

San José State University
Anthropology Department
ANTH 136 Thought Control in Contemporary Society
Spring 2010 Semester

Instructor:	Professor Gonzalez
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Office Hours:	TuTh 12:00-2:00, Tu 6:00-7:00
Class Days/Time:	TuTh 4:30-5:45
Classroom:	WSQ 004
Prerequisites:	None
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	N/A
Course Fees:	N/A

Course Description

In this course we will analyze the means by which different institutions and individuals control the actions, behaviors, and thoughts of people in contemporary modern societies—including our own. We will also analyze the dynamics of control—how control mechanisms change over time, as well as the means by which people are able to resist or escape such controls. The course should help you think critically about controllers, their targets, the mechanisms they employ, and the goals they seek to accomplish. It should also help you understand controlling processes affecting your everyday life.

For more than a century, social scientists and others have taken an interest in mechanisms of cultural and social control including "brainwashing" or coercive persuasion, indoctrination, groupthink, and propaganda, among others. Some argue that increasing political and economic centralization on a global scale—together with the wide reach of today's global communication technologies—have led to more efficient and total social and cultural controls. Controllers may use these techniques in an undemocratic (and sometimes dangerous) fashion to convince others to modify their behaviors, to reform their thoughts and values, or to compel them to act in predictable ways.

This course will be particularly focused on analyzing control from an anthropological perspective. We will examine the use of culture as a tool—in other words, the instrumental

uses of culture. To help us think critically about processes of social and cultural control, we will begin by reading the classic novels *1984* and *Brave New World* as ethnographic accounts. Then we will focus upon mechanisms of social and cultural controls in various realms including schools, families, government, science, media, and business. Although much of the course material is set in the US, we will also examine other regions including Germany, China, Israel and Palestine, Venezuela, southeast Africa, Papua New Guinea, North Korea, Argentina, and Iraq. Finally, we will discuss how processes of control influence everyday life and how we might effectively deal with them.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

The goals of ANTH 136 include helping students to:

- Identify various mechanisms of social and cultural control operating in contemporary societies (including the US) and dynamic processes that transform them over time.
- Analyze the ways in which institutions such as governments, corporations, religious groups, and other organizations have compelled members to behave and act in specific ways.
- Understand the processes by which mass media, government officials, social scientists, and the advertising industry have interacted to design new means of influencing public opinion, shape habits and tastes, and create mass consumers.
- Gain insight into the ways by which nationalism, ethnicity, and other forms of identity and membership have been incorporated into controlling processes.
- Trace the development of communication, pharmacological, and surveillance technologies for behavior modification, and other inventions which might potentially be used for control.
- Identify how and why individuals and groups resist or revolt against forms of social and cultural domination, and how mutual aid, education, political mobilization, direct action, and other means might be used as a means of countering social and cultural controls.

The goals of the anthropology department include helping students to:

- learn about the culture concept and significant findings in anthropology
- examine interconnections between human culture and biology
- develop awareness of past and present cultures
- understand the multicultural aspects of contemporary society
- make good use of social science data and scholarly literature
- increase knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods
- recognize anthropology's relevance in addressing social issues

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley (any edition)

1984 by George Orwell (any edition)

American Counterinsurgency: Human Science and the Human Terrain by Roberto González

An Israeli in Palestine by Jeff Halper

In addition, we will use a supplemental course reader available for purchase at Maple Press (at 481 E. San Carlos Street). All materials will be on reserve at King Library.

Classroom Protocol

Laptop computers are not permitted in class unless you have a note from the Disability Resource Center justifying a need. You should write lecture notes by hand, or else make audio recordings of lectures and transcribe them after class meetings. Cell phones must be turned off during class to avoid disruption and out of sight or else the instructor will collect the device from the student until the end of class. Text messaging is strictly prohibited. Any student who allows a cell phone to ring during class, or who texts messages will first be given a formal warning by the instructor. A second infraction of this rule will be promptly reported to the Office of Student Conduct with a recommendation that the student be immediately expelled from the course. Students should be aware that according to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, "Standards for Student Conduct," grounds for student discipline includes: "Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University," {Section 41301(b)(4)} which could include use of unauthorized electronic devices in classroom settings.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Course grades will be derived from six assignments:

1. *List of control mechanisms in 1984*. This assignment (due February 11) should be typewritten. Instructions will be distributed in class by the instructor. (10% of final course grade)
2. *List of control mechanisms in Brave New World*. This assignment (due February 25) should be typewritten. Instructions will be distributed in class by the instructor. (10% of final course grade)
3. *Midterm exam*. This exam will consist of short definitions, multiple choice, and an essay. You will need a blue book. Midterm exam will take place on March 18. (20% of final course grade)
4. *Final exam*. This comprehensive exam will consist of short definitions, multiple choice, and two essays. You will need a blue book. Final exam will take place on May 19. (25% of final course grade)
5. *Unannounced quizzes*. Over the course of the semester, four unannounced quizzes will be given based on the week's reading. The best three out of four grades will be taken. (5% each, 15% of final course grade)

6. *Group project.* During the semester you will develop a group project in which you will analyze a control mechanism operating either locally, regionally, nationally, or globally. The instructor will assign you to a group. Instructions will be distributed by the instructor during Week 6. Each group will present the results of their project on May 13. (20% of final course grade)

In sum:

Assignment 1—Control mechanisms in <i>1984</i>	10% of course grade
Assignment 2—Control mechanisms in <i>Brave New World</i>	10% of course grade
Midterm exam	20% of course grade
Final exam	25% of course grade
Unannounced quizzes	15% of course grade
Group project	20% of course grade

All assignments must be completed in order to pass. I will not accept late assignments nor will I administer makeup exams unless documents can be presented as evidence of illness, death in family, jury duty, etc. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail—I must receive hard copies of all assignments.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial affairs/Academic Integrity Policy S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial%20affairs/Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20S07-2.pdf). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial%20affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

ANTH 11 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Spring 2010

Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Recommended readings are not required readings.

