PhD Program in Anthropology, CUNY Graduate Center
Anthropology 70100: Core Course in Anthropology

Fall 2009

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This course introduces students to current issues and controversies in anthropology. It attempts to link these discussions to earlier concerns and approaches in order to provide a sense of the range of knowledge in the discipline. This material is intended as *part* of the preparation for the first exam in the Ph.D. Program. The course is also structured to give students an early opportunity to meet program faculty working in areas of common interest.

Learning Goals:

a. To ensure that students are familiar with the central topics in anthropology, past as well as present.

b. To convey to students the central importance of ethnographic fieldwork to the anthropological enterprise. Students are expected to read and become familiar with the classical ethnographic monographs on each topic, both those written by earlier anthropologists as well as those produced by contemporary researchers.

c. To introduce students to the varied fields of expertise of different faculty members. Each topic in the course is developed and presented by a particular faculty member.

d. To orient students towards preparation for their Second Exam and dissertation fieldwork research. The 'Topics' paper in the First Examination is closely linked to Core Courses I and II. The emphasis on ethnographies is intended to assist the student in the selection of areas of specialization as well as a research topic.

Given the structural limits of a semester, such an effort is inevitably selective. Some topics have not been included and readings have been limited to a manageable number. Thus, neither the outline nor citations should be construed as exhaustive or canonical. Different conceptual frameworks and broader bibliographies will be presented in class. Students will be responsible for formalizing these into a more exhaustive document as described below.

Each session will be divided into two parts. The first part (2 hours) will be a presentation by a particular guest lecturer. The second part (1 hour) will consist of a discussion based on the readings outlined for the session as well as the lecture. The purpose of the second session is to provide an occasion for issues to be gone into in greater depth and for unanswered questions to be discussed further. One student will be assigned to lead the discussion for each session with a short written presentation (3 pages). This student will also be required to serve as bibliographer for the lecture. Bibliographers will look up full citations for publications mentioned in the lecture and type up a complete lecture bibliography to share with the rest of the class. This addendum will constitute the "recommended" readings for the topic.

Evaluation
Student evaluation will be based upon two essays (about 10 pages each). The essays will each count for fifty percent (50%) of the final grade. **The first essay is due on 13 October 2009. The second is due on 8 December 2009.** The required readings listed below will be available in the Brockway Room and/or on reserve in the Graduate Center library.

Course Outline

09/01 Introduction and Orientation (Don Robotham)

09/08 Culture and Society (Don Robotham)

Adam Kuper
2000 *Culture: The Anthropologists'Account.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press. "Introduction: Culture Wars," pp. 1-20.

Clifford Geertz
1973 *The Interpretation of Cultures.* New York: Basic Books. Chpt. 1, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," pp. 3-30.

William Roseberry
1989 *Anthropologies and Histories: Essays in Culture, History, and Political Economy.* New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. Chpt. 2, "Marxism and Culture," pp. 30-54.

Lila Abu-Lughod
1991 "Writing Against Culture." In *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present.* Richard G. Fox, ed. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press. Pp. 137-62.

Renée Sylvain
2005 "Disorderly Development: Globalization and the Idea of 'Culture' in the Kalahari," *American Ethnologist* 32: 354-370.

Eric R. Wolf
1999 *Envisioning Power: Ideologies of Dominance and Crisis.* Berkeley: University of California Press. "Culture and Power," pp. 285-291.

A. R. Radcliffe-Brown
"On Social Structure." In *Structure and Function in Primitive Society*. New York, Free Press.

M. G. Smith
1998 "Elements of Society." In *The Study of Social Structure*. New York: Research Institute for the Study of Man. Pp. 49-117.

Don Robotham
2005 "Cosmopolitanism and Planetary Humanism: The Strategic Universalism of Paul Gilroy." South Atlantic Quarterly, Vol. 104, No. 3 (1 June 2005). Pp. 561-582. (Online in numerous places).

09/15 Place and Space (David Harvey)

David Harvey
2000 Spaces of Hope. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

W. Schivelbusch
1987 The Railway Journey. Berkeley and Los Angeles. University of California Press.

09/22 Ethnography: Imagination and Evidence (Shirley Lindenbaum)

E.E. Evans-Pritchard
1976 *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic Among the Azande,* Abridged Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press [Original 1937]. Chpts. 8-9, pp. 120-1 63.

