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

Fall 2009

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Tuesdays: 10.45 am-1.45 pm.

Office Hours: Wednesdays & Fridays: 10.45 am-1.45 pm

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  

Clifford Geertz  

William Roseberry  
Lila Abu-Lughod  

Renée Sylvain  

Eric R. Wolf  

A. R. Radcliffe-Brown  

M. G. Smith  

Don Robotham  

09/15 Place and Space (David Harvey)

David Harvey  

W. Schivelbusch  

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

E.E. Evans-Pritchard  
Victor Turner  

Paul Farmer  

Holly Wardlow  

09/29 NO CLASSES

10/06 Economic Systems (Michael Blim)

Keith Hart and Chris Hann  

Donald Robotham  

J. Iain Prattis,  

Michael Blim  

Michael Chibnik  
Jonathan Parry

Michael Peletz

Ethnographies:
Robert W. Hefner

Clifford Geertz,

Steve Striffler

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

James Ferguson and A. Gupta

P. Abrams

E.E. Evans-Pritchard

J. Van Velsen

Sharon Hutchinson

Katherine Verdery

Frederik Barth

10/20 Race, Culture and Inequality (Dombrowski)

Michael Omi and Howard Winant

Pem D. Buck

Verena Stolcke

Charles R. Hale

Leith Mullings

Karen Brodkin

Faye Harrison
10/27 Ethnicity and Nationalism (Gary Wilder)


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


Sherry Ortner  

**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  

Clifford Geertz  

Talal Asad  

Peter Stallybrass and Allon White  

Maurice Bloch  

Robert N. Bellah  

**11/17 Rural Society and Culture (Gerald Creed)**

Sydel Silverman  
Douglas R. Holms

Kathryn Marie Dudley

Gerald Creed and Barbara Ching

Glenn Davis Stone

Kathleen Stewart

11/24 The City (Jeff Maskovsky)

Teodor Bestor

Steven Gregory

J. Holston

Anthony Leeds

Setha M. Low

Sally Engle Merry

Sandra Morgen and Jeff Maskovsky

Roger Sanjek

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

Required Readings


Recommended Background Readings
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


Recommended Ethnography

12/08 Review and Summary Session (Don Robotham)