

ANTHROPOLOGY 251.10

Africa and Africans in the World

GWU-Fall 2009

Meeting Time/ Location:

Monday 5h10-7h00pm (BB-308, 2114 G St)

Instructor Contact Information:

Prof. Stephen Lubkemann
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Instructor's Office Hours:

Lubkemann: Monday 1h00-2h00; Wednesday 5h15-6h15pm (preferable to set appointment by e-mail)

Class Description

This graduate seminar first examines how anthropology has studied and depicted African societies over time with particular consequences for those societies. It will introduce students to some of the continent's social and cultural variation while exploring how the anthropological study of Africa has changed over time, paying close attention to how broader historical and political conditions have influenced theoretical frameworks and the description and depiction of social life in Africa

This seminar will also review particularly consequential processes that shape contemporary social, political and economic life in African societies including the experience of development, armed conflict, displacement, governance, and migration. In particular we will explore the growing significance of Africa's second-and-ongoing wave of diasporization for social, economic and political processes on the continent. These new diasporas are playing a growing role and having profound--if often contradictory effects--on the course of political and economic development as well as in the reconfiguration of social relations and ideological systems.

Finally, we will also explore some of the emergent forms of interaction between Africa's new diasporas and its historical diasporas and the effects of these interactions on social and political identities, on the "idea" of Africa, and on how Africa is deployed in imagining global relations and politically-consequential forms of "difference".

Expected Learning Outcomes:

As a result of completing this course students will be able to:

1. Describe how views of Africa and anthropological approaches to the study of Africa have changed over time
2. Provide examples that demonstrate the immense diversity in African forms of social organization and cultural systems
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the role that several key processes (including conflict, displacement, globalization, migration and diasporization) play in shaping the everyday social reality of many Africans.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of how global and local forces have interacted to produce current realities for Africa, and both Africans and those of African descent throughout the world
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the magnitude and profound consequences of Africa's ongoing "second-and-ongoing wave of diasporization" for social, political, and economic processes within Africa;
6. Demonstrate the ability to critically relate arguments and data from different sources to each other, in order to analyze an overarching question to which all of these sources are relevant.
7. Synthesize, present, and critique arguments from a major fieldwork-base study of Africa or its diaspora, presenting this material in a form that cultivates critical discussion and reflection amongst peers.
8. Use key anthropological concepts and analytical approaches to critically explore a particular aspect of social, political, or economic reality in one or more African societies, based on a review of articles or other studies that are based upon and report data from anthropological fieldwork.

Requirements:

Pre-requisites: This is a graduate level course that presumes some undergraduate coursework in either Socio-Cultural Anthropology or African Studies.

Reading: This is a reading intensive course (@ 250-350 pages per week). To do well students must do all the reading by the class period in which they are assigned. Since this is a seminar class students are expected to come prepared to discuss the readings in class. Plan carefully for time to complete reading and assignments so that you do not fall behind.

Assignments

Short Reading Reflection and Synthesis Papers (3): Three times during the semester, students will be required to submit a short paper (approximately 1500 -2000 words) that shows careful consideration of how assigned readings relate to each other. The topic for each paper will be provided by the instructor. Each paper is worth 15% of your grade..

In Class Discussion/Presentation: In the first two weeks of class each student will be assigned to co-lead discussion a portion of at least 2 class session. For each session they will be responsible for:

- 1- preparing discussion questions for the reading assigned to the class for that week
- 2- preparing a 15 minute presentation of one other book that addresses the same topic assigned for that week. each student must prepare a 1-2 page outline of their presentation and select an excerpt from the book the have chosen (approximately 30 pages) to assign as reading to the class. The excerpt must be scanned into a pdf and provided to the Instructor no less than two weeks prior to your presentation. Creative presentation formats are encouraged. (15% each).

Annotated Bibliography and Review Essay—Each student will prepare a final project for the class that will focus on a contemporary African social process or topic of interest to them. Each student will then be responsible for creating an annotated bibliography of at least 15 different articles, at least 12 of which must be by anthropologists or in anthropology journals or publications that are relevant to the topic or question they have chosen and for writing a short essay (no less than 3000 words) that addresses a question they have posed. This assignment will be worth 25% of your grade.

Grading:

3 Critical Reading Reflection and Synthesis papers -----	37.5% (12.5% each)
Discussion/Presentations-----	25% (12.5% each)
Annotated Bibliography and short essay-----	30%
In class participation:-----	7.5%

Grading Scale Scale: 90-100 (A); 80-89 (B); 70-79 (C); 65-69 (D); 64> (F)

Class Policies:

On Attendance: Students are expected to regularly attend classes. Absence for religious holidays is allowed, providing you notify the instructor by e-mail (request return confirmation) of intended absences during the first week of classes.

On Submitting Assignments:

- 1. All papers are due at the start of class on the day they are due in **HARDCOPY** format. Papers will NOT be accepted by e-mail. Papers sent by e-mail will not be read and will receive a failing grade.
- 2. Late papers will not be accepted. If you have a conflict that prevents you from being in class on the day a paper is due it is your responsibility to make sure the paper reaches the instructor in hard copy format by the beginning of class. Late papers will receive a failing grade.

Required Texts:

Hoschild, Adam. 1999. King Leopold's Ghost. NY: Mariner Books.

Richards, P. 1996. Fighting For the Rainforest. Portsmouth, NH: Heineman.

