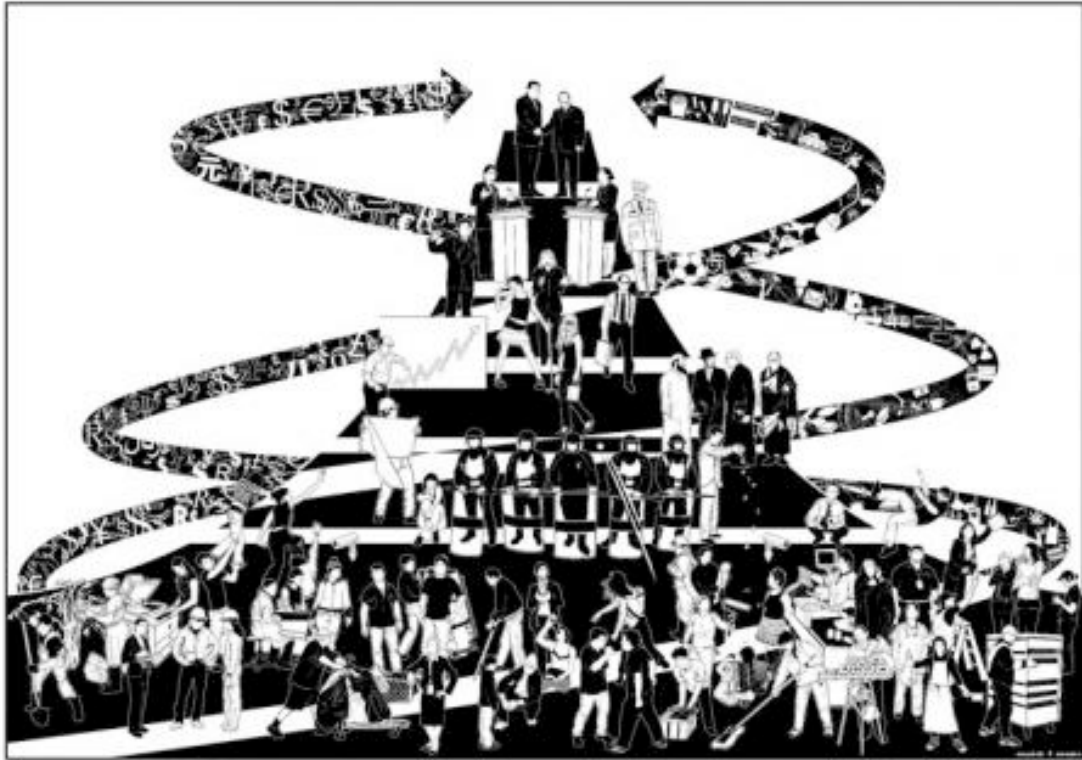


Political Anthropology: Theorising to Power

HPAN5006 / 6006



MODULE HANDBOOK 2019

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In this module we explore, through ethnographic examples, the interactions between changing political structures and the ways that people are enmeshed within power relations. Throughout the course we will be using the work of Marx and Foucault to reflect on the nature of power and to critically evaluate approaches that have political dynamics at their heart. A key objective of anthropology has been to understand unequal society by means of a contrast between those organized through the principles of the state and class and those more equal societies originally based on kinship, but now potentially on democracy and free association. Our aim in this module is to understand both the development of large-scale political structures and the self-organized institutions people have made for their own purposes, both in small-scale societies and under the modern conditions of state capitalism. In so doing, we explore major divisions of the contemporary world and the globalizing processes through the lens of political movements and categories, as well as the circulation of people, capital, goods and ideas.

AIM(S)

- To provide students with a detailed knowledge of a range of theoretical positions and ethnographic examples in the fields of political anthropology.
- To enable students to utilise their acquired ethnographic and theoretical knowledge to re-examine existing Euro-American assumptions about current global political situations and power relations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to demonstrate:

1. a detailed knowledge and understanding of a range of thematic areas within the sub-fields of political anthropology;
2. a critical awareness of the relationships between production, consumption and power in a range of ethnographic contexts;
3. and display a clear understanding of appropriate theoretical positions in the field of political anthropology;
4. an ability to critically evaluate ethnographic data in relation to appropriate theoretical positions and utilising comparative ethnographic examples;
5. and display a critical awareness of the ways in which power relations can be analysed and understood.

ASSESSMENT:

- 1. Essay (70%): 3,000 words, excluding reference list**
- 2. Source analysis (Gobbet) (20%): 1,000 words, excluding reference list**
- 3. Blog post (10%): 1,000 words equivalent (4+ images, 250-500 words, and references)**

Deadline All three assignments should be uploaded as a single document (word, pdf preferred) to Turnitin by 11:59 Friday 8th March 2019.

