

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF VIOLENCE

Anthropology 490 – 590

CRN: 14797, 14800

MW 2:00 – 3:50

Fall 2008

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Office Hours: M 11:30 – 12:30,
W 1:00 – 1:50, and by
appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class presents an upper division introduction to the anthropology of violence. We begin with a brief discussion of the biological basis of aggression. We then discuss three different forms of violence: structural violence (violence imposed by large-scale social structures), symbolic violence (violence inherent in identity politics such as sexism, racism, ethno-centrism, and jingoistic nationalism), and state violence (violence imposed by states on their citizens through counter-insurgency tactics and the organized resistance to these tactics). An in-depth examination of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka provides a case study for considering how structural, symbolic, and state violence interrelate. We then discuss universal human rights, and end the class with a consideration of post-conflict scenarios of social healing, with a focus on South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Throughout the class, positive alternatives for peace and conflict resolution are presented. Students will have ample opportunities for in-class discussion and debate.

PREREQUISITES

Previous upper division classes in Anthropology or a related social science are strongly recommended.

REQUIRED READINGS

Trawick, Margaret

2007 *Enemy Lines: Warfare, Childhood, and Play in Batticaloa*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Argueta, Manlio

1983 *One Day of Life*. Bill Brow, trans. New York: Vintage International.

Materials on *Blackboard* (see below)

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Students taking this course pass/no pass are required to earn a 'C-' or better to pass the class. For undergraduates, the following assignments will form the basis for evaluating student performance: one 5-6 page essay (35%); term test #1 (30%), term test #2 (25%), and participation/ discussion leadership on assigned class articles (10%). Graduate students will do the same assignments as undergraduates (70%) and will also submit a 20-page term paper (30%).

First Term Test (30%) Due Monday, 27 October

This take-home test will cover material in Sections 1-4 inclusive. Test questions will be posted on Blackboard. Essays should be carefully edited and formally written.

Paper (35%) Due Monday 24 November

Each student will write a 5-6 paper on the topic of state violence, drawing on materials in Section 5 (State Violence and Resistance) and Section 6 (Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka). This carefully edited paper should incorporate information from readings, films, lectures, and discussions. Essay questions will be posted on Blackboard, as will suggestions for how to write a good short essay and instructions for formatting the paper, in-text citations, and bibliographic references.

Second Term Test (25%) due Wednesday 10 December by 2:00, Anthropology Dept.

This take-home exam will cover material in Sections 7 and 8. Test questions will be posted on Blackboard. Essays should be carefully edited and formally written. Turn your essay in to the Anthropology Dept (141 Cramer Hall) by 2:00 on Wednesday, 10 December. There will be a basket at the office window.

Discussion leadership, attendance, class participation (10%)

Class participation forms an important aspect of the learning experience in this upper-level class. Participation points reward students for the work they do in class. Students will take responsibility for facilitating discussion on designated articles throughout the course. Everyone is expected to participate actively in classroom discussions; “participation” includes having read and being prepared to discuss and write about class materials.

Regular attendance is expected and required. *Each unexcused absence* counts against your participation grade, and students who have more than three (3) unexcused absences will receive *no points* for class participation. Legitimate reasons to miss class are few and dire; they include only verifiable illnesses or emergencies. Unavoidable absences should if possible be reported to the instructor before the start of the class period.

Term paper (graduate students only), Due Thurs, 11 Dec. by 2:00, Anth. Dept.

Each graduate student will write a 20-page research paper on a topic of his or her choice. Further instructions and a time-table for turning in a topic statement, annotated bibliography, outline, and rough draft will be handed out separately.

Blackboard

The course syllabus, most readings, discussion questions, assignment sheets, review sheets, and other handouts will be posted on Blackboard. You may wish to print out copies of articles for use during class discussions.

Login to Blackboard using your Odin username and password at <http://psuonline.pdx.edu/>. If you do not have an Odin account, you can sign up to get one at <https://www.account.pdx.edu>. Use of Blackboard will be demonstrated on the first day of class. Please contact the instructor if you encounter difficulties in accessing this resource.

Policy on paper submissions, extensions, and plagiarism

All written work must be completed to receive a passing grade in this class. Please submit your work in hardcopy. (*Email submissions will not be accepted.*) Retain for your own records a copy of all the work you submit. Late work will lose one letter grade for each day past due. In the event of severe illness or other emergency, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange an alternative deadline.

Students with a documented disability needing accommodations in this course should immediately inform the instructor.

Plagiarism (intellectual theft) is a serious academic offense. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will receive a failing grade. You are responsible for reading and understanding the department handout on plagiarism, which is posted on the class Blackboard site. Please ask the instructor if you have any questions.

