Anthropology 187
Violence and Suffering
Spring 2009

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Class: Tuesday & Thursday 3:00 – 4:15
Room: Clark Hall 204
Office Hours: Tuesday 8-9 am
Tuesday / Thursday 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Course Description

Violence, the exertion of force intended to hurt, damage or kill someone or something, is not confined to acts between individuals, it occurs at multiple levels. Furthermore, not all violence is recognized as such thereby obscuring identification and accountability. Suffering inevitably accompanies violence yet not all suffering is considered legitimate. This course explores and analyses these concepts nationally and internationally, in settings such as prisons, hospitals, the urban core and war.

Course Pre-requisites: Anthropology 11 or consent from the instructor.

Class Format: Class sessions will include individual participation, small group discussions, and class projects.

Classroom Etiquette: If you come late to class or leave early, please enter and exit quietly. Cell phones must be turned off and put away – no text messaging in class. Computers may be used only for class purposes.

Student Learning Objectives
Students who satisfactorily complete this course will:
1. Be able to think critically, especially using comparative frameworks, analyze processes and identify assumptions.
2. Be able to recognize and analyze the interactions of social institutions, culture and environment with individual and collective behavior.
3. Be able to identify and analyze the process of social change.
4. Be able to recognize and analyze the forces that foster social cohesion and fragmentation.
5. Understand the complexities of social life both globally and locally in their communities as they reflect different points of view.
6. Conduct research on a specific topic and present their findings clearly and from an anthropological perspective.

Learning Objectives of the Anthropology Department

KNOWLEDGE
1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution.
2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.
3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
4. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history.
5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society.

SKILLS
6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
7. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
8. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and the ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

PROFESSIONAL VALUES
10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.

Required Texts

Book Review Options
2) Gourevitch, Philip. (1999). We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Out Families: Stories from Rwanda. Picador.

The books are available through the Spartan Bookstore and Amazon.com. All material will be on reserve in the MLK Library.

Course Requirements
Your grade for the semester will be based on the following assignments and activities:

Class participation: Students are expected to attend class having prepared the day’s assignment in advance and actively engage in class activities, such as discussions of the assigned reading material. Giving full credit for active participation, partial credit for passive participation and/or late entry or exit in an activity, and no credit for non-participation will assess participation. Class participation accounts for 10% of the total grade.

Midterm Exam: The midterm will be composed of multiple choice, True and False questions, fill in the blanks and short essay questions. The mid-term exam accounts for 25% of the final grade.

Project: Students will work individually or as a group – to be determined by class enrollment – on a project focusing on a specific form of violence currently in the news, i.e. racism in the US (i.e. BART shooting), the war in Iraq, the current political situation the Sudan, Mexico’s drug violence, etc. Students will track developments (violence, legal, social, etc.) this topic throughout the course. Group projects account for 25% of the final grade. A detailed handout will be distributed in class.

Book Review: Students will write a 5 page review on one of the books listed in under Book Review Options. The book review will account for 15% of the final grade.
Final Exam: The final will be on Thursday May 21, 2:45 – 5:00 pm. It will be composed of multiple choice, True and False questions, fill in the blanks and short essay questions. The final exam will account for 25% of the final grade.

Grading Distribution

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<th>100-97</th>
<th>A+</th>
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Plus and minus grades may be assigned at the instructor’s discretion.

See [http://www.geneseo.edu/~writing/?pg=topics/formalinformal.html](http://www.geneseo.edu/~writing/?pg=topics/formalinformal.html) for a discussion of formal and informal writing.

See [http://www.geneseo.edu/~writing/?pg=topics/commonerrors.html](http://www.geneseo.edu/~writing/?pg=topics/commonerrors.html) for a list of the common writing errors that occur in student writing and how to avoid such problems.

Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's language, images, data, or ideas without proper attribution. It is a very serious offense in both academic and professional environments. In essence, plagiarism is both theft and lying: you have stolen someone else's ideas, and then lied by implying that they are your own.

Plagiarism will lead to grade penalties. It might also result in you failing the course and/or having the incident permanently noted in your SJSU student records.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to educate yourself, or ask for clarification, before you hand in written work.

Learning when to cite a source, and when not to, is an art, not a science. However, here are some examples of plagiarism that you should be careful to avoid:

- If you use a sentence (or even a part of a sentence) that someone else wrote and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
- If you paraphrase somebody else's theory or idea and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
- If you use a picture or table from a web page or book and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
- If your paper incorporates data that someone else has collected and you do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.

The SJSU library has a tutorial that explains how to identify and avoid plagiarism, available at: [http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm](http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm).

In addition, the University of Indiana has developed a very helpful website with concrete examples about proper paraphrasing and quotation. See, in particular, the following three pages:

- [http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/overview.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/overview.html)
- [http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html)
- [http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/item1.html](http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/item1.html)

If you have questions about the official SJSU policy on plagiarism, please read the “Academic Integrity Policy” at [http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-369.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-369.html).
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible. SJSU Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the Disability Resource Center to establish a record of their disability (924-6000).

Course Schedule

Students will be informed about changes to the schedule ahead of time. Students are responsible for noting those changes.

Week 1: Introduction
January 22, Thursday
Introduction to class goals and format, review syllabus, add/drop process and deadlines...

