

ANTHROPOLOGY 517
THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF VIOLENCE
SPRING 2014

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Graduate Seminar:
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Course Description

Violence has been a central object of study for anthropologists, and social concern throughout the ages. Over the course of the semester, we will examine overt and extraordinary forms of violence, and consider as well the significance of its discreet and everyday expressions. To this end, we will explore scholarship on phenomena ranging from war, ethnic conflict and genocide, to neglect, exclusion and exposure to harm to inquire: What is violence? How does violence emerge and reproduce? How do different labels or categories – neglect, harm, discipline, civilian justice – affect our understanding of violent phenomena and the social relations they index? What can ethnography offer to our understanding of it? How can we as anthropologists develop effective tools to study a phenomenon that manifests from the intimacy of the family to the indifference of global actors and deterritorialized institutions?

With these questions in mind, the course is organized around three major goals. Part I, “Theories on the Ontology of Violence,” offers an overview of key ideas and theories on violence developed by major figures in the social sciences cannon. In Part II, “Ethnographies of Violence,” students will be able to examine how contemporary ethnographers have approached the issue in their writing and analysis. Finally, Part III, “Violence in Ethnographic Practice,” is devoted to practical concerns of engaging in fieldwork in places characterized by conflict or with subjects marked by it. Through this final section I hope to elicit a conversation regarding methodologies, frameworks, positionality and voicing that may prepare students to better contextualize and conceptualize issues of violence, conflict, trauma, and justice in their own research.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students will

- Become familiar with fundamental concepts, paradigms, and debates that have shaped our understanding of violence, within anthropology and the social sciences, as well as more broadly.
- Develop the necessary conceptual background and analytic insight to articulate and undertake their own examination of contemporary forms of violence.
- Develop a critical understanding of the challenges, limitations and advantages of undertaking ethnographic research in sites marked by conflict, violence and neglect; and be able to apply that knowledge to enhance their own research design and data collection practices.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**Assignments & Grading**

Weekly Question/Participation	300 points (20 points X 15 meetings)	30%
Discussion/Facilitation	100 points (50 points X 2 times)	10%
Paper Sketch	50 points	5%
Paper	150 points	15%
Peer review	100 Points	10%
Revisions & self-critique statement	100 points	10%
Op-Ed Draft	100 points	10%
Op-Ed Final	100 points	10%
Total points	1,000	100%

Grading scale:

A: 1000-900, B+: 899-850, B: 800-849, C+:750-799

Policy on Incomplete Grades: To encourage students not to fall in the trap that “Incomplete” grades represent, “temporary” grades will be issued instead. “T” grades will be based on the total points the student accumulates by the end of the semester (e.g. TB, TB-, TC). Temporary grades become permanent by the end of the semester that follows the course.

Due Dates (Chronologically):

Discussant Role Sign Up: 1/30
 Paper Sketch: 3/24
 Paper: 4/21
 Peer Reviews: 4/24 (in class)
 Op-Ed Draft: 4/ 28
 Revision & Self-Critique Statement: 5/13
 Op-Ed Revised: 5/13

Weekly Question, Attendance & Participation (30%)

Due: Wednesday prior to class by 5:00 p.m., via Sakai

Each student will submit a critical question that engages or arises from the readings for that week. Students should contextualize their questions, but keep their submissions short (approx. 300 words approx). The caliber of submissions should demonstrate that the required reading has been completed, and that the student has given the authors’ arguments careful consideration.

In the interest of giving discussants time to prepare, points will be progressive deducted for late assignments in the following fashion: Assignments time-stamped on or before 5:00 p.m. will receive 20 points, 15 points if time-stamped between 5:00 and 5:59, 10 points if they are submitted after 6:00 p.m. No submissions will be accepted after 6:30 p.m. Early submissions are highly encouraged.

Discussant Role (10%)

Due: Variable, twice per semester, 50 points per assigned discussion.

Two or three students will serve as peer discussants for each class. Each of these students will go over the questions submitted, consider them collectively, and identify common issues, threads, or blind spots. Discussants should come to class prepared to present their thoughts on the points raised by their peers, and, if and when appropriate, help stir the discussion in directions that may address or advance those concerns.

Paper Project

Students will work on a paper that engages the authors and issues discussed in class, but that is directly to their research topic and stage of training. Each student will negotiate the parameters and framework of his/her project with the instructor individually and no later than the third week of classes. The paper project will include the following assignments:

Paper Sketch (50 points, 15%)

Due: March 24th via Sakai dropbox

Paper sketches should include a paper abstract, a tentative outline, and a brief annotated bibliography including texts from the class.

