New Course Request

Indiana University

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit ☐ Graduate credit ☑ Professional credit ☐

1. School/Division: ANTH
2. Academic Subject Code: ANTH
3. Course Number: 560 (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services)
4. Instructor: HYATT
5. Course Title: VARIABLE TOPICS IN ANTHROPOLOGY
6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): 2009-2010
7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3.0 or Variable from to
8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes ☑ No
9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes ☑ No
10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication:
    A conceptual examination of selected topics in the field of Anthropology. May be repeated for up to 9 credits.

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3.0 or Variable from to
12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at or Variable from to
13. Estimated enrollment: 20, of which 80% percent are expected to be graduate students.
14. Frequency of scheduling: Annually
15. Justification for new course: A variable topic course with a graduate number will allow us to offer graduate credit for our variable topics courses.
16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes
17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.
18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant.

A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: HYATT
Date (0-22-09)

Approved by: [Signature]
Date (4-10-09)

Dean

Chancellor/Vice-President

University Enrollment Services
TO: The Graduate School Curriculum Committee

FROM: Susan Hyatt, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology

RE: Variable topics syllabus

DATE: January 28, 2010

I am appreciative of the work this committee puts in to reviewing and approving new graduate syllabi. Having chaired the SLA Graduate Curriculum Committee one year, I recognize how much work goes into reading all of these submissions.

I am sending along a revised version of a course that would serve as an example of the kind of course we would hope to teach at the graduate level in our new MA program. I taught this course as a variable topics PhD seminar at Temple University in Fall 2004 before joining the faculty at IUPUI. I have made some revisions in accordance with the feedback I received from the committee last spring.

This is very challenging material. To differentiate an undergraduate version from the graduate version more clearly, I have made two changes to the undergraduate version: First, I have lessened the reading load somewhat for undergraduates, removing some of the articles assigned to them. Secondly, I have included two different final assignments. For the graduate students, I have asked them to develop a research proposal based on the class material which would incorporate citations from the readings and their own idea of what an ethnographic project based on this course material might look like. This will call upon them to think carefully about a research question and a methodology they might use to study democracy ethnographically. As this is currently a topic of great interest in Anthropology, students have found it challenging and potentially quite useful for their own research to engage with course material through developing research proposals. I have also required graduate students to formally present their proposals. In the past (and I can be more specific about this on the syllabus if you like), members of the class commented on the proposals as if they were an actually panel of reviewers, again, very helpful for training graduate students.

For the undergrad students, I have just asked them to write a synthetic essay connecting the themes of the course to the readings.

Please contact me if I can provide any further clarification.

Best wishes,

Susan Hyatt
Associate Professor of Anthropology
suhyatt@iupui.edu
317-278-4548
VARIABLE TOPICS GRADUATE SEMINAR: THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF DEMOCRACY

Anthropology 560

Instructor: Susan B. Hyatt
Office: Cavanaugh 413D
Telephone: 278-4548
Email: suhyatt@iupui.edu

Course Description
In this seminar, we will examine the notions of “democracy” and “human rights” from a specifically anthropological perspective. Is there such a thing as “universal” values? How can we reconcile the anthropological value placed on cultural relativism with the idea of a universalizing discourse on democratic governance?

Course Rationale
In this seminar, we will turn the lens of anthropological analysis back on ourselves by embarking on an examination of those political practices constitutive of that cultural construct we have come to know as “democracy.” Our project will be to de-naturalize those taken-for-granted assumptions about the organization of our everyday lives by tracing their origins back to the emergence of new notions about the nature of human society. No longer seen as the inevitable and immutable outcome of a divine order that needed to be maintained by force, the “modern” liberal view was that society was actually rather more like a laboratory, amenable to planning, regulation and political governance through the careful implementation of strategic interventions.

We will look at “democracy” as a set of cultural practices that, like any other cultural practice, embodies an array of assumptions about the nature of social and political life. We will begin by looking at Foucault’s ideas about the making of citizen-subjects in liberal democracies and then go on to examine such topics as post-colonial citizenship, neoliberalism and social justice, human rights in a time of globalization, and the relationship between citizenship and nationhood in contemporary multicultural societies. Throughout the course we will be asking ourselves what an “anthropology of democracy” might contribute to our understanding of contemporary social life and to ethnographic research, in terms of both methodological considerations and new theoretical insights.

Required Texts:


Grading and Evaluation

Analytic Essays

You will be asked to write four analytic essays in which you comment on a group of readings, responding to guiding questions included below. Each of these essays should be 4-5 pages long.

Final Assignment

Develop a grant proposal for an ethnographic study using the materials we’ve read in class to construct your theoretical orientation and methodology. What kind of project could you imagine undertaking based on the concepts we have read and discussed in this course? What kinds of research questions would you ask and where would you site your research? How do the studies we read in class create a precedent for conducting that sort of ethnography and what contribution would your study make to furthering our understandings of the anthropology of democracy?

You must present your proposal to the class. You should imagine that your presentation is taking place in front of a funding body and that you are making the case for why your work should receive a grant from that agency.

