ANTH*6000: Public Issues Anthropology

Instructor: Edward Hedican
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Office Hours: Thurs.: 1:30-2:30

Class Times and Room:
Thurs.: 2:30-5:20
MCKN 059 (or TBA)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is the core course for the Public Issues Anthropology program. Students will explore the parameters and the emergence of Public Issues Anthropology in a seminar format which will include presentations by professors and students, as well as group discussion periods. A wide range of issues will be discussed in the weekly presentations by faculty, as outlined below. In addition, students will be given an opportunity to explore their own areas of interest within this program, and in the final two meetings of the course will present a synopsis of a research paper focusing on an issue in public anthropology.

FORMAT:

Each class will be 2 hours and 50 minutes long beginning promptly at 2:30 pm so please arrive on time. Classes will be divided accordingly: in the first half, unless otherwise indicated, we will listen to a presentation by a professor based on his or her research interests in the area of public issues anthropology, followed by a discussion period. Readings contributed by the various professors are indicated below and it is important that students pay particular attention to understanding these readings in depth. For the most part these readings are available on line or through our library systems, but if not copies will be distributed in the class the week before the presentation.

In the second part of the class, unless otherwise indicated, each student will present a brief summary of a journal article in the area of public issues anthropology outlining two main points of the article. In addition, each student will submit to the course instructor a brief one page summary of the article which will form part of the student’s participation mark.

EVALUATION:

1. CLASS-SEMINAR PARTICIPATION…… 10%

The participation of class members in discussions will form an important component of the class and will be strongly encouraged. This participation will consist of an active engagement in class room discussions, the presentation of your book review, the preparation of article summaries, as well as questions or ideas that one might wish to share with the class during the presentation of
student essays. Hopefully this approach will make the discussions more stimulating for everyone involved as well as developing our critical capacities.

2. SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS……. 20%

Each student will prepare a presentation, somewhere between fifteen to twenty minutes, on a research topic involving public issues anthropology. The essay will not be entirely completed at this point—the idea is simply to present an outline of the topic area in progress, and to discuss with the class some of the questions raised by your area of interest. Time will depend on the number of students in the class, but we can expect that these presentations will be held during the last two class periods.

3. RESEARCH ESSAY………. 50%

Students in this course will be asked to prepare a research essay which outlines a problem, or area of interest broadly interpreted in the area of public issues anthropology, the rationale or significance of such a study, and a review of literature on the topic. You might use the class readings or presentations as an inspiration or starting point or something different could be developed. Students will be encouraged to talk with the professor of the course about their topic, and a preliminary outline will be asked for sometime early in the semester. At periodic intervals in the semester, we will devote part of our class time to a discussion of the progress of each person’s research topic and answer any questions that have arisen thus far. The minimum length for the essays will be 15-20 pages, including bibliography, but they can be longer if the topic merits an increased length. Note: a longer paper does not necessarily increase your chances of a higher mark, and may actually reduce these chances if the increased length is simply additional verbiage.

POSSIBLE OUTLINE OF RESEARCH ESSAYS

1. Focus and problem—stating a hypothesis if possible
2. Review of relevant literature
3. Description of setting or ethnographic area
4. Methodology or techniques for gathering information
5. Possible practical significance
6. Suggestions for further research

4. BOOK REVIEW….. 20%

Students will choose a book which deals directly with some aspect of public issues anthropology and prepare a review. Reading some reviews in professional journals, such as American Anthropologist, Human organization, or Anthropologica, would be useful. In general, the review should consist of a summary of the content and main objectives of the book. However, the main emphasis in the review should be on an analysis or critique of the strengths and weaknesses of the book. The length of the review should be about 5-8 double-spaced typed pages. Students will
be asked to prepare a brief oral presentation of their review to share with the class as part of their participation mark, as indicated above.

Instructions for Book Review:

1. Summary: Description of the contents and aim(s) of the book;

**DUES DATES:**

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<th>Task</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>Oct 22nd</td>
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<td>Research Essays</td>
<td>Dec 10th</td>
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**SCHEDULE OF SEMINAR TOPICS AND READINGS:**

**DATES:**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics of Discussion</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week One (Sept. 10)</td>
<td>Introduction to Course; Review of assignments, readings and marking schemes</td>
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<td>Week Two (Sept. 17)</td>
<td>Topic: What is Public Issues Anthropology?</td>
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**Readings:**


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<td>Week Three (Sept. 24)</td>
<td>Round Table Discussion: Making Your Research Public  This class will consist of discussion by faculty and students on important aspects of public issues in anthropology</td>
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<td>Week Four (Oct. 1)</td>
<td>Prof: Satsuki Kawano  Topic: Learning Disabilities in Contemporary Japan</td>
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Readings:


Week Five (Oct. 8)  Prof. Tad McIlwraith:
Topic: Consultancy anthropology and Contested Native Spaces in British Columbia

Readings:


Week Six (Oct. 15)  Prof. Renee Sylvain

Topic: San Women and Indigenous Rights
Readings: TBA

Week Seven (Oct. 22)  Prof. Belinda Leach

Topic: Migration and Globalization issues

Readings:


Note: Book Reviews are Due today—to be handed in during our class

Student presentations of their book reviews in the first half of the class: this format could possibly be extended into the second half of next week’s class as well, depending on the number of students in the class.

Week Eight (Oct 29)
Field trip to Crawford Lake First Nation Village (weather permitting)
Default: Guelph Civic Museum

OR

Seminar on effective writing styles in anthropology
Readings:


Part II (2010), Same title, American Anthropologist 112 (3) 353-356.

Week Nine (Nov. 5)
Prof. Beth Finnis

Readings:


Week 10 (Nov. 12)

Prof. Edward Hedican

Readings:


Week Eleven (Nov. 19)

Last two classes devoted to student presentation on essays

Week Twelve (Nov. 26)

Conclusion and summing up of course material

Note: Essays are due on Mon. Dec 10th to be handed in to me at my office (Mckn 613) from 10-12 noon. No email or fax submissions. Late essays will not be accepted without a medical slip or permission from the instructor.