

Anthropology 127
University of California, Riverside
Spring 2012
LFSC 1500
MWF 12:10-1 PM
<http://ilearn.ucr.edu>

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Course Overview

This course examines politics and power through an anthropological perspective. It examines older concerns of political anthropology--politics in so-called primitive societies, the evolutionary and historical emergence of the state, and the political legacies of colonialism--in relation to the political anthropology of the contemporary world. Topics covered include the diversity of forms of resistance to globalization; the transformation of the politics of ethnicity in the context of neoliberalism; and the tensions between universal doctrines of human rights and claims to cultural identity and practices. In doing so, the course examines both "formal" politics and everyday forms of power, domination and resistance, and emphasizes the ways ethnographically grounded anthropological research can shift from the micro-level to illuminate large-scale, national, transnational and global processes.

Read this syllabus. Understand the policies stated here. If anything is unclear, contact me for clarification. Always bring your syllabus to class in case changes are announced. Check it frequently to be sure you are aware of upcoming assignments and due dates. The syllabus is subject to change. I will announce all changes in class and post an updated version on the course iLearn site.

Get an iLearn account, if you don't have one already. To log on to iLearn you will need the same username and password that you use for logging into your UCR webmail. All emails will be sent through iLearn so please be sure to check your UCR email.

Attend class. Attendance is essential for success in the course. If you miss class it is your responsibility to get notes, find out about any announcements, etc. Questions and comments are always welcome in lecture. Copies of slides will be provided, but these cannot replace active engagement and notetaking.

Take notes on lecture and readings. This course requires basic academic skills such as

taking notes in class, identifying the main points in readings, and reviewing for tests and exams. These are learned skills rather than innate talents. If you are not sure that your notetaking and studying techniques are as effective as they could be, I encourage you to make use of the UCR Academic Resource Center, where there are educators, counselors, and advanced students trained to help student succeed in their college courses. Their services are free and open to any student needing help with completing assignments and writing papers. The Academic Resource Center is located on the first floor of the Surge Building. See <http://arc.ucr.edu/> for more details.

Do the readings listed prior to class. For example, you should read Lewellen and Dalsgaard for Wednesday April 4. The readings be necessary for adequate engagement in lecture and participation in section.

Bring your texts to class. I will frequently refer to specific pages and passages from the readings, and expect you to be ready to do the same. Some of the readings will be fairly

easy, but others will be difficult—lectures and discussion will provide the opportunity to work through challenging texts and build your comprehension and understanding of what you've read.

In the classroom: Show respect for your fellow students. Do not engage in conversations or other behavior that will interfere with others' learning. Please turn off all cell phones. You are welcome to eat and drink as long as you are not disturbing others. Please think about the environment: use recyclable or reusable containers, and clean up after yourself.

Appropriate classroom laptop use: Although having a laptop in class opens up new learning possibilities for students, sometimes students utilize it in ways that are inappropriate. Please refrain from instant messaging, e-mailing, surfing the Internet, playing games, writing papers, doing homework, etc. during class time. Acceptable uses include taking notes, working on assigned in-class activities, projects, and discussions. It is easy for your laptop to become a distraction to you and to those around you. Inappropriate uses will be noted and repeat offenses will affect your final grade. If you use a laptop, you must sit at the back of the class.

Satisfactory / No-credit. Students in good academic standing (2.00 GPA or above) may take courses not required in their majors on S/NC grading basis. You have until the end of the eighth week of instruction to decide about grading status. Full details are at http://chassstudentaffairs.ucr.edu/academic_standing/options.html.

Withdrawal. I hope that you won't withdraw! But if you do so after the second week of classes, a "W" will appear on your transcript, indicating withdrawal from the course. Students are allowed to withdraw until May 11, 2012.

Disability Accommodations. If you may need accommodation for any sort of disability, please make an appointment to see me or come to my office hours. You should also

arrange with the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (<http://specialservices.ucr.edu/>) to provide appropriate documentation.

Academic Integrity. You should be familiar with UCR's regulations on academic honesty and plagiarism (available from <http://conduct.ucr.edu/learnPolicies/Pages/AcademicIntegrity.aspx>); any instance of cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the University administration for further disciplinary action. If you have questions about how to cite or quote material, ask me or your section leader for assistance.

Dissemination of Course Materials

The unauthorized sale and dissemination of class notes from your course lectures is a violation of campus values and policies. UCR students who sell class notes without permission are subject to disciplinary action. The University of California's student conduct policy prohibits "Selling, preparing, or distributing for any commercial purpose course lecture notes or video or audio recordings of any course unless authorized by the University in advance and explicitly permitted by the course instructor in writing..." (§102.23).

Appropriate Use of iLearn

Please do not use the course iLearn e-mail feature for purposes unrelated to the course. Such e-mails are a violation of the University's Electronic Communications Policy campus policy # 400-31 section III.A.

