

Anthropology 152
Political Anthropology
Fall 2011

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Course Description:

Focusing on the contemporary world, this course presents the anthropological perspective on politics and social organization in different cultures and sub-cultures. We will study a genealogy of political theory starting with Enlightenment thinkers and leading up to the contemporary moment. We will apply these theories to understanding the nature of politics in current events as well as in our readings of political institutions and movements in different parts of the world. We will also explore major historical processes like colonialism, capitalism, nationalism, ethnic conflict, religion, and globalization shaping the everyday lives of women, men and children in various parts of the world as they struggle with conflict, claim their rights and try to become agents of social change. These processes will be presented and illustrated in ethnographic comparative examples such as the history of Black Nationalism in the 1960's and 1970's United States, the colonial roots of civil war in the Sudan, colonial Christian missions in Southern Africa, and in a comparative analysis of religion, terrorism, and political struggle in the context of globalization. We will examine important issues of inequality that lead people to protest, become mobilized and turn to political violence and contemporary warfare. This course aims at preparing students to understand and analyze political phenomena through the lens of anthropological holism.

Course and Department Goals:

Over the quarter students will achieve the following learning objectives: 1) students will be able to describe the core principles and central questions of political anthropology; 2) students will learn about the diversity of human politics and institutional structures of the recent past and present; 3) students will be able to describe the historical development and the theoretical foundations of political anthropology; 4) students will apply political theory to a concrete research topic of their choosing; 5) students will apply their knowledge and research to the solution of human problems (e.g., poverty, health, immigration, aging) through class research projects, and they will critically examine and evaluate potential responses and solutions to these human issues.

This course is organized around large and small group discussions of assigned readings and central concepts. In order to participate actively and fully in class discussions, students are required to complete all the assigned readings before class.

Core Curriculum Goals:

1) This course fulfills the new Core requirement, Cultures & Ideas 3.

- **Cultures and Ideas 3**

Learning Goals: Global Cultures, Diversity, Critical Thinking, and Perspective.

Objectives: Students will

3.1 Demonstrate an understanding of Asian, African, Middle Eastern, Eastern European, and/or Latin American cultures in their global and/or diasporic contexts. (Global Cultures, Diversity)

3.2 Identify, analyze and evaluate the challenges and complexities in an interdependent world using methods appropriate to the discipline. (Critical Thinking, Global Cultures, Complexity)

3.3 Reflect on their assumptions and ideas about geographically or culturally unfamiliar cultures and the connections to their own culture and society. (Perspective, Critical Thinking)

For more on the Core, see the following:

<http://www.scu.edu/provost/ugst/core2009/index.cfm>.

Required Texts:

- Ted Lewellen. Political Anthropology
- Joan Vincent. The Anthropology of Politics: A Reader (JV)
- Peniel E. Joseph. Waiting 'Til The Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America

Additional Required Readings: Several articles and book chapters will be put on library reserve and/or Camino.

Bring your texts to class. We will discuss in class the reading assignments you have prepared for. I will frequently refer to specific pages and paragraphs from the readings and require you have these readings with you.

Course requirements, the honor code, and class etiquette:

Attendance and active participation in discussions and group work is required. All reading and writing assignments must be completed before the class date assigned. You must take notes of class discussions and your assigned readings. Bring your texts books and/or assigned readings to class. Coming to class unprepared - that is without having completed the assigned readings and/or journal assignments and without your text and notebook - will be an indication of poor participation in the class.

Honor code: Plagiarism, cheating or helping others cheat, using old exams or other students' notes are in violation of the university's policies on academic integrity. Students are expected to know and follow the student honor code. If a student is caught cheating in any way, he/she will fail the course and be sent to Student Affairs for possible further action. To review the university policy further see:
<http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/academicintegrity/index.cfm>.

Cell phones, texting, computer use, and other disruptions:

In order to maintain an engaging and respectful learning environment, students must have all phones off before class starts. There is absolutely no texting. If you have a computer in class it must be for class notes only, turn your wireless/AirPorts off during class. Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive and disrespectful, and you will be marked late or absent, and points will be deducted from your participation grade.

EVALUATION:

There will be **2 exams** during the course, two mid-term exams based on **all material** covered in class lectures, readings, and films, and a **final research paper**, Exams will consist of short and long essay questions. **There will be no make-up exam.** In addition, several short response essays/quizzes will be given in-class and without prior announcement. Your work will also be assessed according to the interest and responsibility you show during the course i.e. being prepared for class and engaged in class discussions.

Grades:

Participation/Discussion Groups	20%
Midterm Exam 1	20%
Midterm Exam 2	20%
Current Events Journal	15%
Final Paper	20%
Short Essays/Quizzes	5%

All grades for individual assignments will be based on 100 points. The grade scale is:

A 94-100	B- 80-82	D+ 66-69
A- 90-93	C+ 77-79	D 62-65
B+ 87-89	C 73-76	D- 58-61
B 83-86	C- 70-72	F 57 and below

READING ASSIGNMENTS

In order for the course to be effective, all students must have carefully read all materials assigned for each class. You should take notes on the main themes, ideas and key terms. You must participate actively in questioning and discussing issues raised in the readings.

CURRENT EVENTS JOURNAL: Bring to class 1 annotated newspaper/journal article that relates the class topic to current events. These will be collected at the end of Thursday class. As I return these articles, keep them in a folder to turn in on the last day of class.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

The class will be divided into small groups. Students are responsible to meet outside class with their respective groups and discuss the issues raised in the readings. Each group will be assigned at least one date to lead the class discussion. For this you will prepare a presentation, summary of the reading as well as questions for discussion.