Grading Scale

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<td>4 analytic essays</td>
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Plagiarism Policy

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Anthropologists generally use APA style for in-text citations.

You can also find information about IUPUI’s Student Code of Conduct at: http://life.iupui.edu/does/code.htm
Americans with Disabilities Act

If you need any special accommodations in completing this course due to a disability of any kind, please contact Adaptive Educational Services at (317) 274-3241. This office is located in Cavanaugh CA 001E.

READING AND WRITING SCHEDULE

All articles below are posted to our class OnCourse site.

WEEK ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Please try and read this article before our first meeting.


WEEK TWO: DEMOCRACY AND BIOPOWER: PRODUCING CITIZENS


WEEK THREE: GOVERNING LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES


**Analytic Essay #1:** How has the work of theorist Michel Foucault contributed to the project of de-naturalizing “democracy”? How can we use this material to understand “democracy” as a product of Western liberal traditions and what are the implications of that insight for using democracy as an anthropological concept and making it relevant to applied research?

**WEEK FOUR: THE STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

Gramsci, Antonio, Selections from *An Antonio Gramsci Reader*


**WEEK FIVE: FROM COLONIAL SUBJECTS TO POST-COLONIAL CITIZENS**
Mamdani, Mahmood, *Citizen and Subject*, Introduction and Part I

**WEEK SIX: FROM COLONIAL SUBJECTS TO POST-COLONIAL CITIZENS**

Mamdani, Mahmood, *Citizen and Subject*, Part II

**Analytic Essay #2:** Please discuss this group of readings in terms of how they theorize the relationship between what we refer to as “civil society” and the state. How do you see the role of the institutions of civil society in relation to the project of democratization?

**WEEK SEVEN: SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE NEOLIBERAL CITY**


**WEEK EIGHT: DEMOCRACY MEETS THE “FREE” MARKET**

Gill, Lesley, *Teetering on the Rim*, Introduction and Part I

**WEEK NINE: DEMOCRACY MEETS THE “FREE” MARKET**

Gill, Lesley, *Teetering on the Rim*, Part II


**Analytic Essay #3:** What is the relationship between ideas about the free market and democracy according to these readings? How do you see the interaction between free market ideals and political practices playing out in these ethnographic settings?

**WEEK TEN: HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBALIZATION**
People Out of Place, Parts I, II, III

**WEEK ELEVEN: HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBALIZATION**

People Out of Place, Parts IV and V.

**WEEK TWELVE: CITIZENSHIP IN A MULTICULTURAL DEMOCRACY**

Ong, Aihwa, *Buddha is Hiding*, Introduction, Parts I and II,

**WEEK THIRTEEN: CITIZENSHIP IN A MULTICULTURAL DEMOCRACY**

Ong, Aihwa, *Buddha is Hiding*, Parts III, IV and Afterward.
**Analytic Essay #4:** What are the complexities posed for democracies by multiculturalism and ethnic diversity? How are patterns of human migration and immigration acting upon contemporary notions of citizenship and on the creation of national identities?

**WEEK FOURTEEN: ANTHROPOLOGY, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**


All of the following articles come from *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 108, No. 1, March 2006:


Speed, Shannon, "At the Crossroads of Human Rights and Anthropology: Toward a Critically Engaged Activist Research,” pp. 66-76.


**WEEK FIFTEEN: FINAL CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

Final papers due!
Course Description

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Course Rationale

In this seminar, we will turn the lens of anthropological analysis back on ourselves by embarking on an examination of those political practices constitutive of that cultural construct we have come to know as “democracy.” Our project will be to de-naturalize those taken-for-granted assumptions about the organization of our everyday lives by tracing their origins back to the emergence of new notions about the nature of human society. No longer seen as the inevitable and immutable outcome of a divine order that needed to be maintained by force, the “modern” liberal view was that society was actually rather more like a laboratory, amenable to planning, regulation and political governance through the careful implementation of strategic interventions.

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Required Texts:


Grading and Evaluation

Analytic Essays

You will be asked to write four analytic essays in which you comment on a group of readings, responding to guiding questions included below. Each of these essays should be 3-4 pages long.

Final Assignment

For your final paper, you will write a slightly longer paper—6-8 pages—in which you address the following questions: Does it make sense to talk about an “anthropology of democracy”? What do you see as the potential contributions of an anthropology of democracy both to the nature of ethnographic writing and to anthropological theory? Because the reading and writing load for this course is heavy, I do not expect you to do any outside research to complete this assignment or to consult any additional sources. You should draw selectively from the course readings to make your case.

Grading Scale

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Participation will be assessed through your regular attendance at class and timely submission of work.

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WEEK THREE: GOVERNING LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES


**Analytic Essay #1:** How do you understand the material we have read thus far in terms of “de-naturalizing” our everyday notions of “democracy”? According to the theorists whose work we have read, what elements make up a democracy? What strategies characterize democratic rule?

**WEEK FOUR: THE STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

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**WEEK FOURTEEN: ANTHROPOLOGY, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**


**WEEK FIFTEEN: FINAL CLASS PRESENTATIONS (GRADUATE STUDENTS)**

ALL final papers due!