SEMINAR IN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ANG 6930
Spring 2018
Wednesday: 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm
HPH 409M
3 Credit Hours

Dr. Shana Harris
Department of Anthropology
Office Hours: Wednesday: 1:00pm – 5:00pm

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Course Description

This course is a graduate-level introduction to cultural anthropology, a field whose primary focus is on understanding sociocultural forms of contemporary life. It will provide an overview of theories, concepts, and issues that have been central to cultural anthropology, particularly over the last 50 years. Course materials include foundational texts as well as ethnographic examples that illustrate how cultural anthropologists utilize social theories and concepts to analyze a variety of phenomena. This course will be conducted as a seminar; it emphasizes preparation, active participation, and open engagement with the assigned readings. Therefore, in addition to written assignments, we will collaboratively examine the complex yet fascinating intellectual history, research, and insights of cultural anthropology.

This course has three objectives: 1) to expose you to major theories, concepts, and issues in cultural anthropology; 2) to provide you with opportunities to identity and communicate complex ideas through writing; and 3) to encourage the development and advancement of your own research projects and interests using cultural anthropological insights.

Class Structure

Class meetings are conducted primarily as seminars by focusing on discussion. Occasionally, short "lectures" will cover specific topics and perspectives on the week's topic, while discussions will focus on the readings assigned for that week.

Course Requirements

Attendance

Attendance for this course is required and monitored. You are allowed **one unexcused absence** during the semester. You must let Dr. Harris know in advance of any extenuating circumstance (serious illness, personal/family tragedy, etc.) that may cause you to miss more than one class. In these cases, you must provide Dr. Harris with official documentation (doctor's note, copy of conference registration, etc.) explaining your absences. If you are absent for **more than one class**

without an excuse, your attendance and participation grade (see below) will be negatively affected. If you will be attending or presenting at an academic conference which causes you to miss more than one class, please let Dr. Harris know and we will discuss how you can make up the class.

Reading and Participation

Reading course materials and active participation in the course are both required. Students are expected to attend class having read the required readings as well as the other students' reading responses (see below). Both the readings and reading responses will serve as the basis for class discussions and activities. Doing well in the course will depend not only on keeping up with weekly readings, but also diligently and frequently participating in discussions and activities **every class**.

One or two discussion leaders (assigned the first week of class) will facilitate each class discussion. Each person will serve as a discussion leader two times. Discussion leaders are expected to create a plan to encourage thoughtful and engaging in-class discussion. These discussions can take many forms, but discussion leaders should allow space for the discussion to develop and change direction during the course of the conversation.

Reading Responses

Beginning in Week 2, you will write short responses to the required readings for each week (500-600 words, singled-spaced, 1" margins on all sides, Times New Roman 12-point font, bibliography, Chicago Style citations). Your responses must be posted in the Discussion section of the course Webcourses page by **11:59pm** on the evening **prior to** class. You are expected to read your fellow students' responses before coming to class the following day. Reading responses are meant to be just that, responses to **all** of the weeks' readings and **not just summaries**. To receive full credit, responses must be critical, insightful reflections on the readings that comment on the texts and draw connections between the texts. Failure to post your response by the 11:59pm deadline will lower your grade. You will write 12 reading responses, but **your lowest reading response grade will be dropped**.

Final Paper

You will write a final paper that incorporates your research interests with topics and readings discussed in this course. You must choose a topic relevant to **cultural anthropology** for this paper. The topic can be related to your thesis (if already chosen), a thematic area, or a theoretical orientation. This paper is an opportunity for you to go beyond course material to examine cultural anthropological literature not discussed in class. However, you will be required to incorporate some course material. Your paper must be 4000-5000 words (not including bibliography), double-spaced, 1" margins on all sides, Times New Roman 12-point font, and Chicago Style citations. You will be provided with more information on the specific requirements on this paper later in the semester.