Assessment criteria will be made available on Moodle.
The gobbet sources will be published on Moodle

1. ESSAY QUESTIONS

Answer **one** question from the following. **You must use ethnographic examples to illustrate your answer**

1. To what extent is labour under capitalism always alienated?
2. Critically assess how globalisation challenges the sovereign authority of the nation-state?
3. How can a focus on 'the body' illuminate our understanding of power dynamics?
4. To what extent do Marx's and Foucault's approaches to power differ?
5. Does activism have a place in anthropological practice?

Assessment criteria will be made available on Moodle.

2. SOURCE ANALYSIS (GOBBET)

A "gobbet" answer is a concise analytical comment on a short extract from a textual source. It is designed to test your ability to extract the relevant content from a source.

The basic format of a gobbet should be: (i) context, (ii) content, (iii) evaluation/assessment.

The "gobbet" answer should tackle the following three areas:

1. Context

Think about the context of the source in relation to the discourse.

2. Analysis

Analyse the content of the source, explain the significance and impact the source has had in the anthropological discourse. What does the source reveal about social and political attitudes of the author.

3. Evaluation

Evaluate the anthropological significance of the source, relating it to the general themes discussed in the module. What does it reveal about changes in anthropological theories, methods and practices. Is the source problematic, if so, why? How has the source shaped contemporary anthropological approaches.

Remember: do not simply describe the content of the source, or quote heavily from the source, but do engage critically with the source.

3. BLOG POST (image based and words)

This assignment requires you to use accessible language to explain a concept or idea related to the themes addressed in the course. Imagine you are writing for a non academic audience and want to explain an idea related to political anthropology. You are encouraged to support your text with multiple images. The Blog post content should be submitted in a word document or pdf to turnitin, the assessment does **not** require you to post the blog online. Up to 5 images and between 250-500 words.

Choose an exciting title that will draw people to your content, make sure the sources

are correctly cited, and ensure that there is a logical flow to your narrative - take your reader by the hand.

Course Overview

Week 1

Neoliberalism: The 'Free' Market and the State
Nationalism, Regionalism and the Nation-State

Week 2

Labour Relations: Production and Reproduction
Reflections on Marx

Week 3

The Body in Capitalist Societies: Disciplinary Power and Commodification
Reflections on Foucault

Week 4

Activism: Local Fights and Global Movements
New Social Movements

Key Readings

Anderson B. 1983, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London Verso.

Burawoy, M. 1982, *Manufacturing Consent*. (esp. ch 4) Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Carrier, J. 1992, 'Emerging Alienation in Production: A Maussian History', *Man* 27: 539-558

Foucault, M. 1977, *Discipline and punish: The birth of the prison*. London Allen Lane.

Gledhill, J. 2000, *Power and its Disguises: Anthropological Perspectives on Politics* (esp. chapter 4). London: Pluto Press

Kenrick, J. and J. Lewis. 2004, 'Indigenous People's Rights and the Politics of the Term "Indigenous."', *Anthropology Today* 20(2): 4- 9

Kuper, A., 2003, The Return of the Native, *Current Anthropology* 44(3): 389-402

Kurkiala, M. 2002, Objectifying the Past: Lakota Responses to Western Historiography, *Critique of Anthropology*, 22(4).

Mollona, M. 2005, 'Factory, Family and Neighbourhood: The Political Economy of Informal Labour in Sheffield', *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 11: 527-548

Ong, A. 1988, 'The Production of Possession: Spirits and the Multinational Corporation in Malaysia', *American Ethnologist* 15(1):28-42

Sharp, L. 2000, 'The commodification of the body and its parts', *Annual Review of Anthropology* 29: 287-328.

Thompson, E.P., 1967, 'Time, Work Discipline and Industrial Capitalism', *Past and Present* 38

Recommended Readings

Abbots, E-J. 2012, 'In the Absence of Men?: Gender, Migration and Domestic Labour in the Southern Ecuadorean Andes', *Journal of Latin American Studies* 44(1)

Appadurai A. 1990, 'Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy', in *Global Culture: Nationalism, Globalisation and Modernity*. M Featherstone (ed) London: Sage.

Bloch, M. 1983, *Marxism and Anthropology*. Oxford: OUP

Cooper, F. 1992, 'Colonising Time: Work Rhythms and Labour Conflict in Colonial Mombasa', in *Colonialism and Culture*, N Dirks (ed). Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press

Clifford, J. 1988, 'Identity in Mashpee' in *The Predicament of Culture: Twentieth-Century Ethnography, Literature, and Art*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Collier, G. 1987, 'Peasant Politics and the Mexican State: Indigenous Compliance in Highland Chiapas', *Mexican Studies* 3(1): 71-98

Conklin, B. 2002, 'Shamans versus Pirates in the Amazonian Treasure Chest', *American Anthropologist*. 104(4): 150-1061

