

ANTH 423: POLITICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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Fall Semester, 2007
03 credits
05 January – 11 April, 2006
Meeting days and times:
Wednesdays: 1:15pm—4:00pm
Campus: **SGW, Room H-633**
Course Website:
<http://www.centrelink.org/ANTH423/>

“An anthropology that takes cultures to be collective creations, that reifies them into texts and objectifies their meanings, disguises and even mystifies the dynamics of knowledge and its uses [is problematic].... cultures do not simply constitute webs of significance....They constitute *ideologies*, disguising human political and economic realities as cosmically ordained. Even in classless societies, cultural ideologies empower some, subordinate others, extract the labour of some for the benefit of those whose interests the ideologies serve and legitimate. Cultures are webs of mystification as well as signification. We need to ask who *creates* and who *defines* cultural meanings, and to what ends.”

—Roger M. Keesing (1987: 161-162)

“Each agent, wittingly or unwittingly, willy nilly, is a producer and reproducer of objective meaning. Because his actions and works are the product of a *modus operandi* of which he is not the producer and has no conscious mastery, they contain an 'objective intention'...which always outruns his conscious intentions”

—Pierre Bourdieu (1977: 79)

A. OUTLINE OF PROBLEMS

In opposition to what are sometimes exaggerated portrayals of earlier anthropological depictions of local cultures as organic and homogeneous wholes seemingly existing outside of forces such as colonialism, slavery and the world market, anthropologists have argued in recent decades that cultures are not merely local but translocal, and are shaped by unequal access to resources and inequalities in power. In addition, anthropology as a discipline came in for serious critique. Many began to charge that anthropology had neglected not only the impact of Western colonialism but also anthropology's own fruition in colonial settings, seemingly collaborating with colonialism itself. In summary, anthropologists began to take note that the “remote” and “exotic” communities they had been studying had been subject to, and made dependent on, a global system of unequal development and power relations. Within these same local communities, once portrayed as egalitarian, homogeneous, organic wholes, anthropologists also re-examined internal inequalities in power relations, and the unequal distribution of knowledge and other resources. As a result, the dominant anthropological interest in this particular camp turned squarely to ideology, hegemony, class, political economy and power.

“Power” emerged as critical focus of investigation and theorizing in anthropology and has remained central in various approaches, e.g.: Marxist anthropology, cultural materialism, political anthropology, feminist anthropology, post-structuralist anthropology, and post-modernism. As a result, anthropologists have sought to uncover the ideological, cultural, and social organizational means by which some groups seek to attain or assert power as well as the resistance faced by such groups.

On the other hand, we cannot treat any critique as necessarily offering a solution or an incontestable set of counter-propositions. We might thus be wary of overly conspiratorial notions of power as absolute, of institutions exercising total control, of persons as either pawns or all-

knowing subjects that master their own destinies, or of all cultures as lacking coherence, intelligibility and affective value to those who share in those cultures. The notion of cultures as unceasingly contested, rife with conflict, unable to achieve stability and consensus might also be one that is sometimes problematic. Therefore given the various positions we will encounter on culture, power and anthropological understandings, you should be most alert and critical, without being inflamed.

In this course we will investigate various sources and expressions of power, as well as the ways in which anthropologists have sought to theorize and study power in ethnographic and theoretical terms.

B. QUESTIONS

This is only an abridged version of the many questions that this course will raise. We can expect, however, that these questions will recur in the manner of overarching questions binding the course.

1. What are the key concepts of “power” utilized by anthropologists?
2. What are the diverse sources and manifestations of power? Cultural? Economic? Political? How do they interrelate?
3. What are the theoretical and ethnographic formulations of ethnicity, class and gender in relation to culture and power?
4. How do we connect the role of states to the ethnography of power?
5. How do we theorize the relations between the conditions of material production, class, power and culture, without recapitulating reductionist or determinist theories?
6. How do we theorize the agency of the individual in light of structures of power?
7. In which ways have colonialism and globalization structured local power relations?
8. What are the relationships between colonial power and anthropological knowledge?

