



**Fall 2012**

**ANG 6286**

**SEMINAR IN CONTEMPORARY THEORY:**  
**THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE STATE**

**Thurs per 6-8, 12:50-3:50p/Location: CBD rm. 224**

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[Ang6286@gmail.com](mailto:Ang6286@gmail.com) **fall2012**

**Course Description:**

This course probes the development of an anthropology of the modern nation-state with an eye to what the nation-state is, has been, and is becoming. It considers the institutional, social and cultural forms that characterize and call into question the nation-state at the current historical juncture from a US as well as global vantage point.

A central objective is to develop the theoretical and methodological tools necessary for comprehending the state in a manner distinctively anthropological; that is, one giving paramount concern to systems of meaning and belief, personhood, agency, everyday practice, hidden and overt mechanics of power, and persistent structures and emergent forms. The course is equally concerned with discerning how an anthropological approach to the modern nation-state may draw upon yet differ from perspectives on the state developed within other disciplines--most significantly, political science and political sociology--and the new connections and divisions that may arise from staking out a common conceptual space.

The course builds its foundation upon two analytics. One is the historical development of the nation-state in Europe; the other is an already well-established anthropology of the state centered on indigenous and non-western patterns of state formation. We investigate the emergence of a new orientation to the state carved out unknowingly, yet in tandem, by anthropological studies of nations and nationalism and a wider social scientific preoccupation with processes of globalization and the cataclysms of a post-cold war world. With these precedents in mind we look closely at those institutions considered definitive of the modern state: citizenship, bureaucracy and the pursuit of security and a monopoly of violence. We also consider themes not conventionally aligned with state studies such as aesthetics, affect, nature, and the

body. Insight is drawn from the theorizations of governmentality, bio-power, and hegemony along with the possibilities offered by science studies, phenomenology, marxism and critical theory.

### **Requirements:**

**Part 1: Attendance (5%), Participation (10%)** Course attendance and participation in class discussion is required. Unexcused absence will result in final grade reduction,

**Part 2: Quote Sheets (10%)** To facilitate participation and class discussion, students should come to class ready to discuss 4 quotes extracted from the session's reading. Please turn-in a 1 page 'Quote Sheet' (2% ea.) at the beginning of class or via email prior to class. Five quote sheets are required over the course of the semester. They must be submitted to the instructor but will not be graded.

**Part 3: Discussion Papers (45%)** Over the course of the semester each student is required to write three 3-page Discussion Papers (15% ea). At least one of these papers will be presented to the class and provide the basis for leading a class discussion. Please refer to the discussion questions in the syllabus. One discussion paper may address the relevance of the reading to one's research interests. The last discussion paper may be a "taking-stock" essay commenting on the major works and themes covered in class.

**Part 4: Final Project - Annotated Bibliography (30%)** A final assignment consisting of a 15 page annotated bibliography (30%) is required for all students. Students can develop a theme raised in class or pursue another topic of general relevance to anthropological perspectives on the state. Students should decide on their topic and provide sample citations by Oct 25 and prepare a 1 page handout to share on the last class meeting. Due by noon Dec 11.

### **Course Materials:**

Students are also required to purchase several books and access other material on-line or from copies made available by the instructor. On-line book purchase is encouraged as are used copies.

### **Required books:**

- A. Sharma and A. Gupta, The Anthropology of the State: a reader (Blackwell 2006)
- A. Petryna, Life Exposed (Princeton 2002 or 2012)
- W. Opello and S. Rosow, The Nation-State and Global Order (Rienner 2004)
- G. Feldman, The Migration Apparatus (Stanford 2012)
- D. Price, Weaponizing Anthropology (Counterpunch 2011)

### **Optional/Recommended texts:**

- B. Anderson, Imagined Communities (Verso 1991 or more recent)
- J. Caplan and J. Torpey ed., Documenting Individual Identity (Princeton 2001)
- E. Balibar, We, The People of Europe (Princeton 2004)
- L. Gill, School of the Americas (Duke 2004)
- G. Joseph & D. Nugent, Everyday forms of State Formation (Duke 1994)
- M. Foucault, Discipline and Punish.
- S. Sassen, Territory, Authority, Rights (Princeton 2006)

### **Other Information and Resources**

UF Anthropology Department Policy: [web.anthro.ufl.edu](http://web.anthro.ufl.edu)

UF LIBRARY: <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/instruct/neworient.html>

UF Grading System: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>.

