

Engaged Anthropology (01:070:383:01; 4 credits)

Prof. Daniel Goldstein – Spring 2010

Course meets: Thursdays 3:55-6:55 plus some evenings

Office Hours: Mon 2:00-3:00; Thurs 2:00-3:55 or appt.

Class Meets and Office Hours held in: Corwin B building, 106 Nichol Ave (CLAS), DC

Course Description

Anthropologists have long been concerned with the relationship between knowledge and practice, the academy and the “real world.” This is particularly the case because anthropologists so often study the poor and marginalized, facing conditions of social inequality, discrimination, poverty, and limited life chances. Can anthropology and anthropologists have a positive, practical impact on the lives of those they study? Is this possible, or even desirable? What would such an impact look like? Would it make academic anthropology more difficult, or would it in fact facilitate ethnographic research? How does anthropology, and social science more generally, become transformed by such social engagement? These are some of the questions that this class will explore, by examining a newly emerging approach within the discipline of anthropology that specifically aims to address these questions. Sometimes referred to as “engaged” or “public” anthropology, this approach advocates for a type of research practice that is academically rigorous, politically critical, and socially concerned, and strives to understand the impacts, ethical dilemmas, political implications, and creative possibilities of an anthropology that reaches beyond the academy. Today, there is a robust but inconclusive discussion of “engagement” in the wider discipline, and what might be the aims, goals, and significance of an “engaged anthropology.” But the results of this discussion remain ambiguous, and no clear answers have been put forth about the nature, possibilities and limits of anthropological engagement.

This course thus explores this conjuncture of theory, practice, and politics, examining the ways in which an engaged anthropology might operate in the world today. Students will read and discuss texts that lay out the contending positions in this area, and will debate the ethical and practical implications of engagement for the discipline of Anthropology. In addition, students will devote considerable time to the actual practice of engaged anthropology, conducting a semester-long collaborative research project in the local Mexican community. The key conception here is that by conducting research in collaboration with local people (those typically identified as anthropology’s subjects), researchers can learn more, and local collaborators can benefit from the research process, by gaining knowledge about their own communities. Through research and collaboration with community members, students will experience firsthand the possibilities of an engaged anthropology, and will reflect on these possibilities and experiences – as well as on their own research findings – in their final course papers. In addition, students will work with their community partners to create a collaborative project that displays the results of their research to a wider public.

Course Objectives

This course aims to provide undergraduate students of Anthropology and Latin American Studies the opportunity to explore the possibilities of their work beyond the confines of a traditional academic field. It enables students to combine scholarly classroom work with independent research and collaboration with members of the New Brunswick community, as they explore the mutually sustaining benefits that collaboration offers to both research practitioners and subjects. Many students of Anthropology often describe themselves as frustrated by the discipline’s limitations, its tendency to separate academic work from broader questions of social justice and transformative action. Through this course, students will come to appreciate the many ways in which anthropology – its theories, methods, and overall disposition as a field – can touch the lives of the people it studies, and how anthropology offers students many undiscovered possibilities for study, employment, and self-enrichment. In addition, through independent research, students will engage with members of the local Mexican community in New Brunswick, to understand the history of this community and the problems currently facing its members, with the chance to propose solutions to resolve some of these challenges.

Requirements

1. Attendance You are required to attend all class meetings, and I take attendance daily. Class meets only once per week, and we cover a lot of material in class, so missing any class session can be costly. There are no unexcused

absences in this class – every unexcused absence counts for 5 points off your semester grade. If you have concerns about your attendance record, please consult with me in office hours.

2. Lateness I do not like late arrivals to class – it shows a disrespect for your professor, your studies, and your fellow classmates. I do realize, though, that sometimes lateness is unavoidable. Therefore, like at the opera, we will have one late seating. Students arriving late to class will have to wait in the hall until I admit them to the classroom, usually about 15 minutes after the start of class. Do not open the door if it is closed. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late will not be admitted to class, and it will count as one absence.

3. Reading and participation Please do all the assigned readings for each class meeting. Being prepared for class is necessary for full comprehension of the lectures and engaged participation in class discussions. Participation involves being alert and taking notes during lectures; asking questions to clarify points of misunderstanding; engaging actively in small-group activities; and contributing meaningfully and often to discussions. Keeping up with the readings is the best way to be sure you are ready to participate.

4. Evaluations and grading Your grade in the course will be based on your comprehension of the materials studied, using different types of evaluation. You will be graded out of a total of 100 points for the semester. There is no final exam in the class.