C. COURSE REQUIREMENTS, GRADING, AND POLICIES

PARTICIPATION: (15%)

Each student is expected to attend classes regularly, to demonstrate preparedness, and to facilitate the discussion by relating to the topics responsibly (avoiding personal attacks, for example). This portion of the course grade will be based upon evidence of reading, critical thinking, interest, and demonstrated understanding. This part of the course grade will not be decided upon until final grades for this course are prepared for submission to the university. The basis for the course director arriving at a grade for this portion is decidedly impressionistic, without being random or unfair. Class discussions will normally take place during the second half of each week's session. Students will first be asked to reconstruct the arguments set forth in the assigned readings and to discern ways in which the theoretical constructs can be applied. Secondly, students will be invited to discuss and debate questions they raise with the course director, or that the course director may raise.

MID-TERM TAKE HOME ESSAY EXAM: (25%)

You will be assigned one essay question based on assigned readings, lecture material and class discussions for Part One of the course (see the schedule of classes below). Details on the length and format, as well as the actual question, will be provided in advance. The exam will be **due at the start of class on Wednesday, October 10.**

RESEARCH PAPER: (5% + 25%)

By **Wednesday, October 3, at the latest**, each student is to hand in a **research topic prospectus** (2-3 pages), including a select working list of about five published sources. This prospectus will provide incentive for investigating a body of literature on a selected area of the world and articulating a research focus; it will assist the instructor in offering guidance. The prospectus itself must be approved by the instructor and will be assigned a grade worth **5%** of the final course grade.

The research paper, based upon the prospectus, is to be prepared and submitted by **Wednesday, October 31**. The research paper should not exceed 10 pages in length (typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins).

There are two options for the research paper: (1) you may choose to focus on a particular ideology, event, conflict, individual or movement, in a specific part of the world, making sure to apply theoretical approaches from political anthropology while using a variety of sources, including other anthropological literature on the topic; or, (2) for lack of a better term, an "extended book analysis" project, where you read and provide a complete and detailed summary of a "classic" in political anthropology and then, using the aid of more advanced library search methods, you track the impact of the book through other books, journal articles, and book reviews, in order to come to an estimation of the influence of the book in focus, and reactions to it. Finally, you will try to situate the book within the course content as outlined in this syllabus and in class. A list of suggested titles will be provided. In addition, possible research topics are also suggested at the end of this syllabus, a list which is neither definitive nor exhaustive and is open to including your suggested sources.

The paper must be typewritten and must conform to general rules for journal manuscripts (double-spaced, appropriate margins, etc.). Proper and consistent citation of sources is required and should follow the style suggested below. Repeated errors that show a lack of proofreading, incorrect citation and referencing, and lack of essay formatting will each receive a deduction of 5% of the points for the research paper. Lateness will be penalized at 5% of the points for the paper, for each day late, including weekends. Extensions must be arranged in advance (see Note below).

FINAL EXAM (30%)

Two essay questions will be assigned in advance, to be worked on at home, and then written up in a session to be scheduled for sometime during the December 5-20 examinations period. Questions will be assigned in advance of the last day of class. Students will be permitted to bring a single page of notes with them to the examination room. The exam will last a maximum of three hours. Note that final exams are not returned to students.

How Student Work is Appraised:

For all work done in this course you will receive a numerical grade which will be converted to a letter grade when final grades are processed. To translate numbers into letter grades, please consult the following chart, copied directly from a faculty handbook in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. It is vital that you understand that the characterizations below (i.e., “excellent”) are central in guiding the instructor’s evaluation of the quality of a paper.

A paper that covers all of the basics, in a reasonably competent fashion, without major flaws, is deemed “satisfactory.” One that has few flaws, and shows an advanced understanding, writing and research ability is deemed “very good.” A paper that leaves little room for improvement (within the context of expectations of a 400 level course), demonstrating that the student has taken considerable initiative, showing sophisticated understanding and research ability, is deemed “excellent.”

A+	90-100	} EXCELLENT	C+	67- 69	} SATIS- FACTORY	D+	57- 59	} POOR
A	85- 89		C	63- 66		D	53- 56	
A-	80- 84		C-	60- 62		D-	50- 52	
B+	77- 79	} VERY GOOD	VERY POOR		} F or FNS	40 (30-49)		
B	73- 76					20 (0-29)		
B-	70- 72							

In general, student work is assessed in the following manner. Student assignments are evaluated in comparison with each other, normally done by the instructor assembling a random sample and highlighting the best elements of each paper, which then forms the template by which papers are judged. The paper(s) that come(s) closest to achieving the highest standards for student work will receive the highest grades. Students are evaluated on the extent and depth to which they have utilized assigned readings (when applicable). Students are also evaluated on their ability to successfully apply key course concepts to their own writing. Analytical and conceptual clarity (the argument does not contradict itself repeatedly, the writer stays focused, any concepts used are defined, concepts are related to one another when applicable, pros and cons are considered, assertions are supported with evidence or logic), are vital elements of a paper deemed to be “very good” or better. Structure, logical organization, and effective writing are of substantial importance. In the case of research papers, students that demonstrate having taken initiative by covering a reasonably wide and diverse range of sources will be appropriately rewarded.

