

ANTH 6391.10
Anthropology of Security

Fall 2013

Professor Ilana Feldman
Office: 2112 G St. Rm. 101
Tel: 994-7728
Email: ifeldman@gwu.edu
Office hours: Thursdays 2-4, and by appointment

Course Description: This course is anthropological investigation of security, broadly defined. In seeking to understand the conditions, logics, and experiences of a global security milieu, we will explore the relationship between security and insecurity, examining topics such as: policing, prisons, colonialism, insurgency, counter-insurgency, and torture. Security is crucially connected to governance and we will consider these connections. It is equally connected to political possibility and community organization, and we will examine these relations as well. In looking at security through an anthropological lens, we will give particular attention to the experiences of living in and with a security system for the variety of actors that participate in it.

Required Texts:

The following texts are available for purchase at the GWU bookstore and are on reserve at Gelman library:

Paul Amar, *The Security Archipelago: Human-Security States, Sexuality Politics, and the End of Neoliberalism* (Duke University Press, 2013)

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Trans. Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books, 1979.

Laleh Khalili, *Time in the Shadows: Confinement in Counterinsurgencies* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2013)

Joe Masco, *The Nuclear Borderlands: The Manhattan Project in Post-Cold War New Mexico* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007).

Carolyn Nordstrom, *Shadows of War: Violence, Power, and International Profiteering in the Twenty-First Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004).

Juliana Ochs, *Security and Suspicion: An Ethnography of Everyday Life in Israel* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011)

Lorna Rhodes, *Total Confinement: Madness and Reason in the Maximum Security Prison* (University of California Press, 2004).

Additional required readings are available through electronic reserves on blackboard.

Learning Goals:

- To understand how anthropology and related disciplines approach the study of security and policing
- To recognize and evaluate the ways security practices shape societies and human subjects
- To critically analyze scholarly debates about these practices
- To conduct independent research and writing that explores these questions

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: This course is a seminar and in order for it to be successful, we all need to come to class having done the readings and prepared to discuss them. Preparation for discussion includes identifying puzzling aspects of the text, highlighting passages for analysis, and raising questions for debate. My expectation is that, barring emergencies, you will attend every class session.

Reading Response: For each class, everyone is required to post – through Blackboard – ½- to 1-page reflection papers. You should also read each other’s postings before class. Responses should be posted by 9 am on the day of class (to accommodate night-owls and still leave enough time for us all to read the postings). These are not formal papers, but rather are an opportunity for you to react to and reflect on the readings for the week. Raise questions the readings posed for you, think about how they relate to other things we have read, consider how they fit into the course as a whole. These postings are intended to help you in organizing your thoughts about the readings and to create a space for dialogue outside the classroom.

Presentation and Leading Discussion: Starting with the week of October 8, each week a student will be responsible for presenting the reading to the class and for helping to lead class discussions. These presentations should be brief – 10-15 minutes. In addition to discussing the readings, presenters should comment on the postings (noting themes in the responses, interesting questions raised). The presentations are not meant to be the final word on anything, but rather to open up class discussion on the texts.

Seminar Paper and Paper Preparation: The seminar paper is something you should be thinking about and working toward throughout the semester. To this end, you will be required to submit a paper topic and tentative bibliography on **October 15** and you will be required to do a presentation on your project on **November 26**, all before submitting the final paper, which is due **December 2**. The paper should be 18-20 pages.

Grading:

Attendance:	10%
Participation:	15%
Reading responses:	10%
Presentation and leading discussion:	15%
Seminar paper:*	50%

* includes proposal and presentation

Class Schedule

August 27 - Thinking about Security

Arjun Appadurai, "Our Terrorists, Ourselves," in *Fear of Small Numbers: An Essay on the Geography of Anger* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006).

September 3 - No class

but read: Judith Butler, "Indefinite Detention," in *Precarious Life*. New York: Verso, 2004.

September 10 - Policing and discipline

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. (New York: Vintage Books, 1979).

September 17 - Colonialism, postcoloniality, and the question of violence

Frantz Fanon. "Concerning Violence" and "Colonial Wars and Mental Disorders," 35-95 and 249-89, in *The Wretched of the Earth* (New York: Grove Press, 1963).

Ranjit Guha, "The Prose of Counter-Insurgency" in *Selected Subaltern Studies*, ed. Ranajit Guha and Gayatri Spivak, 45-86 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988).

Jean and John Comaroff, "Criminal Obsessions, after Foucault: Postcoloniality, Policing, and the Metaphysics of Disorder," in *Law and Disorder in the Postcolony*, ed. Jean and John Comaroff, 273-98 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006).

September 24 – Sovereignty and Security

Hannah Arendt, "Totalitarianism in Power" and "Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of Government," in *The Origins of Totalitarianism* 389-479 (New York: Meridian Books, 1951).

Giorgio Agamben, "Security and Terror," *Theory and Event* 5, 4 (2002)

Achille Mbembe, "Necropolitics," *Public Culture* 15, 1 (2003): 11 - 40

October 1 - Bodies, Citizenship, and Security

Steven Pierce, "Punishment and the Political Body: Flogging and Colonialism in Northern Nigeria" in *Discipline and the Other Body: Correction, Corporeality, Colonialism*, ed. Steven Pierce and Anupama Rao, 186-214 (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006).

Rosalind Morris, "The Mute and the Unspeakable: Political Subjectivity, Violent Crime, and "the Sexual Thing" in a South African Mining Community" in *Law and Disorder in the Postcolony*

Teresa Caldeira, "The paradox of police violence in democratic Brazil," *Ethnography* 3 (2002): 235-263.

Peter Nyers, "Object Cosmopolitanism: the politics of protection in the anti-deportation movement," *Third World Quarterly* 22, 6 (2010): 1069-93.

October 8 - Insecurity and the State

Juliana Ochs, *Security and Suspicion: An Ethnography of Everyday Life in Israel* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011).

October 15 - Living in the Nuclear Age

Joe Masco, *The Nuclear Borderlands: The Manhattan Project in Post-Cold War New Mexico* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007).

Paper topic and tentative bibliography for seminar paper due

October 22 - Punishment

Lorna Rhodes, *Total Confinement: Madness and Reason in the Maximum Security Prison* (University of California Press, 2004).

October 29 - War and Crime

Carolyn Nordstrom, *Shadows of War: Violence, Power, and International Profiteering in the Twenty-First Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004).

November 5 - Counterinsurgency

Laleh Khalili, *Time in the Shadows: Confinement in Counterinsurgencies* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2013)

November 12 - New Security Orders

Paul Amar, *The Security Archipelago: Human-Security States, Sexuality Politics, and the End of Neoliberalism* (Duke University Press, 2013)

November 19 - Work-in-progress

Ilana Feldman, Police Encounters: Security and Surveillance in Gaza under Egyptian rule (manuscript in progress)

November 26 - presentations