

Political Anthropology



The greatest power is not money power, but
political power.

(Walter Annenberg)

lzquotes.com

What are we going to do?

- ❑ Power and political relations
 - ❑ In their multiple forms
- ❑ Political structures and everyday politics
- ❑ It is not:
 - ❑ Voting behaviour
 - ❑ Party politics
 - ❑ Constitutions and political processes

It is...

- ❑ Concerned with social inequities and injustices
- ❑ Hierarchies and the ways they are formed
- ❑ How 'power' is lived, enacted and experienced
- ❑ The forms that power takes
- ❑ **What is 'power'?**

What do we cover?

- ❑ Regionalism, nationalism and transnationalism
- ❑ Migration and its consequences
- ❑ Place, and what 'place' means in an era of hypermobility



What do we cover?

- Labour relations
 - Of production and reproduction
 - (Which means Marx....)
- The Body (particularly the labouring body)



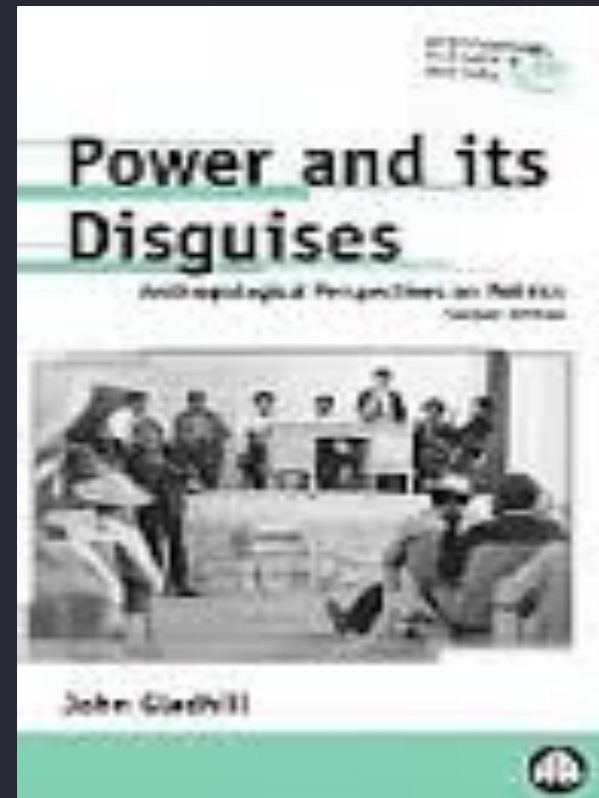
There's even more.....

- ❑ New Social Movements
- ❑ Trade Unions
- ❑ Indigenous Movements & Politics
- ❑ How power is contested
- ❑ The media
- ❑ Globalization



Overview Texts

- Gledhill, J. 1994 (later edition, 2000), *Power and Its Disguises: Anthropological Perspectives on Politics*, London: Pluto Press
- Lewellen, T.C. 2003, *Political Anthropology: An Introduction*, London: Praeger
- Nugent D. and J. Vincent (eds.). 2007, *A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics*, Oxford: Blackwell



Course structure

■ 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
- The Body in Capitalist Societies: Disciplinary Power

■ 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

Assignments

- ❑ Deadline: 11:59pm 8th March 2019
- ❑ Portfolio: 3 parts
 - ❑ Essay
 - ❑ Gobbet
 - ❑ Blog post
- ❑ The portfolio should be uploaded as one file
- ❑ pdf/word files are preferred

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 nationstate?
- 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?

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.

HOW TO WRITE A GOBBET

- The "gobbet" answer should tackle the following three areas:
- Context
 - Think about the context of the source in relation to the discourse.
- 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.

EVALUATE

- ❑ 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.

BLOG POST

- ❑ 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 as part of your portfolio, 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.

Friday is Debate day

- ❑ Every Tuesday you have the option to table a motion.
- ❑ “This house believes...”
- ❑ Two speakers will be nominated to argue the case for and two speakers will be nominated to argue against.
- ❑ A chair will be nominated
- ❑ We will vote on the motion

We will use the following protocol to structure the debate

- ❑ During the debate, do not argue with the Chair.
- ❑ Never offend, disrespect, or insult another debater or the Chair.
- ❑ Don't speak out of turn or interrupt another debater or the Chair.
- ❑ Support your arguments with evidence.
- ❑ Stay focused on the topic or question up for debate.
- ❑ You have 10 minutes to present your case