LATE SUBMISSIONS:

Where extensions for assignments are **not** negotiated *in advance* (“my hard drive was wiped clean” and “my computer is in for repairs” are not acceptable reasons), *only* medical certification will be accepted as a valid reason for delayed submission of assignments. Otherwise, **5%** of the particular grade for that assignment will be deducted on each day (weekends included) that the assignment is late. Note that after 10 days of being late, it will be impossible to receive a passing

grade for that assignment. After 20 days, your grade for that assignment will have reached zero, and it will not be accepted. *Note that papers are not stamped by the Department: the date I retrieve a paper is the date of submission, unless you email me a copy of your paper as soon as it is finished—you are still responsible for handing in a hard copy.* There are neither supplemental exams nor other forms of supplemental work in this course.

PLEASE NOTE:

Arrangements for Late Completion beyond the last class, should be negotiated and arranged with me before final grades are due. Only the most compelling reasons, with convincing documentation, can be considered.

There will be *no* supplemental exams.

Do *not* call the main office of the Department for course-related inquiries. Do *not* submit your assignments to the Department: they are not stamped, thus there is no official record of when you deposited your paper, and I will be forced to use the day I actually pick up your paper as the date of submission, or, the date on which you email me a copy (but in *all* cases except the final exam, I require printed copies of your work).

Finally, please note that the instructor may need to contact the class by e-mail, periodically, for important announcements. It is vital that you log in to your “MyConcordia Portal” account, using your student ID, and ensure that you have a valid e-mail address that you frequently check.

Academic Regulations

Section 16 (Academic Information: Definitions and Regulations) of the Undergraduate Calendar will be strictly administered – particularly on deadlines, Failing Grades, Administrative Notations, Late Completions=‘INCompletes’ (Grade/INC), ‘Failed No Supplementals’ (FNS), ‘Did Not Writes’ (Grade/DNW). Make sure you get a copy of the undergraduate calendar, also available online at <http://registrar.concordia.ca/calendar/calendar.html>, and read that material.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PLAGIARISM cannot be tolerated. In instances where plagiarism is detected, the instructor is *obligated* by Concordia’s Academic Code to report this to the Dean’s office. You *must* visit the course website for precise details on what constitutes plagiarism and the penalties this can incur. Alternatively, you may type in the following URLs into the address bar of your Internet browser:

<http://secretariat.concordia.ca/policies/academic/en/Code%20of%20Conduct-Academic.pdf> =
Concordia Code of Academic Conduct in PDF format

<http://cdev.concordia.ca/CnD/studentlearn/Help/handouts/WritingHO/AvoidingPlagiarism.html> =
Concordia University Library document to help you Avoid Plagiarism

Bibliographic and citation format: see

<http://www.library.mcgill.ca/human/SUBGUIDE/pdf/turab.pdf>

Announcements:

In the event of an unscheduled cancellation of a class, the appropriate notice is posted by the University on its website. See the "Class Cancellations" link on www.concordia.ca. In addition, digital billboards on campus will announce the cancellation. There will be no additional notices posted in any other form, therefore please consult these sources before you attend class. In other cases, news for the class will be posted on the course website.

D. REQUIRED TEXTS & COURSE RESERVE

(These are available for purchase in the Concordia Bookstore, SGW, and one copy of each is available on the Course Reserve, Webster Circulation Desk)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Vincent, Joan, ed. 2002. *The Anthropology of Politics: A Reader in Ethnography, Theory, and Critique*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Gledhill, John. 2000. *Power and its Disguises: Anthropological Perspectives on Politics*. London: Pluto.

