

ANT 310: Politics, Society, and Culture  
Spring Term, 2006: Tuesday, Thursday 11:30 am – 12:45 pm, Chambers B22

Instructor: Prof. Eriberto P. Lozada Jr.

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Office Hours: M, W, F 9:30-10:20 am; T, Th 10:00 -11:15 am or by appointment



This course is seminar on political anthropology. As a subfield of anthropology, studies classified as political anthropology have looked at issues of comparative political systems, local level politics, the connections between local and wider political systems, and the cultural and symbolic aspects of power and legitimacy.

In this seminar, we will focus on issues of authority, organization, and power. How do social groups define and set boundaries on themselves? How is authority developed and passed on? How do political leaders and organizations maintain power over other people? How has globalization affected politics?

### Course Readings

Vincent, Joan 2002. *The Anthropology of Politics: A Reader in Ethnography, Theory, and Critique*. Boston: Blackwell. ISBN: 0-631-22436-4

Verdery, Katherine *The Political Lives of Dead Bodies: Reburial and Postsocialist Change* Columbia U. Press 0-231-11231-9 Required

Herzfeld, Michael 1992. *The Social Production of Indifference: Exploring the Symbolic Roots of Western Bureaucracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 0-226-32908-9.

Lansing, Stephen 1991. *Priests and Programmers: Technologies of Power in the Engineered Landscape of Bali*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. ISBN:0-691-02863-X

In addition to the above books, various articles will be required. Articles are available from the library electronic reserve, and are to be completed by the date assigned on the course schedule.

## Course Requirements

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each seminar meeting; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. Your engagement with the material is vital for the success of this learning experience.

*Seminar Participation: (25%)* Students are expected to attend all classes, do the readings prior to class, and **discuss the implications of the issues** in the classroom. This includes your leading two seminar meetings (10%; we will schedule this on the first day of class).

*Discussion Board: (10%)* **Each week for Tuesdays**, students will write a brief reaction on Blackboard towards an idea prompted by the reading; I will help initiate reactions on the discussion board, but you should feel free to write whatever you feel is relevant. They are due prior to the start of each seminar meeting. I expect you to have also reviewed what your peers have written – you may respond to what they have written, but I expect all exchanges to be as civil as if they were said in person during the seminar meeting. **LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

*Research Project: (65%):* (15% proposal and bibliography; 15% presentation; 35% research paper)

This semester-long research project is essentially what centers the seminar. We will create groups of 2 or 3 people that will research a specific case study on local politics and produce an appropriate final project such as an ethnographic film, multimedia website, or an extended paper. This project must be based on data that each group will collect (either from their own fieldwork or from published data); fieldwork in the local area will be highly encouraged. We will also need to get IRB approval early in the term. There will be many more handouts throughout the term. In addition, each group, after consultation with me, will have one seminar meeting period to select readings and direct our exploration of their topic. We will be working on this throughout the term, and will adjust our schedules to make the most effective use of our time to succeed with this project.

While we will work together on the group project, other papers for this seminar must be your own individual work. All work is subject to the Davidson College Honor Code as stated in the student handbook. If there are individual accommodations for special needs, please let me know and authorize the Dean of Students to contact me so that we can work something out.

## Schedule of Seminar Meetings

<b>Foundational Theory</b>	
Tuesday, 10 January	Introduction to Political Anthropology
Thursday, 12 January	Foundational Political Theory <b>Reading:</b> Vincent Introduction, Part 1; Putnam article (e-reserve)
Tuesday, 17 January	Weber <b>Reading:</b> Weber “Charisma and its Transformation”(e-reserve)
Thursday, 19 January	<b>Discussion:</b> Authority, Charisma, Civil Society, Market, Political Economy <b>Reading:</b> Marx article (e-reserve)
<b>Politics in the Field</b>	
Tuesday, 24 January	<b>Reading:</b> Vincent, p.29-81
Thursday, 27 January	<b>Reading:</b> Vincent, p. 90-126
<b>Case Study: Political Economy, Indonesia, Postcolonialism</b>	
Tuesday, 31 January	<b>Reading:</b> Vincent, p. 129-171
Thursday, 2 February	<b>Reading:</b> Lansing, p. 3-49
Tuesday, 7 February	<b>Reading:</b> Lansing, p. 50-94
Thursday, 9 February	<b>Reading:</b> Lansing, p. 95-143
Tuesday, 14 February	<b>Reading:</b> Vincent p. 234-246, 203-221
<b>Nationalism and Nation-States</b>	
Thursday, 16 February	<b>Reading:</b> Anderson excerpt (on Blackboard); Gellner chapter (on Blackboard)
Tuesday, 21 February	<b>Reading:</b> Handler excerpt; Tambiah excerpt (on Blackboard)
Thursday, 23 February	<b>Reading:</b> Paley article <b>Assignment:</b> Fieldwork/Web/Library Project Due
27 February – 3 March	Spring Break: Have a good vacation!
<b>Ethnicity, Nation-States, and Bureaucracy</b>	
Tuesday, 7 March	<b>Reading:</b> Keyes article, Constable article
Thursday, 9 March	<b>Reading:</b> Herzfeld, p. 1-70
Tuesday, 14 March	<b>Reading:</b> Herzfeld, p. 71-126 <b>Assignment:</b> Proposal and Bibliography Due

Thursday, 16 March	<b>Reading:</b> Herzfeld, p. 127-184
<b>Case Study: Postsocialism in Eastern Europe</b>	
Tuesday, 21 March	<b>Reading:</b> Vincent p. 366-398; Verdery p. 1-22
Thursday, 23 March	<b>Reading:</b> Verdery p. 23-93
Tuesday, 28 March	<b>Reading:</b> Verdery p.95-127
<b>Globalization and Postmodernity</b>	
Thursday, 30 March	<b>Reading:</b> Vincent p. 257-270; 285-312; p. 452-459
Tuesday, 4 April	<b>Reading:</b> Sen essay; Huntington essay (on Blackboard)
Thursday, 6 April	<b>Reading:</b> Kung essay; Robertson essay (on Blackboard)
Tuesday, 11 April	<b>Reading:</b> Appadurai essays (on Blackboard)
Thursday, 13 April	<b>Reading:</b> Appadurai essays (on Blackboard)
Thursday, 20 April	<b>Reading:</b> Vincent p. 313-365; p. 399-437 <b>Student Presentations</b>
Tuesday, 25 April	<b>Student Presentations</b>
Thursday, 27 April	<b>Student Presentations</b>
Tuesday, 4 May	<b>Assignments:</b> Final Papers Due