Grading Structure

Reading Responses (11 out of 12)	30% of total grade
Final Paper	40% of total grade
Attendance and participation	30% of total grade (15%: discussion leadership, 15%: non-leadership participation and peer review)

Grading Scale

Reading responses, attendance, and participation will be graded using the following scale: √+, √, √- (If you get more than one √ on reading responses, please see me to discuss.)

The final paper will be graded using the following scale: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F

Course Policies

Late Policy

Late assignments will receive a lower grade for every day that they are late. In other words, if you received an "A-" but the assignment is one day late, your grade will be a "B+". If it is two days late, your grade will be a "B". If it is three days late, your grade will be a "B-" and so on. Extensions will rarely be given except in the case of extenuating circumstances. All late assignments must be emailed to Dr. Harris.

Grade Disputes

If you would like to dispute a grade on a particular assignment, please come to my office hours in person **and** submit your graded work via email along with a written explanation of why you would like me to read and review your work a second time. Please be aware, though, that my willingness to re-read your work is not a guarantee that your grade for the assignment will be changed.

Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. I expect you to do your own work; cheating and plagiarism will carry serious consequences. It must be understood that anyone who knowingly aids in plagiarism or other cheating (i.e. allowing another student to copy a paper or assignment) is as guilty as the cheating student. In the event of academic dishonesty, a zero grade will be given for the exam, quiz, or assignment and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an F for the course. An offense may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. Please see the UCF Golden Rule for further information.

Knights Email and Webcourses Communication

Because there will be important email and Webcourses communications between Dr. Harris and the class, students are responsible for checking their "knights.ucf.edu" email and Webcourses inboxes regularly.

Student Accessibility Services

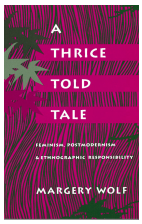
UCF has services available to students with disabilities. These services are meant to ensure that students with disabilities receive appropriate accommodations in their instructional activities. If you are not familiar with these services and believe that you could benefit from them, please contact Student Accessibility Services (sas@ucf.edu or 407-823-2371) or Dr. Harris as soon as possible. If you have already used these services and need any form of accommodation to assist you with your learning for this course, please let Dr. Harris know immediately.

Academic Activity Record

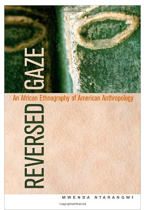
DO THIS ASAP! All students have to document academic activity at the beginning of each semester. To show that you began this course, complete the "Academic Activity" assignment by Friday, January 12, by answering a question pertaining to this syllabus. The assignment can be found on the Webcourses page. This Academic Activity assignment is **not** part of your course grade; it only documents your presence in this class. Failure to complete the assignment may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Required Texts

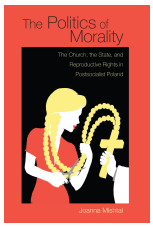
The required books for this course are:



- Wolf, Margery. 1992. *A Thrice Told Tale: Feminism, Postmodernism, and Ethnographic Responsibility*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.



- Ntarangwi, Mwenda. 2010. *Reversed Gaze: An African Ethnography of American Anthropology*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press.



- Mishtal, Joanna. 2015. *The Politics of Morality: The Church, the State, and Reproductive Rights in Postsocialist Poland.* Athens: Ohio University Press.

The books are available for purchase at the student bookstore. Several articles are also required and are available electronically on the Webcourses page for this course. All assigned articles are listed in the class schedule below, which specifies when students are expected to read them. Please download articles to your computers and/or print them so you can make notes and have them available for review later in the semester. To access Webcourses: login on to webcourses.ucf.edu, go to Courses, and select our class ANG6930-18Spring 0001. Technical support for Webcourses: 407-823-0407.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Wednesday, January 10

- TOPIC: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

- READINGS: Eriksen, Thomas Hylland. 2004. Selections from *What is Anthropology?*, 1-18 ("Why Anthropology?"). London: Pluto Press.