COURSE OUTLINE

Section 1: Introduction

Elias, Robert

- 1997 A Culture of Violent Solutions. *In* The Web of Violence: From Interpersonal to Global, Jennifer Turpin and Lester R. Kurtz, eds. Pp. 117-147. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

Little, David

- 1995 “Summary” and “Introduction.” *In* Perspectives on Pacifism: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Views on Nonviolence and International Conflict, David R. Smock, ed. Pp. vii-ix, 3-9. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press.

Section 2: The Biology of Aggression

UNESCO

- 1992 [1986] Seville Statement on Violence *In* Aggression and Peacefulness in Humans and Other Primates, James Silverberg and Patrick Gray, eds. Pp. 295-7. New York: Oxford University Press.

De Waal, Frans B. M.

- 1992 Aggression as a Well-integrated Part of Primate Social Relationships: A Critique of the Seville Statement on Violence. *In* Aggression and Peacefulness in Humans and Other Primates, James Silverberg and Patrick Gray, eds. Pp. 37-56. New York: Oxford University Press.

FILM: The New Chimpanzees

Section 3: Structural Violence

Gledhill, John

- 2007 Neoliberalism. *In* A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics, David Nugent and Joan Vincent, eds. Pp. 332-348. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Ortner, Sherry

- 2006 Power and Projects: Reflections on Agency. *In* Anthropology and Social Theory, pp. 129-153. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press.

Brown, Andrew

- 2001 After the Kader Fire: Labour Organizing for Health and Safety Standards in Thailand. *In Organizing Labour in Globalizing Asia*, Jane Hutchinson and Andrew Brown, eds. Pp. 127-146. London: Routledge.

Undergrads: Read 2 of the following 3 authors. Grads: read all 3

Nestle, Marion

- 2002 Hunger in the United States: Policy Implications. *In Food in the USA: A Reader*, edited by Carole M. Counihan. Pp. 385-400. New York: Routledge.

Kleinman, Arthur

- 2000 The Violences of Everyday Life: The Multiple Forms and Dynamics of Social Violence. *In Violence and Subjectivity*, Veena Das, Arthur Kleinman, Mamphela Ramphele, and Pamela Reynolds, eds. Pp. 226-41. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Lock, Margaret

- 2000 The Quest for Human Organs and the Violence of Zeal. *In Violence and Subjectivity*, Veena Das, Arthur Kleinman, Mamphela Ramphele, and Pamela Reynolds, eds. Pp. 271-295. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Film: Northeast Passage

Section 4: Symbolic violence

Said, Edward

- 1979 Latent and Manifest Orientalism. *In Orientalism*. Pp. 201-225. New York: Vintage.

Abu-Lughod, Lila

- 2002 Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others. *American Anthropologist* 104(3): 783-790.

Malkki, Liisa H.

- 1995 Chapter 2: The Mythico-History. *In Purity and Exile: Violence, Memory, and National Cosmology among Hutu Refugees in Tanzania*. Pp. 52-104. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Biolsi, Thomas

- 2007 Race Technologies. *In A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics*, David Nugent and Joan Vincent, eds. Pp. 400-417. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Roediger, David R.

- 1997 Irish-American Workers and White Racial Formation in the Antebellum United States. *In Racial Classification and History*, E. Nathaniel Gates, ed. Pp. 247-277. New York and London: Garland Publishing.

Section 5: State Violence and Resistance

FILM: Father Roy: Inside the School of the Assassins, directed by Robert Richter
Lutz, Catherine

- 2007 Militarization. *In A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics*, David Nugent and Joan Vincent, eds. Pp. 318-331. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Arendt, Hannah

- 2004 [1969] Excerpt from *On Violence*. *In Violence in War and Peace*, Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Philippe Bourgois, eds. Pp. 236-243. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Zur, J.

- 1994 The Psychological Impact of Impunity. *Anthropology Today* (10)3: 14-16.

Crelinsten, Ronald D. and Alex P. Schmid

- 1995 Appendix: Torture—Definitions and Legal Instruments. *In The Politics of Pain: Torturers and Their Masters*. Pp. 147-150. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.

Argueta, Manlio

- 1983 *One Day of Life*. Bill Brow, trans. New York: Vintage International.

Afflitto, Frank M.

- 2000 The Homogenizing Effects of State-Sponsored Terrorism: The Case of Guatemala. *In Death Squad: The Anthropology of State Terror*. Jeffrey A. Sluka, ed. Pp. 114-126. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Undergrads: Read 1 of the following 2 authors. Grads: read both

Stephens, Lynn

- 1995 Women's Rights are Human Rights: The Merging of Feminine and Feminist Interests among El Salvador's Mothers of the Disappeared (Co-Madres). *American Ethnologist* 22(4): 807-827.