UF Academic Honesty Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm>

UF Disability Services: <http://www.ufl.edu/disability>

UF Counseling Services: [www.council.ufl.edu](http://www.council.ufl.edu)

UF Student Mental Health Services: [www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs](http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs)

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Class 1: Aug 23. Introduction**

*Working the State: The Perils and Promise of Anthropology*

*What is the state and why study it anthropologically?*

### **Class 2: Aug 30 The State: Historical Foundations and Theoretical Perspectives**

Theoretical Perspectives:

Hall, S. 1984, "The State in Question," in The Idea of the Modern State, Open University, pp. 1-28.

Sabine, G. 1933, "State," Encyclopedia of Social Science

Fried, M and F. Watkins, 1964, "State," Encyclopedia of Social Science, pp. 143-156

Fried, M, 1967, The Evolution of Political Society, McGraw-Hill, pp. 227-242

Weber, M. 1968, Economy and Society, Bedminster, pp. 212-231

Historical Foundations:

Anderson, P. 1979, Lineages of the Absolutist State, Verso, pp. 17-42

Opello, W and S. Rosow, 2004, Nation-State and Global Order, Rienner. Pp. 19-74

Dyson, K. 1980, The State Tradition in Western Europe, Oxford, pp. 25-47, 101-33.

*Discussion Q1: How do anthropological and sociological perspectives on state formation differ from historical renderings of the modern state? Do these approaches hold anything in common? Are they compatible?*

*Discussion Q2: What depictions of the 'state' (writ-large) and the 'modern state' do you find the most intriguing or problematic?*

### **Class 3 Sept 6: The State, the Nation and the Colony**

Anderson, B. 1991, Imagined Communities, Verso, selections

A. Stoler and F. Cooper, 1997, "Between Metropole and Colony," in Tensions of Empire, California, pp. 1-56.

Geertz, C. 1973, "After the Revolution: the Politics of Nationalism," The Interpretation of Cultures, Basic, pp. 234-254.

J. Kelly and M. Kaplan, 2001, Represented Communities: Fiji and World Decolonization, Ch.1.

Opello, W and S. Rosow, 2004, Nation-State and Global Order, Rienner. Pp. 167-216.

Sassen, S. Territory, Authority, Rights. pp. 1-18, 74-99

A. Gupta, "Imagining Nations," in A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics, D.

Nugent and J. Vincent, eds., Blackwell, pp. 267-281

Visweswaran, K. "Affective States," Topoi, 1999, pp. 81-86

*Discussion Q 1: Where is the state in discussions of the nation? Where is the colony in discussions of the state?*

*Discussion Q 2: What is K&K's and G's critique of Anderson? Are you convinced?*

### **Class 4 Sept 13: States of Imagination: Culture, Ideology and Hegemony**

- Abrams, P. 1988 "Notes on the difficulty of studying the state," Journal of Historical Sociology, 1 (1): pp. 58-89. (\*In Sharma and Gupta Reader: pp. 113-129)
- Joseph, G. and D. Nugent eds., 1994, Everyday Forms of State Formation: Revolution and the Negotiation of Rule in Modern Mexico, Duke, selections:
- P. Corrigan, "State Formation,"
  - G. Joseph and D. Nugent, "Popular Culture and State Formation,"
  - Roseberry, W. "Hegemony and the Language of Contention,"
  - Sayer, D. "Everyday Forms of State Formation...Hegemony'
- Mbembe, A. 2001, "The Banality of Power and The Aesthetics of Vulgarly," On the Post-Colony, UCal, pp102-142. (\*In Sharma and Gupta Reader: pp. 381-399)
- Geertz, C., Negara: The Theatre State in Nineteenth Century Bali, Princeton, 1980, pp. 121-136.
- Williams, R., 1976, "Hegemony," in Key Words, pp. 117-8.
- Althusser, L. 1970, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses," in Lenin and Philosophy, Monthly Review Press.
- Forgacs, D. 2000, The Antonio Gramsci Reader, NYU, pp. 189-200, 422-3, 429-30. (also note <http://www.english.emory.edu/Bahri/hegemony.html>)

