

ANTH 423 – POLITICAL ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH PAPER PROSPECTUS

By **Wednesday, October 3rd at the latest**, each student is to present to the course director a **research topic prospectus** (2-3 pages), including select examples of 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 if any is necessary. The prospectus will be assigned a grade worth **5%** of the final course grade. If the prospectus is *not* approved by the course director, he will contact you immediately, most likely by email.

With reference to those papers focusing on a classic work in political anthropology, your prospectus should indicate why you choose to examine that particular work. In terms of your working bibliography of sources you may use, in this case you can indicate a select list of other books, journal articles and review articles in which your chosen book is also discussed and assessed.

For those choosing a topic focusing on an event, group, conflict, etc., your working bibliography is merely meant to indicate which sources you might consult, and to provide me with some advance notice of how clearly you have begun to think through the issues at the heart of your research paper. Therefore, while there is no need to provide an outline of the contents of your intended paper, you should indicate the main questions, debates or problems that interest you and that form the focus of your concern in undertaking this research project.

You are not required to produce carbon copies of perspectives and approaches covered in class. What is covered in class, both in lectures, and in discussions of the readings, is simply part of an attempt to acquaint students with the broad outlines of this subfield called political anthropology. You should therefore feel encouraged to pursue what interests you most when undertaking this research project.

The grading for this prospectus is very simple: a prospectus that covers the basics—a working title, a statement of the research topic and its main problem, and a working bibliography—will receive 5 out of 5. A prospectus that is little more than a title, or just a title, will receive 2 out of 5. A blank page or no submission will receive 0 out of 5.

Regarding bibliographies:

This is tedious yet very simple. Course work is required to follow the citation and reference formatting as set out in the following resource:

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