

San José State University, Spring 2016
Anthropology 146, Culture and Conflict (section 1 & 2)

Contact Information

Instructor:	John Marlovits
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Office Hours:	Tuesday 12-1
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday/Thursday, 9-10:15 (Section 1); 1:30-2:45 (Section 2)
Classroom:	Clark 204 (section 1) and Clark 310 (section 2)
Prerequisites:	The prerequisites for this course are passage of the writing skills test (WST), completion of core General Education, and concurrent or previous enrollment in 100W. No Exceptions
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	V (Culture, Civilization, and Global Understanding)

Course Description

Anthropologists have long studied social change brought about in pre-industrial or small scale societies through ongoing interactions with the nation states of the industrialized world. However, recent anthropology has complicated older static and binary understandings of social organizations in terms of nationalism, colonialism, institutionalized racisms, and the diverse forms that global capitalism takes. Nevertheless, anthropology has retained its focus on the ordinary forms of social conflict – over ideas, over resources, over institutions, over appropriate forms of personhood – that provoke ordinary conflicts over cultural forms. This course will attend to the intimate and ordinary forms that power takes, often connecting individuals to large, global forces that they are only vaguely aware of; it will track the organization of violence and repression on minds, bodies, and collectivities; and it will challenge students to understand how power, vulnerability, and personhood are experienced beyond the boundaries of the United States. The course will thereby help students to imagine not only the diversity of lives and perspectives that is the hallmark of anthropology, but also to grasp the relevance of anthropological writing about power and conflict in the contemporary global world, and the challenges of anthropology's form of non-parochial global citizenship.

Course Learning Objectives Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Understand theoretical frameworks and anthropological perspectives on change, conflict, and development;
2. Grasp of several key ethnographic case studies of societies experiencing conflict and change;
3. Write about a particular culture and its experience of change and conflict, including a recommendation for how policy-makers should deal with the problems with which this group is faced;

4. Reflect critically on the processes of, and theories about, culture and conflict.

SJSU Studies Area V Student Learning Objectives

1. To compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, and/or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the US

2. To identify the historical and how text of ideas and culture

they have influenced American culture

3. To explain how a culture outside the US has changed in response to internal and external pressures

REQUIRED TEXTS

Angela Davis. *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Seven Stories Press.

Helen Graham. *The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction.* Oxford University Press.

Charles Piot. *Nostalgia For the Future: West Africa After the Cold War.* University of Chicago Press.

Stefan Zweig. *The Post-Office Girl.* New York Review of Books.

Assignments and Grading Policy

During the first few weeks of class, the instructor will assign you to a seminar facilitation group. Assignments for this course include:

Grading Distribution is as follows:

100-97 = A+

92-90 = A-

86-83 = B

96-93 = A

89-87 = B+

83-80 = B-

79-77 = C+

72-70 = C-

66-63 = D

76-73 = C

69-67 = D+

Below 63 = F

Final Examination and Evaluation

Determination of Grades

Grades will be determined on the basis of points. See descriptions above for point breakdown of individual assignments.

There will be no extra credit.

LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO. A DOCTOR'S NOTE WILL BE REQUIRED FOR LATE PAPERS TO BE CONSIDERED, AND STUDENTS REQUESTING EXTENSIONS WILL NEED TO CONTACT THE PROFESSOR IN ADVANCE OF THE DEADLINE AND PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE EXTENSION.

PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC "F" GRADE FOR THE COURSE. NO EXCEPTIONS

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Plagiarism Tutorial (25 points)

To minimize the possibility of plagiarism, all students should take the SJSU Library's online plagiarism tutorial early in the semester, accessible at the following website: tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/ Results of the tutorial will be printed out and brought to class on September 1.

Media Response #1: Analysis of Historical Subjectivity (25 points)

This 2-3 page paper will require students to demonstrate the ability to distill concepts and arguments from the first section of the course regarding the history, politics, and culture in *The Post-Office Girl* or *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. (Meets SLO 1 & 3)

Paper #1: Transformations in Post-Cold War Geopolitics (100 points)

This 3-4 page paper will require students to identify and describe the key mutations in international political governance following the end of Cold War-era. (Meets SLO 1, 2, & 3)

Exam #1: The Spanish Civil War (50 points)

This exam will cover students' knowledge and comprehension of key actors and historical events in the Spanish Civil War.

Media Response #2: *Volver* and the Politics of Memory in Spain (25 points)

This 2-3 page paper will require students to perform a close-reading or interpretive analysis of the film *Volver* that draws upon concepts developed in the course.