*Discussion Q 1: Comment on the relationship btw EFSF and the claims of Abrams.*

*Discussion Q 2: What is the relationship (and distinction) between hegemony, ideology and culture?*

*Discussion Q 3: How do today's readings tie-in with, complicate or depart from previous course material?*

### **Class 5 Sept 20 : Governmentality: The Logics and Tactics of Disciplinary Authority**

- Foucault, M. 1991, "Governmentality," in The Foucault Effect, G. Burchell ed, pp. 87-104 (\*In Sharma and Gupta Reader: pp. 131-143)
- Rose, N. 1999. "Governing," in Powers of Freedom, Cambridge, pp. 15-59
- Foucault, M. 1995. Discipline and Punish, Vintage. selections.
- Hansen, T and F. Stepputat 2001 "Introduction: States of Imagination," in States of Imagination, Hansen and Stepputat eds, Duke, pp. 1-38.
- Caplan, J. & J. Torpey eds., 2001, Documenting Individual Identity, Princeton, selections
- Ferguson, J. 1994. The Anti-politics Machine, Minnesota, (\*In Sharma and Gupta Reader: pp. 270-286)
- Mitchell, T. 1999. "Society, Economy and State Effects," State/Culture, G. Steinmetz. Ed, Cornell. (\*In Sharma and Gupta Reader: pp. 169-186)
- Trouillot, M-R., 2001, "The Anthropology of the State in the Age of Globalization," Current Anthropology, 42/1: 125-138.

*Discussion Q 1: Compare how the essays in DII, Rose, Trouillot and Ferguson develop Foucault's ideas re. governmentality?*

*Discussion Q 2: How do Hansen and Stepputat develop an anthropological theorization of the state resolving the disparate perspectives of Gramsci and Foucault? Do you consider these perspectives compatible?*

*Discussion Q 3: How do today's readings tie-in with, complicate or depart from previous course material?*

### **NO CLASS SEPTEMBER 27 (Dr. Chalfin at Borders & Mobility Conference in Copenhagen)**

### **Class 6 Oct 4: Biopolitics and Post-Socialist Transitions**

- Petryna, A. 2002/2012, Life Exposed. selections.
- Verdery, K., 1991, "Theorizing Socialism," American Ethnologist, 18(3), pp. 419-439.

- Verdery, K. 2004, "After Socialism," in Companion to the Anthropology of Politics, Blackwell, pp. 21-36.
- Rose, N & C. Novas. 2005, "Biological Citizenship," in Global Assemblage, A. Ong ed., Blackwell, pp. 439-463.
- Rabinow, P. & N. Rose, 2006, "Biopower today," Biosocieties, 1, pp. 195-217.

*Discussion Q 1: What are the central arguments (and limitations) of LE?*

*Discussion Q 2: How do Verdery and Rose shed new light on the issues raised in LE?*

*Discussion Q 3: How do today's readings tie-in with, complicate or depart from previous course material?*

### **Class 7 Oct 11: Citizenship and Alienage: Legal, Incipient and Insurgent**

- Feldman, G., 2012, The Migration Apparatus, selections.
- Agamben, G. 1998. Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life, Stanford. selections.
- Balibar, E. 2004, We, the People of Europe: Reflections on Transnational Citizenship, Princeton. selections
- Sassen, S. 2006. Territory, Authority, Rights. pp. 277-321
- Rose, N. 1996 "The Death of the Social? Re-figuring the territory of government," Economy and Society, 25/3, pp. 327-356.

