



Principles of Political Anthropology
ANG 6274/Spring 2007
Monday per 6-8, 101 Flint Hall
Dr. Brenda Chalfin

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Office Hours: 12-2PM, Tuesdays & by Appointment

Course Description:

Where does power lie? How are political forms and relations experienced and reproduced? How do we to know them? What insight does anthropology bring to the conceptualization of power and the diagnostic workings in specific social settings and situations? How do anthropological theorizations of the political, from small-scale non-western societies, both differ from and engage a political science premised on the of the modern nation-state.

This course tracks the development of political anthropology. Familiarizing students with a variety of approaches regarding power, political activity and political institutions, it traces the field's emergence, enduring preoccupations, shifting trends, and major influences. Conveying and assessing the specific and overarching contributions of anthropology to the study of political life, the ultimate goal of the course is to prepare graduate students to comprehend and analyze political phenomena in the context of their own research.

Moving between societies with few specialized political institutions and those with highly formalized political realms, the course seeks to capture political life in the fullest sense.

The class begins with an examination of the founding concerns of political anthropology with respect to political order in non-state and non-western societies and ends with a consideration of contemporary political trends, from ethno-nationalism, to war, incarceration and imperialism. Over the semester, we will probe questions of culture and power, hegemony and symbolic domination, the politics of the everyday, power resistance, social movements, democratization and subalternity, violence and militarism. We will equally attend to the politics of anthropological practice, addressing the ethics of anthropological research, government surveillance of anthropologists and anthropology programs, and the place of anthropology in the public sphere.

Course Materials:

Required Texts:

- E. Wolf, *Pathways of Power*, California, 2001.
- M. Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, Vintage, 1979
- L. Malkki, *Purity and Exile*, Chicago, 1995.

T. B. Hansen, *The Saffron Wave*, Princeton, 1999
 A. Feldman, *Formations of Violence*, Chicago, 1991.
 L. Gill, *School of the Americas*, Duke, 2004.

Optional Supplementary Texts:

J. Vincent ed., *The Anthropology of Politics Reader*, Blackwell, 2002.
 J. Vincent, *Anthropology and Politics*, Arizona, 1990.

On-line purchase of texts is recommended.

Additional reading material is available on-line, through UF Library E-reserve or in photocopy form at OBT NW 13th St/375-2707). Reading for Week 2 (Jan 22) will be available to download from UF Library E-reserve (www.uflib.ufl.edu). All other reading, besides the course texts and on-line articles, will be available in a c pack at OBT.

Course Requirements:

1. **Weekly Reading Questions:** (8 x 3%ea) 25% (1 pg. Submit via email by 8pm Sunday)
2. **Mid-term Essay:** 25% (This a 10 pg. thematic, analytic essay. Due by Mar. 19)
3. **Final Project:** 30% (Choice of Research Paper, Research Proposal or Review Essay-15pg.)
4. **Class Rapporteur:** 10% (Introduce/Evaluate the day's material and sum-up discussion)
5. **Participation:** 10%

Attendance is required. Students must also abide by the UF Academic Honesty Guidelines.

Course Schedule:

Class 1/January 8

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

NO CLASS JAN 15 ML KING Day (University Closed)

Class 2/January 22

ORIGINS: INSIGHTS AND OVERSIGHTS

(available on UFLIB E-reserve):

M. Fortes and EE Evans-Pritchard, 1940, "Introduction," and EE Evans Pritchard, "The Nuer," in *African Political Systems*, Oxford, 1940/1969, pp. 1-24, 272-296

L. Mair, Introduction, *Primitive Government*, Indiana, 1962, pp. 9-20.

T. Asad, "Two European Images of Non-European Rule," and S. Feuchtwang, "The Discipline and Its Spon in T. Asad ed, *Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter*, Ithaca, 1975, pp. 71-100, 103-118.