- Exam (30 pts) – There is one midterm, take-home exam, based on course readings.
- Research paper (40 pts) – Students will write a 15 page final paper for the course, based on independent research conducted during the semester.
- Participation (30 pts) – Student participation in research and service activities outside of class, plus in-class participation. This includes work on preparing and the results of the public history exhibition that students will work to coordinate for local display.

5. Grade Appeals: I do not discuss grades with students via email. If you want to know your score on an exam, or have a question or a complaint about your grade, please come see me in office hours.

6. Grading criteria on the research paper are as follows:

- Follows protocols – typed, double-spaced, within page limits, hard copies only, handed in on time.
- Shows critical insight – paper is based on original research, makes connections to published literature, makes a clear argument and supports that argument based on data collected.
- Neatness and completeness – work shows evidence that the student did careful work: well-written, no typos, good grammar, etc.

7. Grading Scale A = 90 and above; B+ = 88-89; B = 80-87; C+ = 78-79; C = 70-77; D = 60-69; F = 59 and below

8. Academic Integrity All students must strictly adhere to the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy, which identifies and defines violations of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. Full definitions of each of these violations, as well as the consequences of violating the Academic Integrity Policy, are available as part of the student handbook. Details:

<http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html#Integrity>

Research and Service

CESEP Orientation This class is organized as part of the Civic Engagement and Service Education Partnership program, or CESEP. As a participant in this course, you are required to attend the CESEP orientation on Friday, January 29, from 2:00-3:30 PM at the Cook Campus Center. At this orientation you will hear from a community partner on how to respectfully enter/exit a community organization, an overview on confidentiality, ethics, and information on the New Brunswick community, and other information relevant to this course. An invitation to this event is included on the final page of this syllabus.

Class Meetings Class meets once a week for a double session on Thursday afternoons. Approximately every other Thursday, class will extend into the evening as part of the Transnational New Brunswick (TNB) project; all students are required to attend all of these meetings as part of their work in this (four-credit) course. These TNB meetings are

marked on the syllabus with astericks (*). In addition, students will meet with their research teams at least once per week for one to two hours, to work on their collaborative research project.

Research Teams The class will be divided into research teams consisting of two Rutgers students, paired with one or two members of the New Brunswick Mexican community. Research teams will develop a research topic within the broader framework of developing a “public history” of Mexican New Brunswick, and determine ways to study this topic while also working collaboratively with community members to understand the problems facing these people.

Outcomes In addition to their own independent research papers, research teams will work collaboratively to produce a public exhibit of their research findings, presented publicly for both the Rutgers and the New Brunswick communities. These public projects will demonstrate the research findings, while also exploring the ways in which an engaged anthropology was deployed in their conception, production, and realization.

Conferences Two conferences will be held on campus during the Spring, 2010 semester, both of which have direct bearing on the material we are studying in our course. Participation in these conferences, unless they conflict with other course obligations, is a requirement of this class.

“Reflections on Engaged Anthropology” – The Department of Anthropology has scheduled a conference on this topic to be held on Friday, February 12, 2010. Students are required to attend as much of this conference as their schedule allows, as it will focus on the themes of this course and provide opportunities for students to speak with outside experts and Rutgers faculty about this newly emerging field.

“Transnational Citizenship Across the Americas” – An interdisciplinary conference of this title will be held on Friday, March 26, 2010 at Rutgers. Again, this material is directly related to our course work, and students are required to attend.

Books

The following books are required for the course and are available at the BN university bookstore:

- Behar, Ruth. 1997. *The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology That Breaks Your Heart*. Boston: Beacon.
- Charles R. Hale, ed. 2008. *Engaging Contradictions: Theory, Politics, and Methods of Activist Scholarship*. University of California Press
- Farmer, Paul. 2004. *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Network of Concerned Anthropologists. 2009. *The Counter-Counterinsurgency Manual*. Chicago: Prickly Paradigm.
- Sanford, Victoria, ed. 2006. *Engaged Observer: Anthropology, Advocacy, and Activism*. New Brunswick: Rutgers.
- Speed, Shannon. 2007. *Rights in Rebellion: Indigenous Struggle and Human Rights in Chiapas*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Stephen, Lynn. 2007. *Transborder Lives: Indigenous Oaxacans in Mexico, California, and Oregon*. Durham: Duke.

Course Schedule

Thurs 21 January – IRB Certification

For the first day of class we will be watching the IRB certification film, so that all students may become certified in research with Human Subjects, a requirement for doing ethical research with individuals and communities.

Thurs 28 January – What is Engaged Anthropology?