In addition, the following items have been placed on reserve at the Webster Circulation Desk. These may be consulted in addition to the required texts above, but cannot substitute for them (the first two items below being obvious exceptions):

Call Number: GN 492 G55 2000

Author/Editor: Gledhill, John

Title: Power and its disguises : anthropological perspectives on politics

Edition: 2nd

Call Number: GN 492 A593 2002

Author/Editor: Vincent, Joan

Title: The anthropology of politics : a reader in ethnography, theory, and critique

Call Number: GN 492 C66 2004

Author/Editor: edited by David Nugent and Joan Vincent

Title: A companion to the anthropology of politics

Call Number: GN 492 A64 2006

Author/Editor: edited by Aradhana Sharma and Akhil Gupta

Title: The anthropology of the state : a reader

Call Number: GN 492.2 A57 2005

Author/Editor: edited by Jonathan Xavier Inda

Title: Anthropologies of modernity : Foucault, governmentality, and life politics

Call Number: GN 492 K87 2001

Author/Editor: Donald V. Kurtz

Title: Political anthropology : power and paradigms

Call Number: GN 490 P6

Author/Editor: Edited by Marc J. Swartz, Victor W. Turner, and Arthur Tuden Title: Political anthropology

Call Number: GN 490 B3413 1970b

Author/Editor: Georges Balandier

Title: Political anthropology. Translated from the French by A. M. Sheridan Smith

Call Number: GN 492 S74 2005

Author/Editor: edited by Christian Krohn-Hansen and Knut G. Nustad

Title: State formation : anthropological perspectives

Call Number: GN 492 E46 2005

Author/Editor: Benoit de L'Estoile, Federico Neiburg, and Lygia Sigaud, editors Title: Empires, nations, and natives : anthropology and state-making

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

1. Wednesday, October 3: Research Paper Prospectus due in class
 2. Wednesday, October 10: Take-Home Essay Exam due in class
 3. Wednesday, October 31: Research Paper due in class.
 4. December 5-20: Final Exam to be scheduled
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SCHEDULE OF LECTURES & READINGS

PART ONE: POWER AND POLITICS FROM STATELESS SOCIETIES TO GLOBAL CAPITALISM

Week #1: Wednesday, September 5

OVERVIEW OF COURSE OBJECTIVES, REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

--What is Political Anthropology and Why Study it?

[please commence readings for the following week]

Week #2: Wednesday, September 12

FACING POLITICS AND POWER IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Readings:

1. Ch. 9 [Vincent reader] – Marc Swartz, Victor Turner, Arthur Tuden, “Political Anthropology,” 102-109.
2. Ch. 19 [Vincent reader] – Eric Wolf, “Facing Power—Old Insights, New Questions,” 222-233.
3. Gledhill, Ch. 1, “Locating the political: a political anthropology for today,” 1-22.

Week #3: Wednesday, September 19

POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND ROLES IN STATELESS SOCIETIES

--Evolutionary Typologies of Power, Production and Social Organization

Readings:

1. Gledhill, Ch. 2, “The origins and limits of coercive power: the anthropology of stateless societies,” 23-44.
2. Ch. 2 [Vincent reader] – E.E. Evans-Pritchard, “Nuer Politics: Structure and System (1940),” 34-38.

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

- Last day to add two-term and fall-term courses
- Deadline for withdrawal with tuition refund from two-term and fall-term courses

Week #4: Wednesday, September 26

POLITICS IN AGRARIAN SOCIETIES AND THE RISE OF THE STATE

Readings:

1. Gledhill, Ch. 3, “From hierarchy to surveillance: the politics of agrarian civilizations and the rise of the western national state,” 45-66.
2. Ch. 5 [Vincent reader] – Talal Asad, “Market Model, Class Structure and Consent: A Reconsideration of Swat Political Organization,” 65-81.

Week #5: Wednesday, October 3

COLONIAL STATES

Readings:

1. Gledhill, Ch. 4, "The political anthropology of colonialism: a study of domination and resistance," 67-91.
 2. Ch. 17 [Vincent reader] – Jean and John Comaroff, "Of Revelation and Revolution," 203-212.
 3. Ch. 14 [Vincent reader] – Ann Stoler, "Perceptions of Protest: Defining the Dangerous in Colonial Sumatra," 153-171
- Research Paper Prospectus due in class

PART TWO: TRANSNATIONAL POWER AND POLITICS

Week #6: Wednesday, October 10

COLONIALISM AND WORLD CAPITALISM

Readings:

1. Gledhill, Ch. 5, "Post-colonial states: legacies of history and pressures of modernity," 92-126.
 2. Ch. 20 [Vincent reader] – June Nash, "Ethnographic Aspects of the World Capitalist System," 234-254.
 3. Ch. 12 [Vincent reader] – Talal Asad, "From the History of Colonial Anthropology to the Anthropology of Western Hegemony," 133-142
- Take-Home Essay exam due in class

