

Department of Anthropology
3GG3 ANTHROPOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY EUROPE
Tuesdays, 7:00 – 10:00 pm, BSB 137

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:00 – 13:00

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to – and an overview of – the anthropology of Europe. Historically a rather marginalized arena in anthropology, at least since the 1989/90 fall of the Berlin Wall and so-called Eastern European velvet revolutions has the anthropology of Europe started to join the anthropological fray. In this course we examine Europe not only as a physical place, but also as a concept and a pursuit. The objectives of the course are as follows: 1) to gain familiarity with anthropological concepts important to the anthropology of Europe, and 2) to develop forms of inquiry that challenge common knowledge about Europe.

Course Requirements:

20% of your final work will be based on a class presentation in relation to one of the readings. Presentations should include: 1) List of key terms; 2) Summary of the author's main argument; 3) Two or three issues or questions raised by the reading in connection with the themes of (and/or other readings from) the course. You can also draw connections between texts.

The goal of presentations is not to be an expert on the text you are presenting, but to facilitate discussion. This you that you should have thought carefully about the reading, and come prepared to class to help the class extract important point, and to think about the ideas contained in the reading.

20% of your final mark will reflect class attendance and participation in classroom discussions

20% of your final mark will be based on an analysis of one or two of the readings that we've discussed in class before the mid-term break. This paper is due on Tuesday, **October 16**. It should not exceed the length of 750 words.

Your analysis should consist of a concise statement or the specific thesis or question your paper will explore. It should then proceed to explore that thesis or statement.

40 % of your final mark will be based on a final paper related to the issues discussed in class. This paper is due Friday, **December 7**, at 4:30 in Chester New Hall 535. It should not exceed the length of 2000 words, including bibliography.

Required Readings:

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to

all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

SCHEDULE of READINGS

September 4

Introduction to the Course

September 11

Defining Europe: Citizenship, Identity, and Idea

Required Readings:

Balibar, Étienne

2004 “At the Borders of Europe,” and “Europe After Communism.” In *We, the People of Europe?: Reflections on Transnational Citizenship*, and Princeton: Princeton University Press. Pp. 1 – 10, and 78 – 100.

De Genova, Nicholas

2016 The European Question: Migration, Race, and Postcoloniality in Europe. *Social Text* 34 (3): 75 – 102.

Suggestions for Further Readings:

Ahmed, Akbar

2018 *Journey into Europe: Islam, Integration, and Identity*. Washington: Brookings Institution.

Boyer, Dominic

2005 *Spirit and System: Media, Intellectuals, and the Dialectic in Modern German Culture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Brubaker, Rogers

1996 *Nationalism Reframed: Nationhood and the National Question in the New Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Chakrabarty, Dipesh

2000 *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Ghodsee, Kristen

2011 *Lost in Transition: Ethnographies of Everyday Life after Communism*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Holmes, Douglas

2000 *Integral Europe: Fast Capitalism, Multiculturalism, Fascism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Levy, Daniel, Max Pensky, and John Torpey

2005 *Old Europe, New Europe, Core Europe: Transatlantic Relations after the Iraq War*. London: Verso.

MacDonald, Sharon

1993 *Inside European Identities: Ethnography in Western Europe*. Oxford: Berg Publishers.

Mak, Geert

2008 *In Europe: Travels Through the Twentieth Century*. New York: Random House.

Marsili, Lorenzo, and Niccolo Milanese

- 2018 *Citizens of Nowhere: Can Europe be Saved from Itself?* London: Zed Books. Pp. 1 – 54, and pp. 118 – 212.
- Özyürek, Ezra
 2005 The Politics of Cultural Unification, Secularism, and the Place of Islam in the New Europe. *American Ethnologist* 32 (4): 509 – 512.
- Peebles, Gustav
 2011 *The Euro and its Rivals*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Shore, Cris
 2000 *Building Europe: The Cultural Politics of European Integration*. London: Routledge.