- Lamphere, Louise. 2003. The perils and prospects of an engaged anthropology. *Social Anthropology* 11(2):153–168
- Hale, Engaging Contradictions; Foreward (Calhoun), Introduction (Hale), chapters 1-3

* TNB Meeting, 6:00-8:00 PM

Thurs 4 February – Anthropology and Activism

Hale, chapters 4-9, 13

* TNB Meeting, 6:00-8:00 PM

Thurs 11 February – Engaged Observation

Special visitor: Prof Charles R. Hale, University of Texas-Austin

Kirsch, Stuart. 2002. Anthropology and advocacy: A case study against the campaign of the Ok Tedi mine. *Critique of Anthropology* 22(2):175-200.
Sanford, Engaged Observer; chapters 1-4

(Friday 12 February – “Reflections on Engaged Anthropology” Conference)

Thurs 18 February – Anthropology that Breaks Your Heart

Sanford, chapters 7, 8, 10, 11, 12
Behar, *The Vulnerable Observer*, chapters 1 and 2

* TNB Meeting, 6:00-8:00 PM

Thurs 25 February – The Personal is Political

Behar, chapters 3-6
Farmer, *Pathologies of Power*, Introduction and chapter 1

Thurs 4 March – Anthropology and healing

Farmer, chapters 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9

* TNB Meeting, 6:00-8:00 PM

Thurs 11 March – Triangulating Oaxaca/New Brunswick/Rutgers

Stephen, *Transborder Lives*; chapters 1-5

Spring Break

Thurs 25 March – Immigration, security, citizenship

Special visitor: Prof Hilary Dick, Temple University

De Genova, Nicholas. 2002. Migrant "illegality" and deportability in everyday life. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 31:419-447.
Menjívar, Cecilia. 2006. Liminal legality: Salvadoran and Guatemalan immigrants' lives in the United States. *American Journal of Sociology* 111(4):999-1037.
Rodriguez, Robyn. 2009. *The Local Politics of Homeland Security in New Jersey*. Manuscript.
Walters, William. 2002. Deportation, Expulsion, and the International Police of Aliens. *Citizenship Studies* 6(3): 265-292.

* TNB Meeting, 6:00-8:00 PM

(Friday 26 March – Conference on “Transnational Citizenship Across the Americas”)

Thurs 1 April – Engaged/Activist Anthropology in Mexico: A Case Study

Speed, Rights in Rebellion

Thurs 8 April – Ethical Entailments of Engagement

Goldstein, Daniel M. 2010. Security and the Culture Expert: Dilemmas of an Engaged Anthropology. PoLAR.

González, Roberto J. 2007. Towards mercenary anthropology? Anthropology Today 23(3):14-19.

Kilcullen, Lt. Col. David. 2006. "Twenty-eight articles: Fundamentals of company-level counterinsurgency. Military Review (May/June):103-108.

McFate, Montgomery. 2005. The military utility of understanding adversary culture. Joint Force Quarterly 38:42-48.

Packer, George. 2006. Knowing the enemy: Can social scientists redefine the "war on terror"? The New Yorker. Pp. 60-69.

Price, David. 1998. Cold War anthropology: Collaborators and victims of the national security state. Identities 4(3-4):389-430.

Price, David. 2003. "Anthropology Sub Rosa: The AAA, the CIA and the Ethical Problems Inherent in Secret Research" In Ethics and the Profession of Anthropology: Dialogue for Ethically Conscious Practice, Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban ed. 29-49. Second Edition. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press.

* TNB Meeting, 6:00-8:00 PM

Thurs 15 April - Anthropology and the Military – Unwanted Engagement?

Network of Concerned Anthropologists. The Counter-Counterinsurgency Manual

Thurs 22 April – Presentations of Student Research

Half of the students in the class will give oral presentations on their research during class today.

* TNB Meeting, 6:00-8:00 PM

Thurs 29 April – Presentations of Student Research

The second half of the class will present today.

Wed 5 May – Cinco de Mayo

***TNB, clausura del proyecto**



Civic Engagement and Service Education
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WELCOME TO CESEP

The 4 credit course you are enrolled in **Engaged Anthropology 01:070:383 Index # 77470 sec 01** is affiliated with the Rutgers Civic Engagement and Service Education Partnerships Program (CESEP). By combining academic study with community service, the CESEP program offers you the opportunity to get real-world experience and earn course credit at the same time.

The CESEP program offers a **mandatory** orientation training session so that you can get the most out of your service placement. The orientation session is scheduled as follows:

Friday, January 29, 2010

Cook Campus Center

Multi-Purpose Room, ABC

Registration: 1:00 pm – 2:00 am

Program: 2:00 pm – 3:30 p.m

Non-attendance may affect your grade. If you absolutely cannot attend this session, please contact the CESEP office at, (732) 932-8660, or email us at, civic@rci.rutgers.edu.