Paper #2: Neoliberalism and the End of the Social Contract in US Culture (100 points)

This 3-4 page paper will address the culture of neoliberalism in United States culture with particular attention to the production of new states of abandonment and social death. For this paper, students will be required to synthesize at least 5 course readings from week 9 to the end of the course. (Meets SLO 1, 2, & 3)

Seminar Facilitation Groups (25 points X 2 seminar facilitation)

Students will be required to participate in seminar groups. Each group will be required to lead ethnographic reading seminars in class twice throughout the quarter.

Seminar facilitation groups will also meet throughout the semester to conduct peer-editing, review, and brainstorming concerning class essay assignments. Seminar groups will be the collective site in which course papers are developed.

Final Exam (100 points)

There will be a final exam for the course. (Meets SLO 1, 2, & 3)

Classroom Protocol

Laptop computers, tablets, smartphones, etc. are not permitted during the lecture or film portions of this 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 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 electronic devices in classroom settings.

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.

Email Etiquette

Please write "Anth 146" followed by the subject of your email in the Subject line of your email. I will respond to your email as quickly as possible, however students should expect to wait at 24-hours for a response – and should not expect text messaging-like access via email. (I'm often in class, remember.) Students should also begin emails with appropriate formality, e.g., "Dear/Hi Professor Marlovits," and should conclude with a salutation and their name (at least for the first in a string of emails).

I will not answer questions over email that can be answered by reading the syllabus. I will not answer questions over email about missed lectures – students are required to come to lecture, and if they can't make it, ask a classmate to share notes. Substantial questions cannot be answered over email and students should come to my office hours instead. I cannot answer email queries about papers, such as: "I don't know what to write about for the paper, can you help me?" The answer is yes, I can help you – but you must come to office hours, and you also must do more than say "I don't know" and begin to formulate at least a vague attempt at a topic. I do not accept electronic papers, and will not edit or grade rough drafts via email. If you would like me to look at a rough draft, you must come to office hours or set up an appointment with me.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Part 1: Understanding Subjectivity Historically

Part 2: Geopolitical Realignments: From Cold War to Post-Cold War

Part 3: Maddening States: Ordered disorders of power

Part 4: Neoliberalism, Financialization: The End of the Social Contract in US Culture

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Part 1: Understanding Subjectivity Historically
1	8/25	Introduction Begin Stefan Zweig, <i>The Post-Office Girl</i>
2	8/30 9/1	Subjectivity/Culture & Power/Marx & Freud/Class Consciousness and False Consciousness Zweig, finish <i>The Post-Office Girl</i> ; Lauren Berlant, “Nearly Utopian, Nearly Normal”; James Scott, “The Production of Human Beings” in <i>Two Cheers for Anarchism</i> In Class 9/1: Begin viewing <i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> , dir. Wes Anderson Plagiarism Tutorial Due 9/1
3	9/6 & 9/8	Attachments, Loss, Transformation 9/6 Viewing: <i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> , dir. Wes Anderson 9/8 In class: Seminar Group 1 & 2 (group 1: Zweig and Berlant; Group 2: Zweig and Scott)
		Part 2: From Cold War to Post-Cold War
4	9/13 & 9/15	Post-War Global Reconstruction and Post-Cold War Decline: From Japan, Inc. to Millennial Monsters Anne Allison, “From Ashes to Cyborgs” and “Millennial Japan” in <i>Millennial Monsters: Japanese Toys and the Global Imagination</i> In Class 9/15: Seminar Group 3 9/15: Media Response #1 Due at the beginning of class
5	9/20 & 9/22	Global Visions of the Post-Cold War Era: Primitive Accumulation and American Empire RETORT, “Introduction,” “Blood for Oil,” and “Permanent War” in <i>Afflicted Powers: Capital and Spectacle in a New Age of War</i> Wayne Ellwood, <i>The No-Nonsense Guide to Globalization</i> , excerpts

