ANTHROPOLOGY 156A
POWER AND VIOLENCE: ANTHROPOLOGY OF POLITICS
SUMMER I 2017
ROOM: TBD
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY: 11:00 – 1:20PM
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Are you curious or confused over how recent spikes in violence relate to currently changing political powers? Do you want to know how relations of power work among people and groups today and if they at all differ from the past? How do those with greater access to power condition and constrain the activities and choices of those without such access? What happens when encounters among people and groups become violent? This course addresses these questions through readings by classic and contemporary social theorists and anthropologists and then seeks to apply their ideas to three cases: Notions of race and class in society, with examples on how they are constructed in both the U.S. and Latin America; the culture of trafficking on borders, drawing on current tensions between the U.S. and Mexico; and the rise and impacts of resurgent nationalism.

LEARNING GOALS:
Courses in Anthropology at Brandeis University are designed to advance students understanding of cultural diversity, inequality in power relations, as well as methodological, conceptual, and ethical questions related to human interdependence – not least of all, what it means to be human. The core skills to emphasized in this class are critical thinking, communication, and the ability to conduct thorough yet original scholarly research. Anthropologists strive to be informed citizens in our world society, working on the ground in collaboration with other cultures and emphasizing the tolerance and respect of their ways of living.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD:
Success in this 4 credit course is based on the assumption that you will spend an average minimum of 9 hours outside of class on readings, class preparation and assignments.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Please consult Rights and Responsibilities for details concerning academic integrity.

BOOKS:
(These books are available at the Brandeis University Bookstore and on library reserve)
Jason de Leon, The Land of Open Graves
All other readings will posted on LATTE.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Students will write a short paper analyzing text using theory and a longer final research paper based on a different case study of their choosing. The case study is to be submitted as a proposal and can be negotiated on in consultation with the instructor. Students will hand in an annotated bibliography (a list of 5-10 sources, each accompanied by one or two sentences explaining the role the source is expected to have in the paper) and, based on this bibliography, will receive comments and guidance to help with writing the paper.

Attendance and participation – 15%
Weekly Quizzes – 20%
Short Paper (3-5 pages) (analysis of text using theory) 20%
Proposal of Final Paper Topic – 5%
Annotated Bibliography for Final Paper – 10%
Final paper (10-12 pages) – 30%

GRADING AND CLASSROOM POLICIES:
It is important that you understand the meaning of the grades in this class. A grade in the “A” range means that you have done outstanding work of originality, sophistication, and high analytic acuity relative to other undergraduate work. A grade in the “B” range means that you have aimed high and performed well. Work in the “B” range is solid but not as deeply insightful, as skillfully argued, or as consistently attentive to the texts as work in the “A” range. A grade in the “C” range means that your work is fair but lacking in some key area, such as originality or analysis.

* IF YOU ARE A STUDENT WITH A DOCUMENTED DISABILITY ON RECORD AT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY AND WISH TO HAVE A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION MADE FOR YOU IN THIS CLASS, PLEASE SEE ME.

*THE USE OF LAPTOPS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES (INCLUDING PHONES) IS NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS EXCEPT WITH SPECIAL PERMISSION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.

COURSE SCHEDULE:
PART I: The Power and Violence Tool Kit

Week One:
6/5: General Introduction
   • Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “The Communist Manifesto”

6/6: Class 2
   • Gayle Rubin, “The Traffic in Women”;
   • Marshall Berman, “Marx and Modernism” from All that is Solid Melts into Air

6/8: Class 3 – Weekly Quiz #1
   • Weber, Max, selections from The Theory of Economic and Social Organization
   • Fagen, Richard, “Charismatic Authority and the Leadership of Fidel Castro”
• (Suggested) Hughes-Freeland, Felicia, “Charisma and Celebrity in Indonesian Politics”

**Week Two:**
6/12: Class 4 – Proposal of Final Paper Topic Due by 11pm
• T.J. Jackson Lears, “The Concept of Cultural Hegemony: Problems and Possibilities”
• Jean and John Comaroff, “Hegemony and Ideology”
• (Suggested) Antonio Gramsci, selections

6/13: Class 5
• Foucault, Michel “Panopticism,” from *Discipline and Punish*
• Salzinger, Leslie, chapter from *Genders in Production*
• (Suggested) “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color”

6/15: Class 6 – Weekly Quiz #2 + Short Paper Assignment Given
• Johan Galtung, “Violence, Peace and Peace Research;”
• Kleinman, Arthur, “The Violences of Everyday Life

**Week Three:**
6/19: Class 7 – Short Paper Assignment Due by 5pm
• Peggy McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,”
• Robin DiAngelo, “White Fragility”

**PART II: Applying the Tool Kit (Case Studies)**
6/20: Class 8
• The Land of Open Graves

6/22: Class 9 – Weekly Quiz #3
• The Land of Open Graves

**Week Four:**
6/26: Class 10 – Annotated Bibliography Due by 11pm
• When I wear My Alligator Boots

6/27: Class 11
• When I wear My Alligator Boots

6/29: Class 12 – Weekly Quiz #4

**Week Five:**
7/3: Class 13
7/4: No Classes – National Holiday
7/6: Exam Period – Final Papers due by 5 pm
Supplementary Reading:
- Jason Dittmer “Captain America”;
- Thomas Frank, “The Rebel Consumer,”