  Hammersley, Martyn, and Paul Atkinson. 2007. Selections from *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*, 1-19 ("What is Ethnography?"). London: Routledge.

  Herzfeld, Michael. 2001. Selections from *Anthropology: Theoretical Practice in Culture and Society*, 1-20 ("Orientations: Anthropology as a Practice of Theory"). Malden: Blackwell.

Week 2

Wednesday, January 17

Reading Response #1

- TOPIC: Political Economy

- READING: Erickson, Paul A., and Liam D. Murphy. 1998. Selections from *A History of Anthropological Theory*, 39-44 ("Marxism") and 135-140 ("Political Economy"). Peterborough: Broadview Press.

  Roseberry, William. 1988. "Political Economy." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 17:161-185.

  Mintz, Sidney. 1983. "Caribbean Marketplaces and Caribbean History." *Radical History Review* 27:110-120.

  Stebbins, Kenyon. 1987. "Tobacco or Health in the Third World: A Political Economy Perspective with Emphasis on Mexico." *International Journal of Health Services* 17:521-536.

Week 3

Wednesday, January 24

Reading Response #2

- TOPIC: Practice Theory

- READINGS: Bourdieu, Pierre. 1986. "The Forms of Capital." In *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*, edited by John G. Richardson, 241-258. New York: Greenwood Press.

  Swartz, David L. 2002. "The Sociology of Habit: The Perspective of Pierre Bourdieu." *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research* 22:61S-69S. **[SKIP "IMPLICATIONS FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY" (PG. 67S-68S]**

Ortner, Sherry. 1984. "Theory in Anthropology Since the Sixties." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 26:126-166.

Bourgois, Philippe, and Jeff Schonberg. 2007. "Intimate Apartheid: Ethnic Dimensions of Habitus among Homeless Heroin Injectors." *Ethnography* 8:7-31.

Week 4

Wednesday, January 31

Reading Response #3

- TOPIC: Power and Governmentality

- READINGS: Foucault, Michel. 1978. Selections from *The History of Sexuality: Volume I: An Introduction*, 3-13 ("We 'Other Victorians'"), 17-35 ("The Incitement to Discourse"), 36-49 ("The Perverse Implantation"), 135-159 ("Right of Death and Power Over Life." New York: Vintage Books.

  Foucault, Michel. 1979. Selections from *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, 3-31 ("The Body of the Condemned"), 135-169 ("Docile Bodies"), 195-228 (Panopticism"). New York: Vintage Books.

Week 5

Wednesday, February 7

Reading Response #4

- TOPIC: Neoliberalism

- READINGS: Ganti, Tejaswini. 2014. "Neoliberalism." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 43:89-104

  Ferguson, James. 2009. "The Uses of Neoliberalism." *Antipode* 41:166-184.

  Sharma, Aradhana. 2006. "Crossbreeding Institutions, Breeding Struggle: Women's Empowerment, Neoliberal Governmentality, and State (Re)formation in India." *Cultural Anthropology* 21:60-95.

Week 6

Wednesday, February 14

Reading Response #5

- TOPIC: Governance and Reproductive Rights in Poland

- READING: Mishtal, Joanna. 2015. *The Politics of Morality: The Church, the State, and Reproductive Rights in Postsocialist Poland.* Athens: Ohio University Press.

Week 7

Wednesday, February 21

Reading Response #6

- TOPIC: Crisis of Representation

- READINGS: Marcus, George E., and Michael M.J. Fischer. 1986. Selections from *Anthropology as Cultural Critique*, 1-6 ("Introduction") and 7-16 ("A Crisis of Representation in the Human Sciences"). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

  Clifford, James. 1986. "Introduction: Partial Truths." In *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography*, edited by James Clifford and George Marcus, 1-26. Berkeley: University of California Press.

  Clifford, James. 1983. "On Ethnographic Authority." *Representations* 2:118-146.

