

ANT 310: Politics, Society, and Culture
Spring Term, 2003: Tuesday, Thursday 11:30 am – 12:45 pm, Chambers 120

Instructor: Prof. Eriberto P. Lozada Jr.

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Office Hours: M, W, F 10:30-11:20 am; T, Th 9:30-11:00 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
- Handler, Richard 1988. *Nationalism and the Politics of Culture in Quebec*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press. ISBN: 0-299-11514-3
- 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
- Appadurai, Arjun 1996. *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. ISBN: 0-816-62793-2.

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

This course is not an introduction to anthropology, and students are expected to have some background in anthropology or social theory and methodology.

Students are expected to attend all classes, do the readings, and **ask questions and discuss the implications of the issues** in the classroom. I will not duplicate the readings in class, but will serve as a resource for the theoretical background, context, and critique of the topics in the readings. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings as scheduled on the syllabus. Seminar participation will be 25% of the grade.

Throughout the term, there will be **five response papers** (no more than two pages); submission of response papers will be 10% of the grade.

The research project is worth 65% of the grade, but is divided into separate stages that will be graded individually: the initial fieldwork/web/library project (essay of no more than 5 pages) will be worth 15%; the proposal and bibliography (essay of no more than 5 pages) will be worth 5%; in-class presentation of research project will be 10%; and the final paper, due **6 May**, will be worth 35%. I will talk more about this project throughout the term, and have individual handouts for each stage of the project.

While students working with each other outside of class is highly encouraged, all graded, written work must be your own and pledged accordingly. 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

Foundational Theory	
Tuesday, 14 January	Introduction to Political Anthropology Reading: Putnam article (e-reserve)
Thursday, 16 January	Foundational Political Theory Reading: Vincent Introduction, Part 1
Tuesday, 21 January	Weber Reading: Weber "Charisma and its Transformation"(e-reserve)
Thursday, 23 January	Discussion: Authority, Charisma, Civil Society, Market, Political Economy Reading: Marx article (e-reserve) Assignment: Response Paper Due
Politics in the Field	
Tuesday, 28 January	Reading: Vincent, p.29-81
Thursday, 30 January	Reading: Vincent, p. 90-126
Case Study: Political Economy, Indonesia, Postcolonialism	
Tuesday, 4 February	Reading: Vincent, p. 129-171
Thursday, 6 February	Reading: Lansing, p. 3-49 Assignment: Response Paper Due
Tuesday, 11 February	Reading: Lansing, p. 50-94
Thursday, 13 February	Reading: Lansing, p. 95-143
Tuesday, 18 February	Reading: Vincent p. 234-246, 203-221
Case Study: Nationalism in Quebec Nationalism, Nation-States, and Bureaucratic Politics	
Thursday, 20 February	Reading: Handler, p. 3-80
Tuesday, 25 February	Reading: Handler, p. 81-139 Assignment: Response Paper Due
Thursday, 27 February	Reading: Handler, p. 140-196 Assignment: Fieldwork/Web/Library Project Due
3 March – 9 March	Spring Break: Have a good vacation!
Ethnicity, Nation-States, and Bureaucracy	
Tuesday, 11 March	Reading: Keyes article, Constable article
Thursday, 13 March	Reading: Herzfeld, p. 1-70 Assignment: Response Paper Due
Tuesday, 18 March	Reading: Herzfeld, p. 71-126 Assignment: Proposal and Bibliography Due
Thursday, 20 March	Reading: Herzfeld, p. 127-184
Case Study: Postsocialism in Eastern Europe	
Tuesday,	Reading: Vincent p. 366-398

25 March	Verdery p. 1-22 Assignment: Response Paper Due
Thursday, 27 March	Reading: Verdery p. 23-93
Tuesday, 1 April	Reading: Verdery p.95-127
Globalization and Postmodernity	
Thursday, 3 April	Reading: Vincent p. 257-270; 285-312; p. 452-459
Tuesday, 8 April	Reading: Appadurai p. 1-23
Thursday, 10 April	Reading: Appadurai p. 27-85
Tuesday, 15 April	Reading: Appadurai 89-157
Thursday, 17 April	Reading: Appadurai p.158-199
Thursday, 24 April	Reading: Vincent p. 313-365; p. 399-437 Student Presentations
Tuesday, 29 April	Student Presentations
Thursday, 1 May	Student Presentations
Tuesday, 6 May	Assignments: Final Papers Due