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		In class 9/22: Seminar Group 4 & 5 (Group 4: RETORT; Group 5: Ellwood)
6	9/27 & 9/29	<p>Post-Cold War and Postcolonial: Structural Adjustment, Failed States, and the End of Development in the Global South</p> <p>Charles Piot, pp. 1-95 in <i>Nostalgia For the Future: West Africa After the Cold War</i></p> <p>In class 9/29: Group 6 Facilitation</p>
7	10/4 & 10/6	<p>Togo as Failed State?</p> <p>Charles Piot, pp. 97-170 in <i>Nostalgia For the Future</i></p> <p>Viewing: <i>Touki Bouki</i></p> <p>In class 10/6: Group 7 Facilitation</p>
		Part 3: Maddening States: (dis)order and state power
8	10/11 & 10/13	<p>The Spanish Civil War</p> <p>Helen Graham, <i>The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction</i></p> <p>Viewing: <i>The Spanish Civil War</i></p> <p>Paper 1 Due 10/13 in class</p>
9	10/18 & 10/20	<p>Maddening States</p> <p>Michael Taussig, "Terror as Usual": Taussig, "Art Adrift in the Passing Crowd Floating Wave-Like on a Freeway"; Begonia Arextaga, "Maddening States"</p> <p>In class 10/18: Group 8 & 9 Facilitation (Group 8: Taussig; Group 9: Arextaga)</p> <p>10/20 Midterm</p>
10	10/25 & 10/27	<p>Hauntology: Trauma, Memory, and Repression</p> <p>Viewing 10/25 & 27 : <i>Volver</i>, dir. Pedro Almodovar</p> <p>Read: Jose Calmeiro, "Ghosts? Haunting, Historical Memory, and Forgetting in Post-Franco Spain"; Jo Labanyi, "Engaging Ghosts; or Theorizing Culture in Modern Spain"; Carmen Madorran Ayerra, "Women in Spain's Second Republic and Civil War"</p> <p>Recommended: Begonia Arextaga, "Madness and the Politically Real: Reflections on Violence in Postdictatorial Spain"; Avery Gordon, <i>Ghostly</i></p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<i>Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination</i>
11	11/1 & 11/3	<p>Hauntology</p> <p>11/1 In class: Group 1 & 2 Facilitation (Group 1: Calmeiro and Ayerra; Group 2: Labanyi and Ayerra. Both Groups: <i>Volver</i>)</p> <p>11/3: Media Response #2 due at beginning of class</p> <p>Viewing 11/3: <i>Capitalism: A Six Part Series</i></p>
		PART 4: Neoliberalism: The End of the Social Contract in US Culture
12	11/8 & 11/10	<p>Neoliberalism and the End of Social Democracy</p> <p>Viewing 11/8: <i>Requiem for the American Dream – The Noam Chomsky Documentary</i></p> <p>David Harvey, “Neoliberalism and the Restoration of Class Power,” in <i>Spaces of Global Capitalism</i></p> <p>In class 11/10: Group 3 Facilitation (Chomsky mainly, and Harvey)</p>
13	11/15 & 11/17	<p>The New Authoritarianism: Austerity, the End of the Social, and the War on Youth</p> <p>Henry Giroux, “Class Warfare and the Advance of Austerity Policies Under the New Authoritarianism” and “Racism, Violence, and Militarized Terror in the Age of Disposability”; Andrea Smith, “Introduction: The Revolution will Not be Funded”</p> <p>In class 11/15: Group 4 & 5 Facilitation (Group 4: Giroux; Group 5: Smith)</p> <p>11/17 Viewing: <i>Capitalism: A Six Part Series</i></p>
14	11/22 & No class 11/24	<p>The Prison-Industrial Complex</p> <p>Angela Davis, <i>Are Prisons Obsolete?</i> Chapter 1,2, and 5</p> <p>In Class 11/22: Group 6 & 7 Facilitation (Davis)</p>
15	11/29 & 12/1	<p>States of Exception: Othering</p> <p>Hugh Raffles, “Jews”; Lisa Marie Cacho, “White Entitlement and Other People’s Crime” in <i>Social Death: Racialized Rightlessness and the Criminalization of the Unprotected</i></p> <p>In class 11/29:</p> <p>4/13 Lisa Marie Cacho, “Immigrant Rights Versus Civil Rights”; Liisa Malkki, “Refugees and Exile: From ‘Refugee Studies’ to the National Order of</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<p>Things”</p> <p>In class 12/1: Group 8 & 9 Facilitation (Group 8: Cacho 1st essay; Group 9: Cacho 2nd essay)</p>
16	12/6 & 12/8	<p>Course Reflection</p> <p>12/6 Paper 2 due in class</p>
Final Exam	<p>12/16 (sec 1)</p> <p>12/16 (sec 2)</p>	<p>Friday December 16th, 7:15-9:30 (section 1)</p> <p>Friday December 16th, 12:15-2:30 (section 2)</p> <p>See Final Exam Schedule here: http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/final-exam-schedule-fall.html</p>