QUIZZES/WRITTEN RESPONSES

Short response essays are designed to know how you react to readings. You must answer in complete sentences and in essay form. These will be un-announced quizzes.

EXAMS

Exams will be given in class. See dates below on Course Schedule section. Exams will include short answers and essay questions. Essays must be well written. You must be able to display your mastery of concepts learned during the course, and be able to provide specific examples from ethnographic examples and current events discussed in class.

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER/PROJECT

This research paper/project is an opportunity to demonstrate your creativity, independent thinking skills and knowledge of a particular topic connected to issues tackled during the course. Final papers should be 10-12 pages long. Specific guidelines will be handed out in due time to help you prepare. With this project, you will go through several steps including deciding on a research question, designing a research strategy, outlining the paper, and completing a rough draft with citations and works cited list. You will review each of these stages of the paper in class with your peers and with me.

Note: All papers must be handed in both as hard copy **and** electronically.

STUDENT PROGRESS

If you have any concerns, I strongly encourage you to speak to me during my office hours. **Do not wait until the end of the semester.**

Email is the best way to contact me, although I regularly check my voice mail. *Please note that I will answer your e-mails during regular office hours i.e. 9 am to 5 pm.*

For special accommodation students must contact Disability Resources at the Benson Center.

Course Schedule

Part I. The Anthropology of Politics and a Genealogy of Political Theory

- Sept 20** Introduction to the course, review of syllabus, expectations and assessments.
- Sept 22** Lewellen: Preface, Ch. 1, 2, 3
- Sept. 27** Vincent: Part I, Prelude: The Enlightenment and its Challenges (pp 15-25)
- Sept. 29** Vincent: Part II: Classics and Classics Revisited, Ch. 1 & 2,
View Film: “God grew tired of us” (6 parts)
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=god+grew+tired+of+us+part+1&aq=1&q=god+grew+tired+of+us+
***** Group 1 Presentation and discussion of assigned readings/viewing.*****

Part II. Religion, Power, and Political Resistance

- Oct. 4** Lewellen: Ch. 4, 5, 6
Small group work on final research project: Students must bring to class a 1 page discussion, typed, of a topic they want to research.
- Oct. 6** Juergensmeyer – Introduction, Ch. 2, 10, 11 (on Reserve)
***** Group 2 Presentation and discussion of assigned readings/viewing.*****
- Oct. 11** Lewellen. Chap 7 and 9.
Vincent: - Comaroff “Of Revelation and Revolution” pp 203-212
- Oct. 12** *Department Seminar: David Cohen, 5pm*

Part III. Social Movements and Nationalism: Black Nationalism, Civil Rights, and the American Dream

- Oct. 13** Peniel Joseph: Preface, Introduction, Ch. 1-6
View Clips: Malcom X, Stokely Carmichael, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Oct. 18 Peniel Joseph: Ch. 7-11
View Clips: Black Power & Women, Kathleen Cleaver, Angela Davis,
Huey P. Newton
***** Group 3 Presentation and discussion of assigned
readings/viewing.*****

Oct. 20 Peniel Joseph: Epilogue
View in class: *A Veiled Revolution*

Oct 25 **MIDTERM #1**

Part IV. Gender and Power

Oct. 27 Lewellen: Chap 8 “Gender and Power”
Vincent: Susan Gal “Between Speech and Silence” pp 213-221
Vincent: Eric Wolf “Facing Power – Old Insights and New Questions”
pp 222-233

Nov. 1 bell hooks: “‘Ain’t I a Woman’: black women and feminism” (On
Reserve)
View: “Cultural Criticism and Transformation”, Parts 1-8:
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=bell+hooks+cultural+criticism+and+transformation&aq=1&oq=bell+hooks
***** Group 4 Presentation and discussion of assigned
readings/viewing.*****

Nov. 3 Ernestine Friedl, “Society and Sex Roles”
<http://www.mnstate.edu/robertsb/380/Society%20and%20Sex%20Roles.pdf>
View In Class: *The Trobriand Islanders*

Part V. World Capitalism: Nationalism, Ethnic Conflicts, and Modern Warfare

Nov. 8 Lewellen: Chapter 9,
Wallerstein, “The Modern World System”
<http://marriottschool.byu.edu/emp/WPW/Class%209%20-%20The%20World%20System%20Perspective.pdf>

Peer review of research paper outlines.

Nov. 10 Vincent: June Nash “Ethnographic Aspects of the World Capitalist
System” pp 234-254
*****Group 1 presents research paper thesis*****

Nov. 15 Vincent: S.P Reyna “Deadly Developments and Phantasmagoric Representations”
*****Group 2 presents research paper thesis*****

Nov. 16 *Department Seminar: Mary Voigt, 5pm*

Part VI. Globalization and Politics beyond the State

Nov. 17 Lewellen: Ch. 10 & 11
Manuel Castells: Selections from “The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture” (On Reserve).
*****Group 3 presents research paper thesis*****

Nov.22-24 **NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

Nov. 29 Vincent: Benedict Anderson: “The New World Disorder.”
Aihwa Ong, “Flexible Citizenship among Chinese Cosmopolitans.”
*****Group 4 presents research paper thesis*****

Dec. 1 **MIDTERM #2**
Current Events Journal due.

Dec. 7 **Final Papers Due.**