Required Texts

- Lewellen, T. 2003. *Political Anthropology: an Introduction*. London: Praeger Publishers.
- Comaroff, J. L. and Comaroff, J. 2009. *Ethnicity, Inc.* Chicago: University Of Chicago Press.
- Lindholm, C. and Zúquete, J. P. 2010. *The Struggle for the World: Liberation Movements for the 21st Century*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.
- Robins, S. L. 2008. *From revolution to rights in South Africa: social movements, NGOs & popular politics after apartheid*. Suffolk: James Currey.

All other readings will be available on the course iLearn site. It's up to you whether you print them out; however, you should always bring them to class and have them available. If you read them electronically, I strongly recommend you use a pdf viewer that lets you add annotations (highlights, comments, etc.) to the pdfs. Three such programs are:

Skim - <http://skim-app.sourceforge.net/> - for the Mac

Foxit Reader - http://www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf/rd_intro.php - for Windows

PDF-Xchange Viewer - <http://www.tracker-software.com/product/pdf-xchange-viewer> - for Windows

Evaluation

There are 100 points total for the course, allocated as follows:

Midterm	35 points	In class, April 27
Final	45 points	June 14, 11:30 AM-12 PM
Short Essays	2 x 10 points	May 7, May 30

Tests will involve a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. Specific formats will be discussed before each test.

The Short Essays will require you to apply the anthropological concepts and approaches to the study of a contemporary issue of your choice, within the wide realm of political anthropology. Further instructions will be provided in a separate handout which will be distributed in class and on the course web site.

There will be no possibilities for extra credit or makeup work.

Course Schedule

Introduction

Week **1**

Monday April 2

Introduction to the course and syllabus

Wednesday April 4

Lewellen pp. 1-14
 Dalsgaard, "Facework on Facebook"
 In-class video: *Kawelka: Ongka's Big Moka*

Friday April 6

Gledhill, pp. 1-14
 Gough, "New Proposals for Anthropologists" (pp. 403-407)
 Marx, "The Communist Manifesto"

States and Tribes

Week **2**

Monday April 9

Lewellen ch. 3, pp. 206-216
 Gledhill, pp. 15-22

Wednesday April 11

Lewellen ch. 2
 Ranger, "European Attitudes and African Realities"

Friday April 13

Whitehead, "Tribes Make States and States Make Tribes"
 Scott, "The Art of Not Being Governed"

Framing and Representation

Week **3**

Monday April 16

Lakoff, "Framing 101"
 Comaroff, "Talking Politics: Oratory and Authority in a Tswana Chiefdom"

Wednesday April 18

Malinowski, "Myth in Primitive Psychology"
 Fortmann, "Talking Claims: Discursive Strategies in Contesting Property"

Friday April 20

Lewellen, pp. 188-194
 Mitchell, "Society, Economy, and the State Effect"

Biopolitics

Week **4**

Monday April 23

Foucault, "Security, Territory, Population"

Wednesday April 25

Overton, "The Colonial State and Spatial Differentiation"
 Stoler, "Making Empire Respectable: The Politics of Race and Sexual Morality in 20th-Century Colonial Cultures"

Friday April 27

Test #1

Week 5

Resistance, Social Movements and Political Action

Monday April 30

Lewellen, ch. 7
 In-class video: *Have You Heard from Johannesburg?*
 episode 1: "Road to Resistance"

Wednesday May 2

Abu-Lughod, "The Romance of Resistance"
 Bourgois, "Understanding Inner City Poverty"

Friday May 4

Lewellen pp. 216-225
 Gledhill, "Neoliberalism"

Week 6

Monday May 7

In-class video: *Have You Heard from Johannesburg?*
 episode 6: "The Bottom Line"

Short Essay #1 Due via Safe Assign

Wednesday May 9

Lindholm and Zúquete, ch. 1-3

Friday May 11

Lindholm and Zúquete, ch. 4-6

Ethnicity in the Neoliberal Era

Week 7

Monday May 14

Lewellen ch. 9
 Mackey, "Universal Rights in Conflict"
 Hamilton, "Resettling Musqueam Park"

Wednesday May 16

Comaroff and Comaroff, ch. 1-2, ch. 4

Friday May 18

Comaroff and Comaroff, ch. 5-7

Structure, Agency and Governance

Week 8

Monday May 21

Lewellen, ch. 5
 Brockington, "The Politics and Ethnography of Environmentalisms in Tanzania"

Wednesday May 23

Lewellen ch. 6
 Witsoe, "Corruption as Power"

Friday May 25

Schuller, "The Republic of NGOs"
 Murdock, "That Stubborn 'Doing Good' Question"

Political Anthropology

Rights, Law and Culture

Week **9**

Monday May 28

No Class - Memorial Day

Wednesday May 30

Robins, ch. 1
Constitution of South Africa,
ch. 1-2

**Short Essay #2 Due via
SafeAssign**

Friday June 1

Robins ch. 2-3
Kuper, "The Return of the
Native"

Week **10**

Monday June 4

Eckert, "From Subjects to
Citizens"
Witsoe, "Territorial
Democracy"

Wednesday June 6

Robins, ch. 5-6
Additional readings TBA

Friday June 8

Robins, ch. 7-8
Additional Readings TBA

Final Exam: June 14, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM