and ethnographic methods. Adopting a historically attuned perspective, we will look at ethnographic examples of migration between and within diverse geographic regions. |
| **Assessment:**Essay 1 (40%); Essay 2 (60%) |

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| **LI Anticolonial, Postcolonial, Decolonial – Prof Gerald Mazarire (37918)** |
| **Semester 1****Credits:** **20** |
| **Module Description:**This module offers a cutting-edge interdisciplinary overview of anticolonial, postcolonial, and decolonial thought and struggle, beginning in the mid C20 and culminating in present times. The module will foreground Africa and other formerly colonised regions of the world as sites of knowledge production, from which European and North American modernities and epistemologies can be critiqued, alternative forms of knowledge revalorised, and the contemporary world order subjected to scrutiny and challenge. Thus beyond the obvious fact of putting African, Black and Global South authors on the reading list, this module will introduce students to core concepts and theories in anticolonial, postcolonial, and decolonial scholarship, which they apply across their degree programmes and in their adult lives, to enhance their critical analysis of knowledge and power. The module will promote students’ close reading skills through intensive weekly engagement with selected texts. But it will also provide points of connections into historical and contemporary struggles, from decolonisation in Africa and the Caribbean in the mid C20 to #Rhodes Must Fall in present times.  |
| **Assessment:**Essay 1 (40%); Essay 2 (60%) |

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| **LI Kinship, Gender and Sexuality – Dr Jessica Johnson (29605)** |
| **Semester 1****Credits:** **20** |
| **Module Description:**Students will engage with classic concerns in the anthropology of kinship, developing a chronological understanding of developments in the field since the mid-twentieth century. They will study the parallel development of the anthropology of women in the 1970s and 1980s, and the subsequent emergence of the anthropology of gender and sexuality. Topics covered will include: marriage and family forms, the reputed ‘crisis’ of masculinity, attitudes towards romantic love, and discourses of human, women’s and LGBTQ+ rights. Emphasis will be placed on the theoretical contributions of feminist anthropologists as well as debates about the suitability of feminism as a framework for anthropological studies of non-Western societies. Students will be encouraged to engage with the work of African and Asian scholars alongside texts produced by European and North American anthropologists. Case studies will be taken from across the world in an effort to make ‘the familiar strange and the strange familiar’, encouraging students to examine their own assumptions about family forms, gender relations and human sexuality. |
| **Assessment:**Essay 1 (40%); Essay 2 (60%) |

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| **LI Social Life of the Economy – Dr Anthony Pickles (24822)** |
| **Semester 1****Credits:** **20** |
| **Module Description:**What is the economy? In what sense can we distinguish it from other aspects of social life? How do we make sense of economic changes, and their effects on people around the world? This module asks fundamental questions about how humans produce, exchange, distribute and consume resources. After questioning what the economy is in the first place, we will explore topics such as money, commodities and gifts, seeking to explain what these things do in society. We will examine the different meanings of work in different places, and see how understandings of time lie at the heart of economic life. The broad, comparative perspective of this module enables students to rethink capitalism itself, asking questions such as: What is the market? How can we best understand globalisation? What is the everyday, social life of global finance? |
| **Assessment:**Essay 1 (40%); Essay 2 (60%) |

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| **LI Theory and Ethnography – Dr Leslie Fesenmyer (24291)** |
| **Semester 1****Credits:** **20** |
| **Module Description:**Ethnography and Theory covers essential elements of social theory for Anthropology, and anthropological theory for the Social Sciences and Humanities. It provides training in theories and theorists who have influenced anthropological thought and ethnographic research; and in the historical development of anthropological schools of thought, including those grounded in different national contexts, from the nineteenth century to the present day. |
| **Assessment:**1 x Essay (50%); 1 x Individual oral presentation in January assessment period (50%) |

# LI Semester 2 - 20 Credit Modules

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| **LI Ethnographies of the Marginalised – Dr Juliet Gilbert (29674)** |
| **Semester 2****Credits:** **20** |
| **Module Description:**This module explores the diversity and complexity of Islam around the world. It pays attention to the different ways in which this truly global religion adapts to the local, and questions how it shapes the lives of Muslims. Drawing on ethnographic studies of Islamic groups, this module focuses on the lived experiences of Muslims: students will learn how Islam shapes legal, political, social, and cultural spheres of life for these communities. Topics that the module covers will include, but are not limited to, piety and everyday life, kinship and gender, and relations between Muslims and non-Muslims.Throughout the module, students are encouraged to pay attention to the ways in which anthropologists have approached the study of Muslim societies, and how Islam sits within broader anthropological debates on religion and secularity, statehood, and globalisation. |
| **Assessment:**Essay 1 (40%); Essay 2 (60%) |

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| **LI The Struggle for Zimbabwe: Nationalism, Liberation and the International Community Since the Cold War– Prof Gerald Mazarire (39835)** |
| **Semester 2****Credits:** **20** |
| **Module Description:**This module explores the diversity and complexity of Islam around the world. It pays attention to the different ways in which this truly global religion adapts to the local, and questions how it shapes the lives of Muslims. Drawing on ethnographic studies of Islamic groups, this module focuses on the lived experiences of Muslims: students will learn how Islam shapes legal, political, social, and cultural spheres of life for these communities. Topics that the module covers will include, but are not limited to, piety and everyday life, kinship and gender, and relations between Muslims and non-Muslims.Throughout the module, students are encouraged to pay attention to the ways in which anthropologists have approached the study of Muslim societies, and how Islam sits within broader anthropological debates on religion and secularity, statehood, and globalisation. |
| **Assessment:**Essay 1 (40%); Essay 2 (60%) |

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| **LI Urban Anthropology– Dr Marco Di Nunzio (31888)** |
| **Semester 2****Credits:** **20** |
| **Module Description:**By 2050, 68% of the world population will live in cities, making the city, a particular kind of settlement, the dominant way of spatially organising livelihoods and communities. This module explores anthropological approaches to the study of the city, showing how ethnographers have investigated the urban as a place characterised by and as a site of experiencing often contradictory forms of togetherness and interconnectedness, exclusion and segregation. We will question the place of the urban in anthropological thinking and discuss whether anthropologists have carried out an anthropology of the city or an anthropology in the city.The module will cover themes such as ethnographies of marginality and urban economies, popular culture and urban lifestyle, architecture and the built environment, infrastructure and global flows of capital in order to guide students through multiple meanings and experiences of the urban. Students will develop an understanding of how power dynamics, inequalities, identities and aesthetics shape how individuals and communities live, act, and imagine the future in cities. |
| **Assessment:**Essay 1 (40%); Essay 2 (60%) |