E. Wolf, "Facing Power," in *Pathways of Power*, pp. 382-397.

Optional:

J. Vincent, "Politics in the Comparative Mode," *Anthropology and Politics*, pp. 255-276

Class 3/January 29

PERSON, PROCESS AND LOCAL-LEVEL POLITICS

M. Gluckman, "The Bridge," pp. 53-58, R. Frankenberg, "The Bridge Revisited," pp. 59-64, T. Asad, "Market Model," 65-81, F. Bailey, "Stratagems and Spoils," pp. 90-95, M. Swartz et al. "Political Anthropology," pp. 108, in *Anthropology of Politics Reader*, J. Vincent ed., Blackwell, 2002.

F. Barth, "Anthropological Models and Social Reality," in Selected Essays of Frederick Barth, Routledge, 1954, pp. 15-31.

V. Turner, "Mukanda: The Politics of Non-Political Ritual," in Local-level Politics, M. Swartz et al eds., Aldine, 1974, pp. 135-150.

Wolf, "Kinship, Friendship..." in Pathways of Power, pp. 166-183.

Class 4/February 5

SYMBOL, CULTURE AND POWER

C. Geertz, Negara: The Theatre State in Nineteenth-Century Bali, Princeton, 1980, selections.

B. Anderson, "Introduction," pp. 1-14, "The idea of power in Javanese Culture," pp. 17-77, "The Language of Indonesian Politics," pp. 123-151, skim "Cartoon and Monuments," pp. 152-193, in Language and Power: Exploring Political Cultures in Indonesia, Cornell, 1990.

Optional:

C. Geertz, "Centers, Kings and Charisma," in Local Knowledge, Basic, 1983, pp. 121-146

Class 5/February 12

Violence, Predatory Expansion and Anthropological Ethics

N. Chagnon, Yanomamo, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1997, Ch. 1, 5, 6, 7

B. Ferguson, 'A Savage Encounter: Western Contact and the Yanomami War Complex', in R. Brian Ferguson and Neil L. Whitehead eds., War in the Tribal Zone: Expanding States and Indigenous Warfare, SAR, 1992, pp. 227.

P. Tierney, "The Fierce Anthropologist," The New Yorker, Oct. 9, 2000.

Barofsky, R. Yanomami: The Fierce Controversy and what we can learn from it, California, 2005, pp. 22-34.

D. Winslow, "NSF supports," pp. 519-521, D. Fassin, "The end," pp. 522-524, G. Annas, "Anthropology," pp. 544, American Ethnologist, Nov. 2006, 33/4.

American Anthropological Association Code of Ethics (www.aaanet.org)

Class Debate: To what extent can Chagnon be held responsible for his actions? Do the current AAA Ethical Code and related US Gov't IRB rules resolve or complicate the ethical perils of anthropological research?

Class 6/February 19

Power and Resistance

J. Scott, Weapons of the Weak, Yale, 1985, pp. 1-47, 241-303.

S. Ortner, "Resistance and the Problem of Ethnographic Refusal," Comparative Studies in Society and History no. 1 (1995): 173-93

Lila Abu-Lughod, "The Romance of Resistance: Tracing Transformations of Power Through Bedouin Women," American Ethnologist, 1990, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 41-55.

K. Sivaramakrishnan, 2005, "Some Intellectual Genealogies for the Concept of Everyday Resistance," American Anthropologist, 107/3, pp. 346-355.

S. Seymour, 2006, "Resistance," Anthropological Theory, 6/3, pp. 303-321.

Class Debate: What is the usefulness of the concept of resistance?

Class 7/February 26

Hegemony and Symbolic Domination

A. Gramsci, Antonio Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916-1935, D. Forgacs ed., Schocken, 1988, selections

K. Crehan, Gramsci, Culture and Anthropology, California, 2002, selections

J and J Comaroff, Of Revelation and Revolution vol. 1, Chicago, 1991, pp. 1-48,

L. Althusser, "Ideology Interpellates Individuals as Subjects," in Lenin and Philosophy, pp. 170-183.

J. Thompson, "Symbolic Violence : Language and Power in the work of Pierre Bourdieu," Studies in the Theory of Ideology, California, 1984, pp. 42-72.