Paper (150 points, 15%)

Due: April 21st via Sakai dropbox for circulation with all class members

The specific scope and parameters of each paper will be negotiated individually, but in general, the text of should not exceed 4000 words (approximately 10-12 pages of text). Endnotes should be kept at a minimum (400 words at most). The bibliography and citation style should correspond to the student's discipline. Anthropology students are expected to use the American Anthropological Association citation style (available at the AAA website). Papers should be submitted in 12-point font, using double spacing, 1" margins, include a title and page numbers.

Please note that your peers will be reading your paper and that this is the only version of this paper that the instructor will read, so turn in your best work.

Peer Review (100 points, 10%)

Due: April 24th in class

Each student will be assigned to review the papers of 3-4 of their peers. While students are free to provide as much feedback as they would like, they are expected to (1) write a brief statement assessing the strengths and weaknesses of overall argument and its argumentation, (2) offer suggestions for improvement identifying key problems or issues that stand to be strengthened, (3) provide specific suggestions or comments on the text (marginalia).

Revision Statement & Self-Critique (100 points, 10%)

Due: May 13th

This should take the form of a hypothetical resubmission letter. In the space of a couple of pages, students should outline how they would improve their texts, address the critiques levied by their peers and justify their decisions to follow or dismiss suggestions.

Op-Ed Draft (20%):

Op-Ed Draft Due: April 28th (100 points)

Revised Op-Ed Due: May 13th (100 points)

During the course of the semester, students will write a short critical essay that closely aligns with their Paper Project but which is intended for a broader audience. Essays should present well-reasoned, compelling arguments that illustrate an anthropological approach to the issue or topic selected. These short, critical essays should follow the New York Times format for op-ed submissions and be roughly 750 words in length.

Examples of Op-Eds written by anthropologists:

<http://www.aaanet.org/issues/Member-Op-Eds.cfm>

Also read, "Op-Ed and You" by Trish Hall:

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/14/opinion/op-ed-and-you.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism. At the most basic level, don't cheat, don't lie, don't steal, don't sabotage your learning or the learning of others, and don't aid and abet anyone who engages in any or all of these practices. The University's established course of action will be followed without hesitation in case of violations. If you have any questions, please see me and consult Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>.

Attendance & Preparedness. The participation of every student is paramount to the success of the seminar. You are expected to read *all* assigned materials, come to class prepared and on time, and stay for the duration of the session. Participation includes both actively listening and speaking. There will be no tolerance for violent, disrespectful, disruptive or unlawful behavior. Please see the University Code of Student Conduct available at <http://judicialaffairs.rutgers.edu>

Absences and Make-ups. Attendance and preparedness counts basically for 30% of your grade. If you must miss a class, you may make up points by writing a 5-page critical essay that demonstrates your understanding of the readings assigned that week. Make up essays are due by 5:00 p.m. the Friday following the session missed. If you know you will be missing a class in advance, you should submit your make up early.

Technology. Cell phones must be silenced and put away during class. The use of laptops for note-taking purposes in this class is a privilege, not a right. If your laptop becomes a distraction for you or others, you stand to lose that privilege.

Disabilities. If you need or think you might need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services at dsoffice@rci.rutgers.edu, (732) 932-2848 and see me. I will try my best to abide by their recommendations.

Required readings: They will be available on the course's Sakai site, through the library's electronic resources and also includes the following books that students should buy or otherwise procure.

COURSE MATERIALS

Journal Articles

Students are expected to procure their own copies of articles from journals to which the Rutgers library subscribes.

Book Chapters

Selections from books and anthologies will be available on the course's Sakai site, under the "resources" tab.

Books

Below is a list of books that you may want to purchase or borrow. They are listed in the order in which we will be reading them. I have also included titles that we will only read partially – they are marked with an asterisk – either because of the length of the assigned selections or the importance of the works merit you owning your own copy.

Zizek, Slavoj
2008 Violence. London: Picador.

- Agamben, Giorgio
1998 *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Arendt, Hannah
1970 *On Violence*. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co.
- *Farmer, Paul
2004 *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*.
- Lubkemann, Stephen C.
2010 *Culture in Chaos: An Anthropology of the Social Condition in War*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Feldman, Allen
1991 *Formations of Violence: The Narrative of the Body and Political Terror in Northern Ireland*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Selections.
- *Aretxaga, Begoña
2005 *States of Terror: Begoña Aretxaga's Essays*. Reno, NV: Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno.
- *Foucault, Michel
1995 *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Vintage. (Part I: Torture).
- Ghassem-Fachandi, Parvis
2012 *Pogrom in Gujarat: Hindu Nationalism and Anti-Muslim Violence in India*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Tilly, Charles and Sidney Tarrow
2006. *Contentious Politics*. Oxford.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Most readings are available at: https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/anthroviolence_fall10.
Note that readings and page allocations might change.

WEEK 1 (1/23): INTRODUCTION

- Arblaster, Anthony
1975 What is violence? *Socialist Register* 12:224-249.