Victor Turner
1967 *The Forest of Symbols: Aspects of Ndembu Ritual.* Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Chpt. 9, pp. 299-359

Paul Farmer
1992 *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame.* Berkeley: University of California Press. Chpt. 18, "AIDS and Sorcery: Accusation in the Village," and Chpt. 22, "Conclusion." pp. 193-207; 252-254.

Holly Wardlow
2006 *Wayward Women. Sexuality and Agency in a New Guinea Society.* Berkeley: University of California Press. Chpts. 2 and 4, pp. 63-98, 134-165.

09/29 NO CLASSES

10/06 Economic Systems (Michael Blim)

Keith Hart and Chris Hann
2006 "A Short History of Economic Anthropology," Paper prepared for the workshop,"Anthropological Approaches to 'the Economy," Halle, Germany. June 21-24, 2006

Donald Robotham
2005 "Political Economy" in *Handbook of Economic Anthropology.* J. Carrier, ed. London: Edward Elgar, 41-58.

J. Iain Prattis,
1987 "Alternative Views of Economy in Economic Anthropology," in *Beyond the New Economic Anthropology*, edited by John Clammer, (New York: St. Martin's Press), 8-44.

Michael Blim
2005 "Comparing Values" and "Putting Values into Economies," *Equality and Economy: The Global Challenge*, (Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press), 71-108.

Michael Chibnik
1990 "Double-edged Risks and Uncertainties: Choice about Rice Loans in the Peruvian Amazon," *Risk and Uncertainty in Tribal and Peasant Economies*," edited by Elizabeth Cashdan, (Boulder, CO: Westview Press), 64-93.

Jonathan Parry

1989 "On the Moral Perils of Exchange," *Money and Morality of Exchange*, edited by Jonathan Parry and Maurice Bloch, (Cambridge, UK: C Cambridge University Press), 64-93.

Michael Peletz

1998 "The 'Great Transformation' among Negeri Sembilan Malays with Particular Reference to Chinese and Minangkabau," in *Market Cultures: Society and Morality in the New Asian Capitalisms*, edited by Robert W. Hefner, (Boulder, CO: Westview), 173-200.

Ethnographies:

Robert W. Hefner

1990 *The Political Economy of Mountain Java*, (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press).

Clifford Geertz,

1979 "Suq: The Bazaar Economy and Sefrou, *Meaning and Order in Moroccan Society*, (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press), 123-310.

Steve Striffler

2005 *Chicken: the Dangerous Transformation of America's Favorite Food*, (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press)

10/13 Political Systems and the State (Katherine Verdery)

James Ferguson and A. Gupta

2002 "Spatializing States: Toward an Ethnography of Neoliberal Governmentality." *American Anthropologist*, 29 (4): 981-1002

P. Abrams

2006 "Notes on the Difficulty of Studying the State." In A. Sharma and A. Gupta *The Anthropology of the State*. New York, Blackwell, 2006.

E.E. Evans-Pritchard

2002 "Nuer Politics: Structure and System," in *The Anthropology of Politics,* Joan Vincent, ed. Maiden, MA: Blackwell. Pp. 34-38. [original *1940]*

J.Van Velsen

1972 The Extended Case Method and Situational Analysis" In *The Craft of Social Anthropology.* AL Epstein, ed. London: Travistock. Pp. 29-53.

Sharon Hutchinson

2000 "Nuer Ethnicity Militarized," *Anthropology Today* 16(3): 6-13 [also in *The Anthropology of Politics.* Joan Vincent, ed. Pp. 39-52.]

Katherine Verdery
2002 'Seeing like a mayor,' or How local officials obstructed Romanian land restitution. Ethnography 3 (1): 5-33.

Frederik Barth
1965 *Political Leadership Among Swat Pathans*. London: Athlone Press. (on reserve)

10/20 Race, Culture and Inequality (Dombrowski)

Michael Omi and Howard Winant
2002 "Racial Formation," in *Race Critical Theories: Text and Context.* Philomena Essed and David Theo Goldberg, eds. Maiden, MA: Blackwell. Pp.123-145.

Pem D. Buck
2001 *Worked to the Bone: Race, Class, Power and Privilege in Kentucky.* New York: Monthly Review Press. "Making Sweat Trickle Up: Organizing the First Steps toward Underdevelopment in the U.S. South," and "Derailing Rebellion: Inventing White Privilege," pp. 11-33.