*Discussion Q 1: How do the European cases compare regarding the role of state and non-state institutions in determining and enforcing the terms of contemporary citizenship?*

*Discussion Q 2: What do these case studies suggest about sites and strategies for the empirical study of citizenship and its transformation?*

*Discussion Q 3: How do today's readings tie-in with, complicate or depart from previous course material?*

### **Class 8 Oct 18: Embodied, Gendered and Affective States**

- Linke, U. "Contact Zones: Rethinking the sensual life of the state, Anthropological Theory, June 2006, Vol. 6, Issue 2, pp. 205-225
- Aretxaga, B. 2003, "Maddening States," Annual Review of Anthro., 32: 393-410. **E**
- Rapp, R., "Gender and class: an archaeology of knowledge concerning the origin of state.," Dialectical anthropology. v. 2, no. 4, Nov. 1977. pp. 309-316.
- Martin, E. "Toward an Anthropology of Immunity: the body as nation-state," Medical Anthropology Quarterly. 1990.
- Puar, J. 2007. Terrorist Assemblages: homonationalism in queer times. Duke. Ch. 1. **E**
- Ginsberg, F. 1998. Contested Lives. California, Preface.

*Discussion Q1: What are of the theoretical and ethnographic challenges and promise of bringing affect and embodiment to the center of studies of state power?*

*Discussion Q2: What are of the theoretical and ethnographic challenges and promise of bringing gender and sexuality to the center of studies of state power?*

*Discussion Q3: How do today's readings tie-in with previous course material?*

### **Class 9 Oct 25 Environmentality and States of Science**

- Agrawal, A. 2005. Environmentality: Technologies of Government and the Making of Subjects. Duke. selections.
- Scott, J. 1998. Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition have failed, Ch. 8 Taming Nature, pp. 262-305.
- Li, T. (2005) 'Beyond "the State" and Failed Schemes', American Anthropologist, 107(3): 383-94. **E**

Jasanoff, S. and M. Martello, "Scientists as Traffickers" and "Conclusion" *Earthly Politics: Local and Global in Environmental Governance*. eds. 2004. MIT, pp. 217-240, 335-347.  
 Weber, M. 2006, "Bureaucracy," (In Sharma&Gupta eds., Blackwell, pp. 49-65. (skim))  
 Walley, C. 2004, Rough Waters: Nature and Development in an East African Marine Park, Princeton, Ch. 6.  
 Boyer, D. 2008, "Thinking through the Anthropology of Experts," Anthropology in Action. 15(2), pp. 38-46.

**\*FINAL PAPER TOPIC and PRELIMINARY CITES (1page) due in class.**

*Discussion Q1: To what extent is the study of Environmental Politics advanced (or not) by the application of Foucauldian optics.*

*Discussion Q2: What is the role of the state (or state agents and ideologies) in the forging the distinction between nature and culture?*

*Discussion Q3: How do today's readings tie-in with, complicate or depart from previous course material?*

**NO CLASS NOV 1 (Dr. Chalfin at The New School Conference)**

**Class 10: Nov. 8 The Nation-State and Violence**

Tilly, C. 1985, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," in Bringing the State Back In, D. Rueschmeyer et al eds., Cambridge, pp. 167-91.

A. Giddens, 1987. *The Nation-State and Violence*, California, pp. 22-31, 103-116, 222-254.

Skocpol, T. 1987, review of A. Giddens, "The Nation-State and Violence," Social Forces, 66/1: 294-296.

L. Gill, School of the Americas, Duke, 2004, selections.

Lutz, C. *Making War at Home in the United States: Militarization and the Current Crisis*. American Anthropologist, 2002, 104 (3): 723-35. (\*In Sharma and Gupta Reader: pp. 291-309).

Goldstein, D. 2010. "Toward a Critical Anthropology of Security," Current Anthropology.

Chalfin, B. 2012. "Border Security as Late Capitalist 'Fix,'" in Blackwell Companion to Border Studies. pp. 282-300.

*Discussion Q 1: How does military training contribute to both the process of 'everyday state formation' and the imperial project?*

*Discussion Q 2: What are the connections and distinctions between militarization and securitization?*

*Discussion Q 3: How do today's readings tie-in with, complicate or depart from previous course material?*

**NO CLASS NOV 15: AAA Meetings San Francisco**

**NO CLASS NOV 22 Thanksgiving Holiday**

**Class 11 November 29: Anthropology in the Service of the State?**

Price, D. 2011. Weaponizing Anthropology. selections

Fluehr-Lobban, C. 2007, "Ethical Challenges for Anthropological Engagement in National Security and Intelligence Work," Anthropology News, 2007, 48 (1): 4.

**Research Sharing and Wrap-Up**