Cunningham, Hilary

- 2000 The Ethnography of Transnational Social Activism: Understanding the Global as Local Practice. *American Ethnologist* 26(3): 583-604.

Section 6: Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka

Fernando, Jude Lal

- 2007 Towards a Convergence of Resistance in Sri Lanka? *In The State of Resistance: Popular Struggles in the Global South*. Pp. 180-185. London: Zed Books.

McGilvray, Dennis

- 2008 Epilogue: Fieldnotes from the War Zone. *In Crucible of Conflict: Tamil and Muslim Society on the East Coast of Sri Lanka*. Pp. 321-363. Durham: Duke University Press.

Whitaker, Mark P.

- 2007 From Taraki to TamilNet: Sivaram as Journalist, Military Analyst and Internet Pioneer. *In Learning Politics from Sivaram: The Life and Death of a Revolutionary Tamil Journalist in Sri Lanka*. Pp. 113-156 London & Ann Arbor MI: Pluto Press.

Gamburd, Michele

- 2004 The Economics of Enlisting: A Village View of Armed Service. *In* Economy, Culture, and Civil War in Sri Lanka, Deborah Winslow and Michael D. Woost, eds. Pp. 151-167. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press.

Trawick, Margaret

- 2007 *Enemy Lines: Warfare, Childhood, and Play in Batticaloa*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Section 7: Human Rights

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Wilson, Richard Ashby

- 2007 Human Rights. *In* A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics, David Nugent and Joan Vincent, eds. Pp. 231-247. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Hodgson, Dorothy L.

- 2002 Comparative Perspectives on the Indigenous Rights Movement in Africa and the Americas. *American Anthropologist* 104(4): 1037-1049.

Martinez, Samuel

- 1996 Indifference and Indignation: Anthropology, Human Rights, and the Haitian Bracero. *American Anthropologist* 98(1): 16-25.

(GRADS) Moodie, Ellen

- 2006 Microbus crashes and Coca-Cola cash: The value of death in “free market” El Salvador. *American Ethnologist* 33(1): 63-80.

Section 8: South Africa – Apartheid and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Scott, James C.

- 1992 Domination, Acting, and Fantasy *In* The Paths to Domination, Resistance, and Terror, Carolyn Nordstrom and JoAnn Martin, eds. Pp. 55-84. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Hayner, Priscilla B.

- 2001 Unspeakable Truths: Confronting State Terror and Atrocity (Chapter 3: Why a Truth Commission? And Chapter 4: Five Illustrative Truth Commissions). Pp. 24-49. New York: Routledge.

Tutu, Desmond Mpilo

- 2000 A Victim Hearing. *In* No Future Without Forgiveness. Pp. 91-120. New York: Image, Doubleday.

Wilson, Richard A.

- 2001 Conclusions: Human Rights, Reconciliation and Retribution. *In* The Politics of Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa: Legitimizing the Post-Apartheid State. Pp. 223-230. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

White, Fiona

- 2007 Social Movements in South Africa: The Soweto Electricity Crisis Committee. *In* The State of Resistance: Popular Struggles in the Global South. Pp. 139-143. London: Zed Books.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Day	Date	Month	Readings to be discussed, assignments due, tests, handouts, films:
1	M	29	September	Handout: Syllabus
	W	1	October	Read: Elias, Little
2	M	6		Read: UNESCO, De Waal Film: The New Chimpanzees
	W	8		Read: Gledhill, Ortner, Brown
3	M	13		Read 2 of 3/ Grads read 3: Kleinman, Lock, Nestle Film: NorthEast Passage
	W	15		Read: Said, Abu-Lughod Grads due: Term paper statement & short bibliog'y
4	M	20		Read: Malkki
	W	22		Read: Biolsi, Roediger Guest lecture: Silas Crowfoot
5	M	27		Due: Term Test #1 Film: Father Roy
	W	29		Read: Lutz, Arendt Grads due: Term paper 5 Qs & annot'd bibliog'y
6	M	3	November	Read: Zur, Crelinsten & Schmid, Argueta
	W	5		Read: Afflito Read 1 of 2/ Grads read 2: Stephens, Cunningham
7	M	10		Read: Fernando, McGilvray
	W	12		Read: Whitaker, Gamburd Grads due: Term paper outline
8	M	17		Read: Trawick
	W	19		Read: Trawick Film: TBA
9	M	24		Read: Declaration of Human Rights, Wilson Due: Paper
	W	26		Read: Hodgson, Martinez Grads read: Moodie
10	M	1	December	Read: Scott, Hayner Grads due: Term paper rough draft
	W	3		Read: Tutu, Wilson, White
11	W	10		Due: Term Test #2 (Hand in at the Anthropology Department by 2:00.)
	R	11		Grads due: Term paper. (Hand in at the Anthropology Department by 2:00.)