Week 2: Violence – A Legacy of Colonialism
January 27, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
   Introduction: Making Sense of Violence, pp 1-31
   Video: Violence (54)

January 29, Thursday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
   Ch. 2 – Culture of Terror – Space of Death: Roger Casement’s Putumayo Report and the Explanation of Torture, pp 39-53.
   Ch. 6 – From the Bushman Myth: The Making of a Namibian Underclass, pp 74-76
   Video: Violence (54 min)

Week 3: Why Do People Kill?
February 3, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
   Ch. 10 – Initiation to Mass Murder: The Józefów Massacre, pp 101-108
   Ch.16 – Behavioral Study of Obedience, pp 145-149

February 5, Thursday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
   Ch. 18 – Why Did You Kill?: The Cambodian Genocide and the Dark Side of Face and Honor, pp 157-168
   Video: Holy Smoke – Cambodians Fight Tobacco

Week 4: The Violent State I
February 10, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
   Ch. 19 – Talking Terror, pp 171-174
   Ch. 20 – Bodies, Death and Silence, pp 175-185
Total Confinement (2004)
   Part I

February 12, Thursday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
Ch. 21 – Living in a State of Fear, pp 186-195
Video: In Women’s Hands
Total Confinement (2004)
  Part I

Week 5: The Violent State II
February 17, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
  Ch. 24 – On Cultural Anesthesia: From desert Storm to Rodney King, pp 207-216
  Ch. 25 – The New War Against Terror: Responding to 9/11, pp 217-223
Total Confinement (2004)
  Part II

February 19, Thursday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
  Ch. 26 – Violence Foretold: Reflections on 9/11, pp 224-226
Total Confinement (2004)
  Part II

Week 6: Prison
February 24, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
  Ch. 39 – The New “Peculiar Institution”: On the Prison as Surrogate Ghetto, pp 318-323
Total Confinement (2004)
  Part III

February 26, Thursday
MIDTERM

Week 7: Communal Violence
March 3, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
  Ch. 14 – From Purity and Exile: Violence, Memory and National Cosmology Among the Hutu Refugees in Tanzania, pp 129-135
  Ch. 15 – From We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories From Rwanda, pp 136-142
A Long Way Gone (2007)
  Ch. 1 - 9

March 5, Thursday
City and Society (AnthroSource database at King Library)
A Long Way Gone (2007)
  Ch. 1 - 9

Week 8: Violence and Political Resistance
March 10, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
  Ch. 29 – Dirty Protest: Symbolic Overdetermination and Gender in Northern Ireland Ethnic Violence, pp 244-252
A Long Way Gone (2007)
  Ch. 10 - 15
March 12, Thursday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
   Ch. 30 - Who’s the Killer? Popular Justice and Human Rights in a South African Squatter Camp, pp 253-266
A Long Way Gone (2007)
   Ch. 10 - 15
Video: TBA

Week 9: Torture
March 17, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
   Ch. 46 - From The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World, pp 365-367
   Ch. 47 - From Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence – From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror, pp 386-371
A Long Way Gone (2007)
   Ch. 16 - 21

March 19, Thursday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
   Ch. 49 - The Treatment of Children in the ‘Dirty War’: Ideology, State Terrorism, and the Abuse of Children in Argentina, pp 378-387
A Long Way Gone (2007)
   Ch. 16 - 21

Week 10: SPRING BREAK (March 23 – 27)

Week 11: Structural Violence
March 31, Tuesday       Cesar Chavez Day – No Class

April 2, Thursday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
   Ch. 34 - On Suffering and Structural Violence, pp 281-289
   Ch. 37 - US Inner-City Apartheid: The Contours of Structural and Interpersonal Violence, pp 301-307

Week 12: Symbolic Violence
April 7, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
   Ch. 32 - Symbolic Violence, pp 272-274

April 9, Thursday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
   Ch. 42 - Gender and Symbolic Violence. pp 339-342

Week 13: Gendered Violence I
April 14, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
   Ch. 43 - The Everyday Violence of Gang Rape, pp 343-347
   Ch. 44 - Hooking Up: Protective Pairing for Punks, pp 348-353

April 16, Thursday
Human Organization (AnthroSource database at King Library)
   Bourgois, Philippe, Bridget Prince and Andrew Moss (2004). The Everyday Violence of Hepatitis C
Video: TBA

Week 14: Everyday Violence I
April 21, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
Ch. 33 – Two Feet Under and a Cardboard Coffin: The Social Production to Indifference to Child Death, pp 275-280
Project Presentations

April 23, Thursday
Project Presentations

Week 15: Everyday Violence II
April 28, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
Ch. 38 – Denaturalizing Disaster: A Social Autopsy of the 1995 Chicago Heat Wave, pp 308-317
Project Presentations

April 30, Thursday
Latin American Perspectives (AnthroSource database at King Library)
Latin American Perspectives Issue 161 Vol. 35 No. 4 pp 30-44. (July)
Project Presentations

Week 16: Writing About Violence
May 5, Tuesday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
Ch. 52 – From War Stories: The Culture of Foreign Correspondents, pp 402-409
Ch. 54 – The Anthropologist as Terrorist, pp 416-419
Project Presentations

May 7, Thursday
Violence in War and Peace (2004)
Ch. 56 – The Continuum of Violence in War and Peace: Post-Cold War Lessons from El Salvador, pp 425-434
Project Presentations

Week 17: Wrap up
May 12, Tuesday (last day of instruction)

FINAL EXAM: Thursday May 21, 2:45 – 5:00 pm