Verena Stolcke
1995 "Talking Culture: New Boundaries, New Rhetorics of Exclusion in Europe," *Current Anthropology* 36(1): 1-24.

Charles R. Hale
2002 "Does Multiculturalism Menace? Governance, Cultural Rights and the Politics of Identity in Guatemala," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 34(3): 485-524.

Leith Mullings
2005 "Interrogating Racism: Towards an Anti-Racist Anthropology," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 43: 667-693.

Karen Brodkin
2001 "Diversity in Anthropological Theory," in *Cultural Diversity in the United States.* Ida Susser and Thomas C. Patterson, eds. Maiden, MA: Blackwell. Pp. 365-388.

Faye Harrison
2005 *Resisting Racism and Xenophobia.* Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press. "Introduction: Global Perspectives on Human Rights and Interlocking Inequalities of Race, Gender, and Related Dimensions of Power."

10/27 Ethnicity and Nationalism (Gary Wilder)

Jurgen Habermas, "The European Nation-State: On the Past and Future of Sovereignty and Citizenship," *Public Culture* 10:2 (1998): 397–416.

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (Verso, 1991), 1-46.

Partha Chatterjee, *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse* (University of Minnesota Press, 1993), Preface, 36-43, 85-130.

Partha Chatterjee, *The Nation and its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories* (Princeton University Press, 1993,), 3-13.

Fredrik Barth, Introduction, *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Culture Difference* (1969), 9-38.

John and Jean Comaroff, *Ethnicity, Inc*. University of Chicago Press, 2009, 6-21, 38-59, 86-116.

11/03 Kinship, Gender, Sexuality (Ida Susser)

Joan Wallach Scott

1999 *Gender and the Politics of History* (Revised Edition).New York: Columbia University Press. "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," "Preface to the Revised Edition," and "Some More Reflections on Gender and Politics," pp. 28-50, ix-xiii, 199-222.

Christine. Gailey

1998 "Feminist Methods," In H. Russell Bernard (ed.) *Handbook of Methods in Cultural Anthropology*. Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 1998.

Eleanor Leacock

1981 *Myths of Male Dominance: Collected Articles on Women Cross-culturally.* New York: Monthly Review Press. essay on Montaignais-Naskapi

Ann Stoler

1991 "Carnal Knowledge and the Imperial Power: Gender, Race, and Morality in Colonial Asia." In Micaela di Leonardo ed. *Gender at the Crossroads of Knowledge: Feminist Anthropology in the Postmodern Era.* Berkeley: University of California Press.

Ruth Behar

1995 “Introduction: Out of Exile.” In Ruth Behar and Deborah A. Gordon eds. *Women Writing Culture*. Berkeley: University of California Press. **(On**

Sherry Ortner
1996 "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" In Sherry Ortner. *Making Gender: The Politics and Erotics of Culture.* Boston: Beacon Press.

11/10 Religion (Talal Asad)

[Abridged versions of these readings are included in *A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion,* Michael Lambek, Ed.. Maiden, MA: Blackwell]

Fenella Cannell
2006 “Introduction.” *The Anthropology of Christianity.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Clifford Geertz
1973 *The Interpretation of Cultures.* New York: Basic Books. Chpt. 4, “Religion as a Cultural System,” pp.87-I 25.

Talal Asad
1993 *Genealogies of Religion.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Chapter 1, “The Construction of Religion as an Anthropological Category” pp. 27-54.

Peter Stallybrass and Allon White
1986 *The Politics and Poetics of Transgression.* Ithaca: Cornell University Press. “Introduction,” pp. 1-20.

Maurice Bloch
1989 *Ritual, History and Power: Selected Papers in Anthropology.* London: Athlone Press. “The Disconnection between Power and Rank as a Process: An Outline of the Development of Kingdoms in Central Madagascar,” pp. 46-88.

Robert N. Bellah
1970 *Beyond Belief:* Essays *on Religion in a Post-Traditional World.* New York: Harper and Row. Chpt. 9, “Civic Religion in America,” pp. 168-187.

11/17 Rural Society and Culture (Gerald Creed)

Sydel Silverman
1979 “The Peasant Concept in Anthropology,” *Journal of Peasant Studies* 7(1):

49-69

Douglas R. Holms
1983 "A Peasant-Worker Model in a Northern Italian Context," *American Ethnologist* 10: 734-748.

Kathryn Marie Dudley
2000 *Debt and Dispossession: Farm Loss in America's Heartland.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chpt. 2, pp. 21-41.