WEEK 2 (1/30): WHY VIOLENCE?

- Benjamin, Walter
2007 Critique of Violence (*Reflections*). In *On Violence, A Reader*. B.B. Lawrence and A. Karim, eds. Pp. 268-285. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Robben, Antonius C. G. M., and Carolyn Nordstrom
1994 The Anthropology and Ethnography of Violence and Sociopolitical Conflict. In *Fieldwork Under Fire: Contemporary Studies of Violence and Survival*. A.C.G.M. Robben and C. Nordstrom, eds. Pp. 1-23. Berkely: University of California Press.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy, and Philippe Bourgois
2004 Introduction: Making Sense of Violence. In *Violence in War and Peace: An Anthology*. N. Scheper-Hughes and P. Bourgois, eds. Pp. 1-31. Malden: Blackwell.
- Zizek, Slavoj
2008 *Violence*. London: Picador.

PART I: THEORIES ON THE ONTOLOGY OF VIOLENCE**WEEK 3 (2/6): STATE OF VIOLENCE & SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY**

Hobbes, Thomas

1985 *Leviathan*. New York: Penguin Classics. Selections.

Arendt, Hannah

2007 *On Totalitarianism*. In *On Violence, A Reader*. B.B. Lawrence and A. Karim, eds. Pp. 416-443. Durham: Duke University Press.

Foucault, Michel

2003 *Society Must Be Defended: Lectures at the College de France*. D. Macey, transl. New York: Picador. Lectures 2, 3, and 11.

Locke, John

1714 *Of Tyranny*. In *The Second Treatise of Government*. Pp. Chapter XVIII.

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques

1972 *The Social Contract*. Book II, Ch. 5; Book II, Ch. 10-14.

Cohen, Youssef, Brian R. Brown And A. F. K. Organski.

1981 "The Paradoxical Nature Of State Making: The Violent Creation Of Order." *The American Political Science Review* Vol. 75, No. 4 (Dec., 1981), Pp. 901-910**WEEK 4 (3/13): THE DIALECTICS OF VIOLENCE**

Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich

1977 *Phenomenology of Spirit*. Pp. 111-119. ("Lordship & Bondage.")http://www.humanities.uci.edu/critical/Wellek_Readings_Hegel_Lordship.pdf

Engels, Friedrich

2007 *Anti-During*. In *On Violence, A Reader*. B.B. Lawrence and A. Karim, eds. Pp. 39-61. Durham: Duke University Press.

Fanon, Frantz

2004 *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press. Pg. 1-62.

Gramsci, Antonio

2000 *The Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916-1935*. D. Forgacs, ed. New York: NYU Press. (PART TWO: PRISON WRITINGS 1929-1935: VI Hegemony, Relations of Force, Historical Bloc)Digital Book available at <http://ouleft.org/wp-content/uploads/gramsci-reader.pdf>(See also: http://courses.justice.eku.edu/PLS330_Louis/docs/gramsci-prison-notebooks-vol1.pdf)

Marx, Karl

TBA. *Creative destruction*2007 *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy*. In *On Violence, A Reader*. B.B. Lawrence and A. Karim, eds. Pp. 62-77. Durham: Duke University Press.**WEEK 5 (2/20): VIOLENCE. LAW & THE STATE**

Agamben, Giorgio

1998 *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. (Part I & III)

Arendt, Hannah

1970 *On Violence*. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co.

Weber, Max

1946 *Politics as a Vocation*. In *Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. H.H. Gerth and C.W. Mills, eds. Pp. 77-128. New York: Oxford University Press.

Clausewitz, Carl von.
On War (Ch1 & 2, pp 75-99)

WEEK 6 (2/27): EVERYDAY VIOLENCE

- Taussig, Michael
1989 Terror as Usual: Walter Benjamin's Theory of History as a State of Siege. *Social Text* 23(Autumn-Winter): 3-20.
- Bourdieu, Pierre, and Loic Wacquant
2007 Symbolic Violence. *In Violence in War and Peace, An Anthology*. N. Scheper-Hughes and P. Bourgois, eds. Pp. 275-280. Malden: Blackwell.
- Bourdieu, Pierre
2007 Gender and Symbolic Violence. *In Violence in War and Peace, An Anthology*. N. Scheper-Hughes and P. Bourgois, eds. Pp. 339-342. Malden: Blackwell.
- Farmer, Paul
2004 Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor. (Selections)
2004 On Suffering and Structural Violence: A View from Bellow. *Current Anthropology* 45(305-325).

PART II: ETHNOGRAPHIES OF VIOLENCE

WEEK 7 (3/6): (OVERT) STATE VIOLENCE

- Green, Linda
1994 Fear as a Way of Life. *Cultural Anthropology* 9(2): 227-256.
- Lubkemann, Stephen C.
2010 Culture in Chaos: An Anthropology of the Social Condition in War. Chicago. University of Chicago Press.