Week #7: Wednesday, October 17

FROM COLONIALISM TO "GLOBALIZATION"

Readings

1. Ch. 21 [Vincent reader] – Benedict Anderson, "The New World Disorder," 261-270.
2. Ch. 23 [Vincent reader] – Jonathan Friedman, "Transnationalization, Socio-political Disorder, and Ethnification as Expressions of Declining Global Hegemony," 285-300.
3. Immanuel Wallerstein, 1997, "The Rise and Future Demise of World-Systems Analysis" (linked to from the schedule of readings on the course website)

Week #8: Wednesday, October 24

TRANSNATIONAL POWER

Readings:

1. Ch. 27 [Vincent reader] – Aihwa Ong, "Flexible Citizenship among Chinese Cosmopolitans," 338-355.
2. Ch. 28 [Vincent reader] – Nina Glick Schiller and Georges Fouron, "Long-distance Nationalism Defined," 356-365.
3. Ch. 22 [Vincent reader] – Arjun Appadurai, "Grassroots Globalization and the Research

Imagination,” 271-284.

Week #9: Wednesday, October 31

GLOBAL PROCESSES AND LOCAL RESISTANCES

Readings:

1. Gledhill, Ch. 7, “Political process and ‘global disorder’: perspectives on contemporary conflict and violence,” 153-183.
 2. Ch. 32 [Vincent reader] – Marc Edelman, “Peasants against Globalization,” 409-423.
- Research Paper due in class

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

- Last day for academic withdrawal from fall-term courses

PART THREE: AGENCY, IDEOLOGY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Week #10: Wednesday, November 7

STRUCTURE, AGENCY, AND POLITICAL CONFLICT

Readings:

1. Gledhill, Ch. 6, “From macro-structure to micro-process: anthropological analysis of political practice,” 127-152.
2. Ch. 2. [Vincent reader] – Sharon Elaine Hutchinson, “Nuer Ethnicity Militarized,” 39-52.
3. Ch. 3. [Vincent reader] – Max Gluckman, “*The Bridge*: Analysis of a Social Situation in Zululand,” 53-58.
4. Ch. 4. [Vincent reader] – Ronald Frankenberg, “*The Bridge*’Revisited,” 59-64.

Week #11: Wednesday, November 14

ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY AND POLITICAL AGENCY: TRANSACTIONALISM, PRIMORDIALISM AND PRACTICE THEORY

Readings:

1. Gledhill, Ch. 8, “Society against the modern state?: the politics of social movements,” 184-213.
2. Ch. 7. [Vincent reader] – F. G. Bailey, “Stratagems and Spoils,” 90-95.
3. Ch. 8. [Vincent reader] – Victor Turner, “Passages, Margins, and Poverty: Religious Symbols of Communitas,” 96-101.

Week #12: Wednesday, November 21

ANTHROPOLOGICAL COMMITMENT

Readings:

1. Ch. 10. [Vincent reader] – Kathleen Gough, “New Proposals for Anthropologists,” 110-

119.

2. Gledhill, Ch. 9, “Anthropology and politics: commitment, responsibility and the academy,” 214-242.

3. Ch. 35. [Vincent reader] – Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, “Thinking Academic Freedom in Gendered Post-coloniality,” 452-460.

➤ Questions for Final Exam distributed in class

Week #13: Wednesday, November 28

REVIEW OF KEY CONCEPTS AND QUESTIONS IN POLITICAL ANTHROPOLOGY & CONCLUSION

➤ FINAL EXAM: to be scheduled for the Dec. 5-20 examinations period

SAMPLE OF POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS

For the Extended Book Analysis Option, here are some “classics” (some new) in political anthropology that you might consider, apart from any others that you might suggest in your research paper prospectus. [check the course website for more up to date details on the assignments]

Bailey, F.G. 1969. *Stratagems and Spoils: A Social Anthropology of Politics*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell & Moll, Ltd.

Balandier, G. 1970. *Political Anthropology*. New York: Random House.

Balibar, Etienne and Immanuel Wallerstein. 1991. *Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities*. London: Verso.

Barth, Frederick. 1959. *Political Leadership Among the Swat Pathans*. London: Athalone.

Beacon. Mair, Lucy. 1962. *Primitive Government*. Baltimore: Penguin.

Clastres, Pierre. 1977. *Society Against the State*. New York: Urizen Books.