Day, S. 2007, *On the Game: Women and Sex Work*. London: Pluto Press

Dickey, S. 2000, 'Permeable Homes: Domestic Service Household Space and the Vulnerability of Class Boundaries in Urban India', *American Ethnologist* 27(2) pp. 462-89

Engels, F. 1884, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*. Penguin Classics

Eriksen T. 1993, *Ethnicity and Nationalism: Anthropological Perspectives*. London: Pluto Press

Gellner, E. 1983, *Nations and Nationalism*. Oxford: Blackwell. Hansen T. & F. Stepputat (eds.). 2001, *States of Imagination: Ethnographic Explorations of the Postcolonial State*, Duke University Press

Godelier, M. 1986, *The Making of Great Men: Male Domination and Power Among the New Guinea Baruya*. Cambridge: CUP

- Godelier, M. 1977, *Perspectives in Marxist Anthropology*. (chs 6-7) Cambridge: CUP 1975
- Godelier, M. 1978, 'The Objects and the Methods of Economic Anthropology', in *Relations of Production: Marxist Approaches to Economic Anthropology*. D Seddon (ed) London: Frank Cass
- Goody, J. 1977, *Production and Reproduction: A Comparative Study of the Domestic Domain*, Cambridge: CUP
- Graeber, D. 2006, Turning Modes of Production Inside Out: Or Why Capitalism is a Transformation of Slavery' *Critique of Anthropology*. 26(1) 1
- Leach, E. 1960, The Frontiers of "Burma", *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 3(1)
- Marx, K. 1954 (1857). *Capital vol 1*. Moscow & London: Lawrence and Wishart
- Marx, K. 1867, *Capital: a critique of political economy, Vol. 1*. London, Penguin Classics. (chapters 10, 15 and 25)
- Meillassoux, C. 1981, *Maidens, Meal and Money*. Cambridge: CUP
- Michaels, D. 1988, 'Waiting for the Body Count: Corporate Decision Making and Bladder Cancer in the U.S. Dye Industry.' *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 2(3):215-32.
- Ortiz S. 2002, 'Labouring in the Factories and in the Fields', in *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 31: 395-417 .
- Pahl, R.E. 1988, *On Work*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell
- Plant, R. 1977, 'Gifts, Exchanges and the Political Economy of Health Care Pt 1: Should Blood be Bought and Sold?' *Journal of Medical Ethics* 3(4): 166-173
- Radcliffe, A & S. Westwood. 1996, *Remaking the Nation*
- Rubbo, A and M. Taussig. 1983, "Up Off Their Knees": Servanthood in Southwest Colombia' *Latin American Perspectives* 10(4): 5-23
- Sassen, S. 1999 *Guests and Aliens*. New York: The New Press [on order]
- Seider, R. 2011, Contested Sovereignties: Indigenous Law, Violence and State Effects in postwar Guatemala', *Critique of Anthropology* 31(3): 161-184
- Scheder, J. 1988, 'A Sickly-Sweet Harvest: Farmworker Diabetes and Social Equality.' *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 2(3): 251-77.
- Scheper-Hughes, N. 2000, 'The global traffic in human organs', *Current Anthropology* 41: 191-224.

- Scott, J. 1985 *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. New Haven: Yale UP
- Smith, T. C., 'Peasant Time and Factory Time in Japan', *Past and Present* 111: 165-197
- Smith, C. and N. Pun. 2006, 'The dormitory labour regime in China as a site of control and resistance', *International Journal of Human Resource Management* 17(8): 1456-1470
- Stiglitz J. 2002, *Globalisation and Its Discontents*. (chs 1-2 & 4) London: Allen Lane. See also Stiglitz's chapter in *The Globalization Reader*, F. Lechner and J. Boli (eds.), Malden MA: Blackwell.
- Taussig, M. 1997, *The Magic of the State*, New York: Routledge
- Thompson E.P. 1967, 'Time, Work Discipline and Industrial Capitalism', in *Past and Present*. (vol 38)
- Titmuss, R.M. 1970, Is the gift a good one? in *The Gift Relationship: from Human Blood to Social Policy*. London: Allen and Unwin
- Tranberg-Hansen, K. 1990, 'Domestic Trials: Power and Autonomy in Domestic Service in Zambia', *American Ethnologist* 17(2): 360-75
- Warren K & J Jackson. 2003, *Indigenous Movements: Self-Representation and the State in Latin America*
- Weiss, B, 1998, 'Electric vampires: Haya rumours of the commodified body' in *Bodies and Persons*, M Lambek & A Strathern (eds.): pp 172-194, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Werbner P, 1999, 'Global Pathways. Working Class Cosmopolitans and the Creation of Transnational Ethnic Worlds', *Social Anthropology* 7(1): 17-35.
- Werbner, P. 2008, *Anthropology and the New Cosmopolitanism*. Oxford: Berg
- Young, G. 1987, 'The Myth of Being "Like a Daughter"', *Latin American Perspectives* 14(3): 365-80