September 18

Film: *Fire at Sea* (2016, dir. Gianfranco Rosi)

September 25

Defining Europe: Movement and Migration

Required Readings:

- Holmes, Seth M. and Heide Castaneda
 2016 Representing the “European Refugee Crisis” in Germany and Beyond: Deservingness and Difference, Life and Death. *American Ethnologist* 43 (1): 12 – 24.
- Fassin, Didier
 2005 Compassion and Repression: The Moral Economy of Immigration Policies in France. *Cultural Anthropology* 20 (3): 362 – 387.

Suggestions for Further Readings:

- Bunzl, Matti
 2005 Between Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia: Some Thoughts on the New Europe. *American Ethnologist* 32 (4): 499 – 508.
- Murphy, John P.
 2011 Baguettes, Berets, and Burning Cars: The 2005 Riots and the Question of Race in Contemporary France. *French Cultural Studies* 22 (1): 33 – 49.
- Rogozen-Soltar, Mikaela H.
 2017 *Spain Unmoored: Migration, Conversion, and the Politics of Islam*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Stolcke, Verena
 1995 Talking Culture: New Boundaries, New Rhetorics of Exclusion in Europe. *Current Anthropology* 36 (1): 1 – 24.
- Kallius, Annastiina, Daniel Monterescu, and Prem Kumar Rajaram
 2016 Immobilizing Mobility: Border Ethnography, Illiberal Democracy, and the Politics of the “Refugee Crisis” in Hungary. *American Ethnologist* 43 (1): 25 – 37.

October 2

Defining Europe: Gender and Class

Required Readings:

- Ewing, Katherine
 2008 *Stolen Honor: Stigmatizing Muslim Men in Berlin*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
Excerpts.

Mandel, Ruth

2008 *Cosmopolitan Anxieties: Turkish Challenges to Citizenship and Belonging in Germany*. Durham: Duke University Press. Excerpts.

Yildiz, Yasemin

2011 Governing European Subjects: Tolerance and Guilt in the Discourse of “Muslim Women.” *Cultural Critique* 77: 70 – 101.

Suggestions for Further Readings:

Eribon, Didier

2013 *Returning to Reims*. Intro. By George Chauncey. Transl. by Michael Lucey. Los Angeles: Semiotexte.

Ghodsee, Kristen

2005 *The Red Riviera: Gender, Tourism, and Post-Socialism on the Black Sea*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Murray, Douglas

2018 *The Strange Death of Europe: Immigration, Identity, Islam*. London: Bloomsbury.

Scott, Joan W.

2007 *The Politics of the Veil*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

October 9

Mid-Term Recess

October 16

Remembering and Forgetting: The Politics of the Past

The first paper is due

Required Readings:

Bach, Jonathan

2016 The Berlin Wall after the Berlin Wall: Site into Sight. *Memory Studies* 9 (1): 48 - 62.

Boyer, Dominic

2006 Ostalgic and the Politics of the Future in Eastern Germany. *Public Culture* 18 (2): 361 – 381.

Suggestions for Further Readings:

Bach, Jonathan

2017 *What Remains: Everyday Encounters with the Socialist Past in Germany*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Berdahl, Daphne

2009 *On the Social Life of Postsocialism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Boyer, Dominic

2006 Conspiracy, History, and Therapy at a Berlin *Stammtisch*. *American Ethnologist* 33 (3): 327 – 339.

Crapanzano, Vincent

2011 *The Harkis: The Wound that Never Heals*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Ghodsee, Kristen

2017 *Red Hangover: Legacies of Twentieth-Century Communism*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Macdonald, Sharon

2013 *Memorylands: Heritage and Identity in Europe Today*. New York: Routledge.

2009 *Difficult Heritage: Negotiating the Nazi Past in Nuremberg and Beyond*. New York: Routledge.

Olick, Jeffrey K.

2016 *The Sins of the Fathers: Germany, Memory, Method*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Till, Karen E.