Week 8

Wednesday, February 28

Reading Response #7

- TOPIC: Feminist Anthropology

- READINGS: di Leonardo, Micaela. 1991. "Introduction: Gender, Culture, and Political Economy: Feminist Anthropology in Historical Perspective." In *Gender at the Crossroads of Knowledge*, edited by Micaela di Leonardo, 1-48. Berkeley: University of California Press.

  Lutz, Catherine. 1995. "The Gender of Theory." In *Women Writing Culture*, edited by Ruth Behar and Deborah A. Gordon, 249-266. Berkeley: University of California Press.

  Wolf, Margery. 1992. *A Thrice Told Tale: Feminism, Postmodernism, and Ethnographic Responsibility*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Week 9

Wednesday, March 7

Reading Response #8

- TOPIC: Postcolonality and the "Other"

- READINGS: Abu-Lughod, Lila. 1991. "Writing Against Culture." In *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present*, edited by Richard G. Fox, 137-162. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press.

Trouillet, Michel-Rolph. 2003. Selections from *Global Transformations: Anthropology and the Modern World*, 7-28 ("Anthropology and the Savage Slot: The Poetics and Politics of Otherness"). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Said, Edward. 1989. "Representing the Colonized: Anthropology's Interlocutors." *Critical Inquiry* 15:205-225.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 1988. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses." *boundary 2* 12:333-358.

Week 10

NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

Week 11

Wednesday, March 21

Reading Response #9

- TOPIC: Anthropology and Race

- READINGS: Visweswaran, Kamala. 1998. "Race and the Culture of Anthropology." *American Anthropologist* 100:70-83.

  Baker, Lee D. 2010. Selections from *Anthropology and the Racial Politics of Culture*, 156-219 ("The Cult of Franz Boas and His 'Conspiracy' to Destroy the White Race"). Durham: Duke University Press.

  Mullings, Leith. 2005. "Interrogating Racism: Toward an Antiracist Anthropology." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 34:667-693.

  Shanklin, Eugenia. 1998. "The Profession of the Color Blind: Sociocultural Anthropology and Racism in the 21st Century." *American Anthropologist* 100:669-679.

Week 12

Wednesday, March 28

Reading Response #10

- TOPIC: Anthropology as Ethnographic Subject

- READING: Ntarangwi, Mwenda. 2010. *Reversed Gaze: An African Ethnography of American Anthropology*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Week 13

Wednesday, April 4

Reading Response #11

- TOPIC: Violence and Suffering

- READINGS: Farmer, Paul. 1997. "On Suffering and Structural Violence: A View from Below." In *Social Suffering*, edited by Arthur Kleinman, Veena Das, and Margaret Lock, 261-283. Berkeley: University of California Press.

  Kleinman, Arthur. 2000. "The Violences of Everyday Life: The Multiple Forms and Dynamics of Social Violence." In *Violence and Subjectivity*, edited by Veena Das, Mamphela Ramphele, and Pamela Reynolds, 226-241. Berkeley: University of California Press

  Holmes, Seth M. 2007. "'Oaxacans Like to Work Bent Over': The Naturalization of Social Suffering among Berry Farm Workers." *International Migration* 45:39-66.

Week 14

Wednesday, April 11

Reading Response #12

- TOPIC: Anthropology of the Good

- READINGS: Ortner, Sherry B. 2016. "Dark Anthropology and Its Others: Theory Since the Eighties." *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 6:47-73.

  Robbins, Joel. 2013. "Beyond the Suffering Subject: Toward an Anthropology of the Good. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 19:447-462.

  Speed, Shannon. 2006. "At the Crossroads of Human Rights and Anthropology: Toward a Critically Engaged Activist Research." *American Anthropologist* 108:66-76.

Week 15

Wednesday, April 18

Upload final paper draft to Webcourses by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 15

- TOPIC: Peer Review

- READING: Drafts of group members' final paper

Wednesday, April 25

Final paper due via
Webcourses by 11:59pm