*Readings followed by an asterisk * are included in the supplemental course reader.*

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/28	Creating a Strong State through Direct Controls George Orwell, <i>1984</i> (Part I) Recommended: Nicolai Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i>
2	2/2 - 2/4	Propaganda As a Social Instrument George Orwell, <i>1984</i> (Part II) Jonathan Watts, "Where Are You, Beloved General?"* Film: "Triumph of the Will" Recommended: Nancy Snow, <i>Propaganda, Inc.</i>
3	2/9 - 2/11	Science, Technology, and Indirect Controls George Orwell, <i>1984</i> (Part III) Aldous Huxley, <i>Brave New World</i> (Chapters 1-8) Recommended: Troy Duster, <i>Backdoor to Eugenics</i> ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE 2/11: CONTROL MECHANISMS IN 1984
4	2/16 - 2/18	Mobilizing the Pleasure Principle Aldous Huxley, <i>Brave New World</i> (Chapters 9-18) George Leonard, "The End of Sex"* Recommended: Paul Goodman, <i>Amusing Ourselves to Death</i>
5	2/23 - 2/25	Coercive Persuasion and Messianic Cults Margaret Singer, "Coming Out of the Cults"* Margaret Singer, "Continuum of Influence and Persuasion"* Margaret Singer, "How the US Marine Corps Differs from Cults"* Film: "Jonestown: The Life and Death of the People's Temple" Recommended: Deborah Layton, <i>Seductive Poison</i> ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE 2/25: CONTROL MECHANISMS IN BNW
6	3/2 - 3/4	Birth of the Mass Consumer and Creation of False Needs Stuart Ewen, <i>Captains of Consciousness</i> (excerpt)* Recommended: Herbert Marcuse, <i>One-Dimensional Man</i>
7	3/9 - 3/11	Transforming Gender Roles, Beauty Standards, and Family Life Linda Coco, "Silicone Breast Implants in America"* Naomi Arenson, "Working Up an Appetite"* Recommended: Eli Zaretsky, <i>Capitalism, the Family, and Personal Life</i>
8	3/16 - 3/18	Commercializing Childhood and Adolescence Max Gluckman, "Rituals of Rebellion in Southeast Africa"* Film: "The Merchants of Cool" Recommended: Juliet Schor, <i>Born to Buy</i> MID-TERM EXAM: MARCH 18
9	3/23 - 3/25	Education and Scientific Research Derek Bok, "The Purely Pragmatic University"*

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Murray Sperber, "The Berkeley Protest: Fresh Anger in the Footsteps" Charles Reed, "California Values Prisoners over Students" James Doyle, "Hefty Pay Raises in Troubled Times" Recommended: Paolo Freire, <i>Pedagogy of the Oppressed</i> SPRING BREAK: MARCH 29 - APRIL 2
10	4/6 - 4/8	PR, "Impression Management," and the Manufacture of Consent Roberto González, <i>American Counterinsurgency</i> (pp. i-iv, 1-44) Stuart Ewen, <i>PR! A Social History of Spin</i> (excerpt)* Recommended: J. Stauber and S. Rampton, <i>Toxic Sludge Is Good for You</i>
11	4/13 - 4/15	Victims of Groupthink Roberto González, <i>American Counterinsurgency</i> (pp. 45-98) Laura Nader, "1984 and Brave New World Revisited"* Recommended: Irving Janis, <i>Victims of Groupthink</i>
12	4/20 - 4/22	Uses of Language and Media Roberto González, <i>American Counterinsurgency</i> (pp. 99-130) David Thomson, "Worlds Shaped by Words"* Edward Schieffelin, "Evangelical Rhetoric in Papua New Guinea"* <i>The Nation</i> , "The National Entertainment State" Jeff Halper, <i>An Israeli in Palestine</i> (Introduction) Recommended: N. Chomsky and E. Herman, <i>Manufacturing Consent</i> Film: "Good Night and Good Luck"
13	4/27 - 4/29	Obedience, Authority and the "Banality of Evil" Jeff Halper, <i>An Israeli in Palestine</i> (Chapters 1-3) Film: "Obedience—The Milgram Experiment" Recommended: Hannah Arendt, <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i>
14	5/4 - 5/6	Bureaucratic Mechanisms and Hegemonic Controls Jeff Halper, <i>An Israeli in Palestine</i> (Chapters 4-7) Film: "The Take"
15	5/11 - 5/13	Towards a Cultural Deprogramming Jeff Halper, <i>An Israeli in Palestine</i> (Chapters 8-10) Howard Zinn, "A Quiet Case of Social Change"* GROUP PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS DUE 5/13
16		N/A
Final Exam		FINAL EXAM TO BE ADMINISTERED WEDNESDAY, MAY 19 (2:45-5:00 PM) IN REGULAR CLASS MEETING ROOM