Cohen, Abner. 1981. *The Politics of Elite Culture*. Berkeley: University of California.

Cohen, Abner.. 1974. *Two-Dimensional Man: An Essay on the Anthropology of Power and Symbolism in Complex Societies*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Cohen, R., & E. Service, eds. 1978. *Origins of the State: The Anthropology of Political Evolution*. Philadelphia: ISHI.

Comaroff, Jean. 1985. *Body of power; Spirit of Resistance: the Culture and History of a South Africa People*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Donham, Donald. 1999. *History, Power, Ideology: Central Issues in Marxism and Anthropology*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Fortes, Meyer and E. E. Evans-Pritchard, eds. 1940. *African Political Systems*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Fried, Morton H. 1967. *The Evolution of Political Society*. New York: Random House.

Gluckman, Max. 1955. *Custom and Conflict in Africa*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Gluckman, Max. 1963. *Order and Rebellion in Tribal Africa: Collected Essays*. London: Cohen & West.

Kapferer, Bruce. 1997. *The Feast of the Sorcerer: Practices of Consciousness and Power*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.

Leach, Edmund R. 1954. *Political Systems of Highland Burma*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Middleton, J. and D. Tait. 1958. *Tribes Without Rulers: Studies in African Segmentary Systems*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Ong, Aihwa. 1999. *Flexible Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Schapera, Isaac. 1956. *Government and Politics in Tribal Societies*. London: Watts

Scott, James C. 1985. *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Scott, James. 1990. *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Service, Elman R. 1975. *Origins of the State and Civilization: The Processes of Cultural Evolution*. New York: W. W. Norton.

Williams, Brackette. 1991. *Stains on My Name, War in My Veins: Guyana and the Politics of Cultural Struggle*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Wolf, Eric R. 1969. *Peasant Wars of the Twentieth Century*. New York: Harper and Row.

Wolf, Eric R. 1999. *Envisioning Power: Ideologies of Dominance and Crisis*. Berkeley: University of California.

Worsley, Peter. 1968. *The Trumpet Shall Sound*, 2nd ed. New York: Schocken.

For the Research Paper option, here are only *some* topics, issues, and themes you might consider, keeping in mind that this by no means a representative or comprehensive list of possibilities. Hopefully this list will serve to provide some inspiration for alternative research topics, and you should feel free to adopt/adapt any of these topics. [check the course website for more up to date details on the assignments]

- “African Tribalism” and the Hutu-Tutsi conflict in Rwanda
- “Third World Feminism”: any different from “First World” Feminism?
- “Third World Marxism”: any different from “First World” Marxism?
- Bolivian Amerindians in national political campaigns
- Challenges to Transactionalist Theory
- Che Guevara in Bolivia: analyses of a revolution that never was
- Conceptual problems with the category of “peasant” in anthropology
- Conceptualizing “passive” and “active” *resistance* in a historical case study: problems and limitations with the idea of resistance?
- Consumerism as an expression of agency? Anthropological debates on culture, consumption and political economy
- Culture, resistance and the Gramscian concept of “hegemony”
- Ethnic Nationalism and the demise of states such as Yugoslavia and the USSR
- Gandhian philosophies and the politics of transformation in India
- Instrumentalist versus primordialist approaches to ethnic politics, applied to a specific case study
- Inter-ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka
- Kayapo, Xavante or other Amerindians of the Brazilian Amazon, in conflict with the national state and/or international development agencies
- Liberation Theology and working class political rebellion in Latin America

- Malcolm X and the movement for African-American civil rights and social transformation
- Messianic leaders
- Millenarian movements
- Movements embodying the principle of “think globally, act locally.”
- Peasant rebellions
- Reformism versus revolution: anthropological analysis of a historical case study
- Religion and grassroots political resistance: e.g. Vodou and politics in Haiti
- Structural functionalism: theoretical problems concerning conflict and change
- The Eurocentricity of Development Theories and Practices
- The politics of decolonization in states which recently gained independence (i.e., post-1960s)
- The politics of national identity in settler societies: i.e., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc.
- The politics of stabilization: how some political systems seemingly endure with little change
- The symbols of populist politics in Peronist Argentina
- The Zapatista rebellion in Chiapas, Mexico
- Transformations of traditional chiefdoms under colonial rule
- What are “post-colonial politics”? Theoretical review, applied to a case study
- World-Systems Analysis versus Marxist Theories of Capitalism: anthropological responses