Gerald Creed and Barbara Ching
1997 "Recognizing Rusticity: Identity and the Power of Place," in *knowing Your Place: Rural Identity and Cultural Hierarchy,* Barbara Ching and Gerald Creed, eds. New York: Routledge. Pp. 1-38.

Glenn Davis Stone
2002 "Both Sides Now: Fallacies in the Genetic-Modification Wars, Implications for Developing Countries, and Anthropological Perspectives", *Current Anthropology* 43(4): 611-619.

Kathleen Stewart
1996 A Space on the Side of the Road: Cultural Poetics in an "Other" America." Princeton: Princeton University Press. "Prologue" and Chpt. 1, "The Space of Culture," pp. 3-40.

11/24 The City (Jeff Maskovsky)

Teodor Bestor
2001 "Supply-Side Sushi: Commodity, Market, and the Global City", *American Anthropologist,* 103(1): 76-95.

Steven Gregory
1998 "Globalization and the 'Place' of Politics in Contemporary Theory: A Commentary," *City & Society* 10(1): 47-64.

J.Holston
1999 "Spaces of Insurgent Citizenship," in *Cities and Citizenship,* J. Hoiston, ed. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Pp. 155-1 73.

Anthony Leeds
[1994] "The Anthropology of Cities: Some Methodological Issues." In *Cities, Classes, and the Social Order,* R. Sanjek, ed. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Pp. 233-246.

Setha M. Low

1996 "The Anthropology of Cities: Imagining and Theorizing the City" *Annual Review of Anthropology* 25: 383-409.

Sally Engle Merry

2001 "Spatial Governmentality and the New Urban Social Order: Controlling Gender Violence through Law," *American Anthropologist* 103(1): 16-29.

Sandra Morgen and Jeff Maskovsky

2003 "The Anthropology of Welfare 'Reform': New Perspectives on U.S. Urban Poverty in the Post-Welfare Era," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 32: 315-338.

Roger Sanjek

1990 "Urban Anthropology in the 1980s: A World View," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 19: 151 -1 86.

12/01 Development/Globalization/Neo-Liberalism (Don Robotham)

Required Readings

Escobar, Arturo 1991 "Anthropology and the Development Encounter: The Making and Marketing of Development Anthropology." In *American Anthropologist* 18, no 4: 658-82. ***ERES***

Friedman, John T. 2006 "Beyond the Post-Structural Impasse in the Anthropology of Development." *Dialectical Anthropology*, Vol. 30, pp. 201-225 ***ERES***

Gardner, Katy and David Lewis 1996 "Anthropology, Development and the Crisis of Modernity" and "The Anthropology of Development." In K. Gardner and D. Lewis *Anthropology, Development and the Post-modern challenge*. London: Pluto Press ***ERES***

Leys, Colin 1996 "The Rise and Fall of Development Theory." In C. Leys *The Rise and Fall of Development Theory* London: James Currey ***ERES***

Onimode, Bade 1988 "New Masters: IMF and World Bank." In B. Onimode *A Political Economy of the African Crisis*. London: Zed Books ***ERES***

Rahnema, Majid "Towards Post-Development: Searching for Signposts, A New Language and New Paradigms." In M. Rahnema and V. Bawtree (eds.) *The Post-Development Reader*. London: Zed Books, 1997. ***ERES***

Recommended Background Readings

Sachs, Jeffrey et al. 2005 "Overview." In J. Sachs et. al. *The United Nations Millennium Project Report*, New York: United Nations

This is the most important report on development from the point of view of the United Nations. It is largely written by Professor Jeffrey Sachs from the Earth

Institute at Columbia University and reflects views critical of the traditional World Bank, IMF modernization approach. The Overview as well as the entire report is available for PDF download on the website of www.unmilleniumproject.com

United Nations 2008 *Human Development Report 2008*. New York: United Nations Development Program.

World Bank 2007 "Overview." *World Development Report, 2006: Inequality*. The World Bank. Washington, DC, 2007.

World Bank 2008 "Youth, Poverty Reduction, and Growth" (chapter 1). *World Development Report, 2007: Youth*. World Bank, Washington, DC 2008.

Recommended Ethnography

Ferguson, James 1994 *The Anti-Politics Machine: "Development," Depoliticization, and Political Power in Lesotho*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press ***BOOK***

12/08 Review and Summary Session (Don Robotham)