

Fall 06

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ANT 4354 ANTHROPOLOGY OF MODERN AFRICA
Section: 8105
Tuesday: from 11:45AM to 1:40PM at CSE, Room: E221
Thursday: from 11:45AM to 12:35PM, at CSE. Room: E121

Course description

Modern Africa is facing substantial challenges as it enters the 21st century. The responses that Africans are elaborating to meet these challenges are drawn from their rich cultures. In this class students will be introduced to modern Africa from an anthropological perspective that focuses on tradition, modernity and modernization practices and how they affect social, cultural, and economic processes. The ethnographies we will be using in this class address in different ways the following questions: How do Africans create alternative forms of modernity to cope with economic, political and social challenges in a rapidly changing world environment? How are they managing to combine "tradition" and "modernity" through worship, work, celebration of social events, and pop culture? How are Africans "the same but different" today?

The course offers students some fundamental principles that are necessary for a proper understanding of the anthropological perspective on actual African societies and cultures. The main objective is to help students to develop a more analytical perspective on Africa and its place in the world

Required Books

1. Charles Piot (1999). Remotely Global: Village Modernities in West Africa. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago & London, 220p.
2. James Ferguson (1999). Expectations of Modernity. Myths and Meaning of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt. University of California Press, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London,

Complementary readings:

1. Sally Falk Moore (1994). Anthropology and Africa. Changing Perspectives on a Changing Scene. The University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, 165p.
2. Peter Geschiere (1997). The modernity of Witchcraft.: University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, 311p.
3. Heike Behrend: "Images of an African Modernity. The Likoni Ferry Photographers of Mombasa, Kenya". In Jan-Georg Deutsch, Peter Probst & Heike Schmidt (ed.) (2002). African Modernities. James Currey, Oxford, pp. 85-106.

Requirements

1. Attendance and participation (40 points)

After the first day of class I will pass around an attendance sheet for each student to sign. You are allowed 3 absences without penalty. After 3 absences, 10 points will be subtracted from your attendance and participation grade for each additional absence. Exceptions to this rule will only be granted under **extreme circumstances** (as judged by instructor).

2. Quizzes (60 points)

Three (3) pop quizzes worth 20 points each, will be administered throughout the semester. They'll probably be short answer format. No make up quizzes will be given.

3. Midterm Test (100 points)

The midterm exam will be given out in-class on Tuesday, October 10. The exam will cover all material from the readings, films and in-class discussions from week 1 to week 7.

4. Book Review (60 points)

Each student should pick up one chapter from the two required books and write a 3-page double-spaced review. You are required to notify me in advance of which chapter you will review. The chapter review should be organized as follows. On page 1 you should summarize the chapter. On page 2 you should explain how the chapter helps you better understand one of the topics discussed in this course. On page 3 you should offer your criticisms and compliments of the text.

5. Final Test (150 points)

Just like the midterm exam but covering all material from week 8 to week 15. The final will be given out in-class on Tuesday, December 5.

Academic Honesty:

Please visit: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honestybrochure.htm> for University of Florida Policy on Academic Honest Guidelines.

Course outline

Week 1: Thursday, August 24:

- Orientation, course overview.
- Testing your knowledge of Africa

1- Anthropology in Africa

Week 2: Tuesday, August 29

- Lecture on Anthropology and Africa (Saly Falk Moore)

Week 2: Thursday, August 31

- Lecture on Anthropology and Africa (Saly Falk Moore)

2- Traditional versus Modern Africa

Week 3: Tuesday, September 5

- Lecture and discussion on the ideas of Tradition and Modernity

Week 3: Thursday, September 7

- Lecture on the idea of cultural relativism

3- Anthropology of small and timeless societies versus that of Remotely Global communities.

Week 4: Tuesday, September 12

- Charles Piot: Remotely Global: Village Modernity in West Africa, Chapter 1, pp.1-26.

Week 4: Thursday, September 14

- Charles Piot: Remotely Global: Village Modernity in West Africa, Chapter 2, pp. 27-51.

4- The Kabre social life: traditions alive.

Week 5: Tuesday, September 19

- Charles Piot: Remotely Global: Village Modernity in West Africa, Chapter 3

Week 5: Thursday, September 21

- Charles Piot: Remotely Global: Village Modernity in West Africa, Chapter 4, pp. 76-104.

Week 6: Tuesday, September 26

- Charles Piot: Remotely Global: Village Modernity in West Africa, Chapter 5, pp. 105-130.

Week 6: Thursday, September 28

Quiz

5- The Kabre Modernity

Week 7: Tuesday, October 3

- Charles Piot: Remotely Global: Village Modernity in West Africa, Chapter 6 and 7, pp. 131-171.

Week 7: Thursday, October 5

- Charles Piot: Remotely Global: Village Modernity in West Africa, Chapter 8, pp.172-178.

Week 8: Tuesday, October 10

- Midterm Exam

6- Modernization and disillusions

Week 8: Thursday, October 12

- James Ferguson (1999). Expectations of Modernity. Myths and Meaning of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt, Chapter 1, pp. 1-37.

Week 9: Tuesday, October 17

- James Ferguson (1999). Expectations of Modernity. Myths and Meaning of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt . Chapter 2, pp. 38-81.

Week 9: Thursday, October 19

- Film on Structural Adjustment Plans in Zambia.

7- Rural/Urban logics

Week 10: Tuesday, October 24

- James Ferguson (1999). Expectations of Modernity. Myths and Meaning of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt. Chapter 3, pp. 82-122.

Week 10: Thursday, October 26

Quiz

Week 11: Tuesday, October 31

- James Ferguson (1999). Expectations of Modernity. Myths and Meaning of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt. Chapter 4, 123-165.

Week 11: Thursday, November 2.

- Film Neiria

8- Family, Gender and Modernity

Week 12: Tuesday, November 7

- James Ferguson (1999). Expectations of Modernity. Myths and Meaning of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt. Chapter 5, pp. 166-206

Week 12: Thursday, November 9

- James Ferguson (1999). Expectations of Modernity. Myths and Meaning of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt. Chapter 6, pp.207-233.

Week 13: Tuesday, November 14

- James Ferguson (1999). Expectations of Modernity. Myths and Meaning of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt. Chapter 7, pp. 234-257.

Week 13: Thursday, November 16

Quiz no 3.

9-Beliefs and Modernity

Week 14, Tuesday, November 21

- Peter Geschiere: The modernity of Witchcraft. Chapter 2: A Full Belly: The Maka and the Djambe.

Week 14, Thursday, November 24 Thanksgiving

Week 15: Tuesday, November 28

- Peter Geschiere: The modernity of Witchcraft. Chapter 3 and chapter 4

Week 15: Thursday, November 30

- Heike Behrend: "Images of an African Modernity. The Likoni Ferry Photographers of Mombasa, Kenya". In African Modernities.

Week 16: Tuesday, December 5

Final test