WEEK 8 (3/13): CIVIL VIOLENCE

- Feldman, Allen
1991 Formations of Violence: The Narrative of the Body and Political Terror in Northern Ireland. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Selections.
- Scott, James
1987 Weapons of the Weak (Selections)
1990 Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts. New Heaven, CT: Yale University Press. (Ch. 2 "Domination, Acting, and Fantasy." Pp. 17-44).
2009 The Art of Not Being Governed (Civilization & the Unruly)

WEEK 9: (3/20): SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10 (3/27): GENDERED VIOLENCE

- Aretxaga, Begoña
2005 States of Terror: Begoña Aretxaga's Essays. Reno, NV: Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno. (Introduction & Part I: Gender and Political Violence in Northern Ireland).
- Zarkov, Dubravka

- 2007 The Body of War: Media, Ethnicity, and Gender in the Break-up of Yugoslavia.
Durham: Duke University Press. Ch. 4 & 5.
- Nordstrom, Caroline
2004 (Gendered) War. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*. Vol. 28 (5): 399 – 412.

WEEK 11 (4/3): VIOLENCE & THE BODY

- Das, Veena
2006 Life and Words: Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Ch. 3)
- Foucault, Michel
1995 [1977]. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Vintage. (Part I: Torture).
- Scarry, Elaine
1985 The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World. New York: Oxford University Press. (Ch. 1).
- Taussig, Michael
1984 Culture of Terror--Space of Death. Roger Casement's Putumayo Report and the Explanation of Torture. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 26(3): 467-497.
- Appendix: Torture – Definitions and legal Instruments. In *The Politics of Pain: Torturers and their Masters*. Pp. 147-150. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

WEEK 12 (4/10): DEATH, TRAUMA & THE ROUTINIZATION OF VIOLENCE

- Ghassem-Fachandi, Parvis
2012 Pogrom in Gujarat: Hindu Nationalism and Anti-Muslim Violence in India. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy
1993 Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 6 & 7.

Part III: VIOLENCE IN ETHNOGRAPHIC PRACTICE

WEEK 13 (4/17): ARTICULATING FRAMEWORKS FOR THE STUDY OF VIOLENCE & CONFLICT

- Tilly, Charles and Sidney Tarrow
2006. *Contentious Politics*. Oxford.
- Nordstrom, Carolyn and Adriana Quiñones Giraldo
2002 Four Ways to Tell a Story on Violence. *Reviews in Anthropology* 31(1)1-19.
- Zizek's Violence - revisit

***** Paper Due: Monday, April 21st at 12 noon *****

WEEK 14 (4/20): WRITING ON VIOLENCE: PEER REVIEW & PAPER WORKSHOP

Peer Reviews are due in class. Please come prepared to discuss the papers from your peers.

WEEK 15 (4/27): METHODS, ETHICS, SAFETY, & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Feldman, Allen

1994. Ethnographic States of Emergency. *In* Fieldwork Under fire: Contemporary Studies of Violence and Survival. Pp. 224-242. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Kovats-Berna, J. C. 2002. Negotiating Dangerous Fields: Pragmatic Strategies for Fieldwork amid Violence and Terror. *American Anthropologist* 104:208-222.

Mahmood, Cynthia Keppley

2008 Anthropology from the Bones: A Memoir of Fieldwork, Survival, and Commitment. *Anthropology and Humanism* 11(1-2): 1-11.

Pedelty, Mark

2007 From War Stories: The Culture of Foreign Correspondents. *In*

Violence in War and Peace, an Anthology. N. Scheper-Hughes and P. Bourgois, eds. Pp. 402-409. Malden: Blackwell.

Sluka, Jeffrey A.

1994 Reflections on Managing Danger in Fieldwork: Dangerous Anthropology in Belfast. *In* Fieldwork Under Fire: Contemporary Studies of Violence and Survival. A.C.G.M. Robben and C. Nordstrom, eds. Pp. 276-294. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Starn, Orin

1991 Missing the Revolution: Anthropologists and the War in Peru. *Cultural Anthropology* 6(1):63-91.

Zulaika, Joseba

1995 The Anthropologist as Terrorist. *In* Fieldwork Under Fire. C. Nordstrom and A. Robben, eds. Pp. 207-10, 219-22. Berkeley: University of California Press.

*****Op-Ed Drafts are due for internal circulation on Monday, April 28th by 12 noon*****

WEEK 16 (5/1): PAPER & OP-ED WORKSHOP.

Read your peers' paper and op-ed drafts, and come prepared to offer feedback.

*****Final Submissions Due: May 13th by 11:00 a.m.*****