A. Gupta, 2001, "History, Rule, Representation," Interventions, 3/1, pp. 40-46.

Class 8/March 5

Disciplinary Regimes

Foucault, Discipline and Punish, Vintage, 1979. selections

A Feldman, Formations of Violence: The Narrative of the Body and Political Terror in Northern Ireland, 1999 Chicago

B. Aretxaga, "Dirty Protest," Ethos, 1995, 23/2, pp. 123-148.

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS MARCH 12 – MIDTERM ESSAY DUE BY MAR. 19

Class 9/March 19

Social Movements and the Subaltern

E. Wolf, "Peasants and Revolution," and "Rural Protest in Latin America," in Pathways of Power

R. Nicholas, 1973, "Social and Political Movements," Annual Review of Anthropology, 2, pp. 63-84. ON-L

M. Edelman, 2001, "Social Movements: Changing Paradigms and Forms of Politics," Annual Review of Anthropology, 30/1, pp. 285-317. ON-LINE

G. Prakash, "Subaltern studies as postcolonial criticism," American Historical Review, 1995, 99/5, pp. 1475-

Sivaramakrishnan, K. "Situating the Subaltern," Journal of Historical Sociology, 8/4, pp. 395-439.

I. Rogdriguez ed, The Latin American Sub Altern Studies Reader, Duke, 2001. selection

Class 10/March 26

Nationalism and Ethnic Identity

B. Anderson, Imagined Communities, Verso, 1983/2006, Chs. 1,2,3,6,10

L. Malkki, Purity and Exile, Chicago, 1995. Intro, Ch. 1 (skim), 2,3 (skim), 4.

E. Renan, "What is a nation?" in The Nationalism Reader, O. Dahbour and M. Ishay eds, Humanities, 1995. 143-155.

Robert Hayden, "Imagined Communities and Real Victims: Self-Determination and Ethnic Cleansing in Yugoslavia," American Ethnologist, Nov 1996, Vol. 23, No. 4, pp. 783-801

Wolf, "Ethnicity and Nationhood," in Pathways of Power

A. Appadurai, 1998, "Ethnic Violence in the Era of Globalization," Development and Change, 29/4, pp. 9

Optional:

A. Stoller, "Sexual Affronts and Racial Frontiers," in Tensions of Empire, A. Stoller and F. Cooper, eds., Calif 1997, pp. 198-237.

EASTER/PASSOVER - NO CLASS APRIL 2

Class 11/April 9 Democratization

T B Hansen The Saffron Wave, Princeton, 1999.

A. Appadurai, 2002, "Deep Democracy: Urban Governmentality and the Horizon of Politics," Public Culture, 2002, 14/1, pp. 21-47.

J. Paley, 2002, "Toward an Anthropology of Democracy," Annual Review of Anthropology, 31/1, pp. 469-ON-LINE

Class 12/April 16 Imperialism Old and New

L. Gill School of the Americas, Duke, 2004

C. Lutz, "Empire is in the Details," American Ethnologist, Nov. 2006, 33/4, pp. 593-611

M. Hardt and A. Negri, Empire, Harvard, 2000, Chs. 1.1, 1.2, 1.3., 2.5

G. Packer, "Knowing the Enemy," The New Yorker, Dec. 18, 2006.

D. Price, 2002, Interlopers and Invited guests: On Anthropology's Witting and Unwitting Links to Intelligence Agencies," Anthropology Today, 18/6, pp. 16-21

C. Fluehr-Lobban, "Ethical Challenges for Anthropological Engagement in National Security and Intelligence Work, in Anthropology News, January 2007, p. 4.

Class 13/ April 23 Wrap-up and Presentations