2005 *The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Todorova, Maria, and Zsuzsa Gille

2010 *Post-Communist Nostalgia*. New York: Berghahn Books.

October 23

Film: *The Lives of Others (Das Leben der Anderen)* (2006; dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck)

October 30

Memory and Material Culture

Required Readings:

Fehérváry, Krisztina

2012 From Socialist Modern to Super-Natural Organicism: Cosmological Transformation Through Home Décor. *Cultural Anthropology* 27 (4): 615 – 641.

Muehlebach, Andrea

2017 The Body of Solidarity: Heritage, Memory, and Materiality in Post-Industrial Italy. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 59 (1): 96 – 126.

Suggestions for Further Readings:

Balthazar, Ana-Carolina

2017 Made in Britain: Brexit, Teacups, and the Materiality of the Nation. *American Ethnologist* 44 (2): 220 – 224.

Fehérváry, Krisztina

2013 *Politics in Color and Concrete: Socialist Materialities and the Middle Class in Hungary*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press

November 6

Anger and Right-Wing Populism

Required Readings:

Shoshan, Nitzan

2014 Managing Hate: Political Delinquency and Affective Governance in Germany. *Cultural Anthropology* 29 (1): 150 – 172.

Hamann, Ulrike,

Hann, Chris

2015 The Fragility of Europe's *Willkommenskultur*. *Anthropology Today* 31 (6): 1 – 2.

Suggestions for Further Readings:

Feldman, Allen

1991 *Formations of Violence: The Narrative of the Body and the Political Terror in Northern Ireland*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Miller-Idriss, Cynthia

2017 *The Extreme Gone Mainstream: Commercialization, and Far Right Youth Culture in Germany*. Princeton: Princeton University Press

Mishra, Pankaj

2017 *Age of Anger: a History of the Present*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux

Shoshan, Nitzan

2014 *The Management of Hate: Nation, Affect, and the Governance of Right-Wing Extremism in Germany*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

November 13

Film: *In the Fade (Aus dem Nichts)* (2017, dir. Fatih Akin)

November 20

Right-Wing Populism and Transnationalism

Required Readings:

Rethmann, Petra

n.d. Right-wing Populism. Diaspora, and the Politics of Belonging and Home.

Snyder, Timothy

2018 Vladimir Putin's Politics of Eternity. The Guardian. Access at www.theguardian.com/news/2018/mar/16/Vladimir-putin-russia-politics-of-eternity-timothy-snyder

Suggestions for Further Readings:

Gingrich, Andre, and Marcus Banks

2006 *Neo-Nationalism in Europe and Beyond*. New York: Berghahn Books.

November 27

Agency and Protest: The Politics of Alternate Visions

Required Readings:

Fassin, Didier

2013 Why Ethnography Matters: On Anthropology and its Publics. *Cultural Anthropology* 28 (4): 621 – 646.

Rasza, Maple

2012 The Occupy Movement in Žižek's Hometown: Direct Democracy and a Politics of Becoming. *American Ethnologist* 39 (2): 238 – 258.

Suggestions for Further Readings:

Franquesa, Jaume

2018 *Power Struggles: Dignity, Value, and the Renewable Energy Frontier in Spain*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Greenberg, Jessica

2014 *After the Revolution: Youth, Democracy, and Disappointment in Serbia*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Juris, Jeffrey S.

- 2008a *Networking Futures: The Movements Against Globalization*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- 2008b Performing Politics: Image, Embodiment, and Affective Solidarity during Anti-corporate Globalization Protests. *Ethnography* 9 (1): 61 – 97.
- Rasza, Maple
- 201 *Bastards of Utopia: Radical Politics after Socialism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Rethmann, Petra
- 2017 “The German Question: Solidarity, Lexit, Nation.” FocaalBlog. 7 July.
www.focaalblog.com/2017/07/07/the-german-question-solidarity-lexit-nation.

December 4

It’s Up to You!

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student’s religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Privacy Protection

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.