Professor Donna Goldstein
Anthropology 7010
Meeting: Wed. evenings at 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Spring 2000

Title: Political Economy, Globalization, and Cultural Processes: Anthropological Approaches to Modernity

Course Schedule:
Wednesday Evenings from 6:00-8:30.
Office Hours: 2:00 – 3:00 Wednesdays
Tel.: 492-5484

Course Description/Rationale:
This seminar seeks to introduce graduate students in anthropology to a lineage of theoretical (both from within and from outside of anthropology) and ethnographic works that have preceded and, in some sense, are framing our understanding of globalization processes. Because this class is designed for graduate students in socio-cultural anthropology, however, the first half of the seminar will cover some classic theorists in political economy—Marx and the anthropological legacy of Eric Wolf and Sidney Mintz. It will then shift to theorists such as Michel Foucault, David Harvey, and Ben Anderson, who frame our understanding of late capitalism, modernity, nationalism, and the state. Finally, the course will grapple with some of the more recent anthropological contributions to our understanding of globalization, including the work of Aihwa Ong, Arjun Appadurai, and Akhil Gupta.

Required Packet and Books:
Two packets of articles will be placed in the graduate student lounge. It will be made available to you during the first two weeks of the course so that you can make your own copies. Please make arrangements during the first two weeks to sign the packet out for a few hours and have the entire packet copied at your favorite copy place. Please be considerate and offer to make a packet for a fellow student or two so that everyone can be prepared early on in the class. Please be careful with the pages so that everyone can continue to use the automatic feeder.

Required books have been ordered and will be available at the CU bookstore.

Course Requirements:

Readings and Class Discussion: We will conduct the course as a weekly seminar. Therefore, all students are expected to have completed the assigned required readings prior to each class and be prepared to engage in class discussion. This is extremely important for the success of the course. Be prepared with at least three reactions,
comments, critiques and/or questions in response to the readings for each class. Regular attendance is expected of all students. This class is strictly limited to 15 students and advanced graduate students in anthropology will be given preference.

**Presentations:** Students are expected to give 2 formal fifteen minute long presentations on one or more of the week’s readings over the course of the semester. You should organize your presentation on the assumption that everyone has already done the readings in question, and therefore you should spend no more than a few minutes summarizing the readings.

The bulk of your presentation should focus on addressing the key issues raised in the readings, the apparent agendas (theoretical and otherwise of its author(s)), your critiques of the reading (i.e., strengths, weaknesses, whether or not the argument, data, or analysis is convincing), and what significance the selection(s) has in the grand scheme of anthropological (or some other interesting disciplinary discourse) theory. Close your presentation by suggesting some aspects of the readings that you feel are interesting areas for further class discussion, particularly those aspects which you may not have had time to address during your presentation. Do a practice run of your presentation beforehand in order to make sure that you do not exceed the time limit.

**Short Papers:** Every other week a “one-pager” discussing the week’s readings is required. The class will be divided into 2 groups—A and B— during the first week’s class, and the grouping you choose determines when you write your one-pagers. **Six one-page papers** are due for each individual student. Please hand in **2 copies** at the end of class for the week of your one-pager. One copy will be returned to you and one will be kept on file. They are due every other week. They should be interesting and engaging and should explore one idea (but possibly more) from the readings in detail. A good way to think about these assignments is to imagine yourself as a book or article review writer, addressing both a broad intellectual audience as well as an anthropological audience. If you disagree with an author’s methods or conclusions, then explain why and give an alternative argument (and source) that explains your point. Try to be as thorough, precise, and as specific as possible.

**Long Final Paper:** One 10-page final paper is due for the course. Your paper represents an opportunity for you to critically respond to course readings and discussions. You may choose your own thematic topic, but the paper should focus at the very least on either a section of readings, or a week’s readings. Usually, better papers take a smaller topic and focus on one idea in-depth. You may need to consult with sources outside of the course, but equally as well, you could set up a discussion using mainly the sources we cover this semester.

**Participation in Editorial Groups (for Longer Paper):**
I suggest that all students participate and take advantage of belonging to an editorial group. This helps you to present your ideas publicly among peers and enables you to give one another feedback and to make the ideas in your long paper clearer before handing it in. The supporting belief here is that editing and re-writing simply make for better ideas. Later in the semester, I will arrange for
each student to belong to one editorial group. You will have the opportunity to meet during one class meeting (the week after spring break) to discuss/edit your paper with peers.

Evaluation of Graduate Students:
Participation in Class Discussions and Two Presentations..............20%
Six One-Pagers (Due Every Other Week)........................................30%
One Long Paper (10 pages double-spaced)......................................50%

Note: Final Papers Due on May 8th at 12:00 p.m.
No Late Papers or Incompletes.

Note: By the end of the semester, each participant will have, at minimum:

• presented twice
  (a good strategy is to present the same week you have a one-pager due)
• written 6 one-pagers reflecting on readings
• written one 10-page paper reflecting on themes or set of readings from course

Class Culture:

I hope the organization of this class will encourage it to be more of a “salon” atmosphere where ideas are exchanged and differing perspectives are respected. I am hoping that the combination of good food, and a highly motivated group of participants (as presenters and as one-page writers) will help to make this seminar not only intellectually stimulating, but also a pleasant place to be. I ask that participants be courteous and respectful to others. In other words, I would like to stimulate intellectual exchange and the ability to discuss and disagree with one another and to understand that we can do this in a friendly, civilized, and respectful manner.

Required Texts:


To be Possibly Chosen for Final Reading:


Week 1: January 19: Organizational Meeting: Sign-ups
1-Sign up for Groups A and B
2-Sign up for Presentations
3-Sign up for Cooking and Cleaning
4-Sign up for Editorial Groups (Later in Semester)

Film Viewing: *Media and Democracy in the 21st Century* (George Gerbner)
Cultural Imperialism and Homogenization of Media Perspectives

Dinner and Clean-up: Joanna Mishtal and Mick Khoo

Week 2: January 26: Lay Visions of Globalization (Breathless Enthusiasts)

Week 3: February 2: Overview and Background Reading: Anthropology, Political Economy, and Methodology


Week 4: February 9: Political Economy and Anthropology


Week 5: February 16: Nationalism and the Growth of Nation-States


Week 6: February 23: Modernism, Postmodernism, Capitalism and Late Capitalism


**Week 7: March 1: Foucault, Power, and Governmentality**


**Week 8: March 8: The Rise of Postnational Orders?**


*Suggested:*


**Week 9: March 15: Class Meeting Cancelled: LASA Meetings in Miami**

*Editorial Group Meetings for Final Paper.*
Week 10: March 22: Questions of Citizenship in a Global Order


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Week 11: Spring Break March 27-31 (No Class Meetings)
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Topical/Ethnographic Choices

Week 12: April 5: New Information Technologies


Week 13: April 12: Gender, Labor, and Globalization


Week 14: April 19: Off-Shore Labor Issues


Week 15: April 26: Refugees, Diasporas, Displacement

Week 16: May 3: Your choice of these or others that you suggest


Or


Or


Or


**Note:** Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with their professors during the first two weeks of class.