Evans-Pritchard, E. 1968. The Nuer. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

West, Harry. 2005. Kupilikula: Governance and the Invisible Realm in Mozambique. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press.

Lubkemann, S. 2007. Culture in Chaos: An Anthropology of the Social Condition in War. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press.

Shandy, D, 2007. Nuer-American Passages: Globalizing Sudanese Migration. Gainesville, FL: Univ. Press of Florida.

Uvin, Peter 1998. Aiding Violence: The Development Enterprise in Rwanda. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press.

Smith, Daniel J. 2008. A Culture of Corruption. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Hepner, Tricia R. 2009. Soldiers, Martyrs, Traitors and Exiles; Political Conflict in Eritrea and the Diaspora Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Ferguson, James. 1999. Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Hutchinson, Sharon 1996. Nuer Dilemmas: Coping With Money, War and The State. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Additional required readings (marked below with an *) are posted on Blackboard or available online through JSTOR.

--BELOW IS A PARTIAL LIST OF BOOKS THAT CAN BE USED FOR PRESENTATIONS--

Coulter, Chris. 2009. Bush Wives and Girl Soldiers: Women's Lives Through War and Peace in Sierra Leone. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Copeland-Carson, Jaqueline. 2004. Creating Africa in America: Translocal Identity in an Emerging World City. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.

MacGaffey, J, 1999. Congo/Paris: Transnational Traders on the Margin of the Law. Portsmouth, NH: Heineman.

Ashforth, Adam. 2005. Witchcraft, Violence and Democracy in South Africa. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Moran, Mary. 2006. Liberia: The Violence of Democracy. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

James H. Smith. 2008. Bewitching Development. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

de Waal, Alex. 1997. Famine Crimes: Politics & the Disaster Relief Industry in Africa. Indiana University Press.

Weiss, Brad. 2009. Street Days and Hip Hop Barbershop: Global Fantasy in Urban Tanzania. Indiana university Press.

Holsey, Bayo. 2008. Routes of Remembrance. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Malkki, L. H. 1995. Purity and Exile: Violence, Memory and National Cosmology Among Hutu Refugees in Tanzania. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Abusharaf, Rogaia. 2009. Transforming Displaced Women in the Sudan. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

8/31: Introductory Remarks

Week 2: The Colonial Imprint on Africa

9/7 Labor Day-no class

Please read Hoschild (King Leopold's Ghost.)

Week 3: Classic Anthropology in Historical Context

9/14 The Nuer-E.E. Pritchard

Week 4: Contemporary Anthropology and "Modernity"

9/21 Expectations of Modernity-J. Ferguson

Week 5: Ancestors Revisited: Social Relations and Identities

9/28 Nuer Dilemmas-S. Hutchinson

Week 6: The Contemporary Anthropology of Africa: Development and Violence

10/5 Aiding Violence -Peter Uvin

READING SYNTHESIS PAPER 1 DUE IN CLASS

Week 7: The Contemporary Anthropology of Africa: Development and Corruption

10/12 Culture of Corruption-D.J.Smith

Week 8: The Contemporary Anthropology of Africa: Governance and Democratization

10/19: Kupilikula --H.G. West

PRESENTATION POSSIBILITIES: Moran (Liberia-Violence of Democracy); Ashforth (Witchcraft, Violence & Democ.)

Week 9: The Contemporary Anthropology of Africa: Displacement and Violent Social Transformation

10/26: Culture in Chaos - S. Lubkemann

PRESENTATION POSSIBILITIES: Abusharaf (Transforming Displaced Women); Coulter (Bush Wives & Girl Soldiers...)

Week 10: The Contemporary Anthropology of Africa: "Local" and "Global" Dimensions of Conflict

11/2 Richards, P. 1996. Fighting For the Rainforest. Portsmouth, NH: Heineman

READING SYNTHESIS PAPER 2 DUE IN CLASS

Week 11: The Contemporary Anthropology of Africa: The Social Life of Diasporas

11/9 D. Shandy: Nuer-American Passages (chapters to be assigned)

PRESENTATION POSSIBILITIES: J.McGaffey (Congo/Paris)

Week 12: The Contemporary Anthropology of Africa: Globalization and Identity

11/16: Money has No Smell-P. Stoller

PRESENTATION POSSIBILITIES: Weiss (Street Days...); Matsuoka and Sorenson (Ghosts and Shadows...)

Week 13: The Contemporary Anthropology of Africa: Diasporan Politics

11/23: Soldiers, Martyrs... T. Hepner

Week 14: The Contemporary Anthropology of Africa: Historical and Contemporary Diasporan Connections

11/30 Routes of Remembrance-B. Holsey

PRESENTATION POSSIBILITIES: Shaw (Memories of the Slave Trade)

READING REVIEW PAPER 3 DUE IN CLASS

Week 15: The Contemporary Anthropology of Africa: Africa in America

12/ * Habecker

PRESENTATION POSSIBILITIES: Copeland-Carson (Creating Africa in America...)

OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The GW Code of Academic Integrity will be upheld in this class. It specifically states: "Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information." For the remainder of the code see: <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM:

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate Reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202 994-5300

The University Counseling Center offers 24/7 assistance and referral in order to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:

- crisis and emergency mental health consultations
 - confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group) , and referrals
- <http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices>

SECURITY:

In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that our class is in is affected we will follow evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation seek shelter at the predetermined rendezvous location.