

Anthropology Department

Political anthropology

Fall 2011

Lecturer: Rahimov Ruslan, PhD

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Office hours: by appointment

Time and venue Monday: 10.50, room 220

Wednesday: 10.50, room 109

Description of the course:

This course examines power and *the political* through anthropological perspective. The course will cover topics from different historical periods which are embedded to specific political context and various practices. We shall study how anthropologists approach such topics as «globalization», colonialism, clan politics and ideology.

Another part of the syllabus considers the way anthropologists have revised the concept of power, influenced by transformations in the societies they studied, changes in the global political economy.

In doing so, it examines both “formal” politics and everyday forms of power, domination and resistance. This part will be also devoted to the central Asian realities, where we consider politics and power in an age of “globalization”--questioning that term even as we examine its implications for identity, the state, and political action, and emphasizing the ways *ethnographically* grounded anthropological research can shift from the micro-level to a deeper understanding of large-scale, national, transnational and global processes.

Key readings:

- Balandier, Georges. “Political anthropology”
- The anthropology of development and globalization from classical political economy to contemporary neoliberalism
- Other texts will be available on the Moodle system or distributed in the form of hand-outs.

Assignments:

Oral Participation:	30 %
4 Short Papers (1-2 pp):	20 %
Mid term exam:	20 %
Proposal and bibliography for the final project (2 pp):	5 %
Final project (6-7 pp):	25 %
Assessment	

Attendance

Attendance is required. Attendance will be checked in the beginning of each class period. If you are late you will not be allowed to the class. Or, you can be allowed to the class but will get an absence in the attendance list.

If you got sick, you have to notify an instructor or the office manager in advance, and later submit an official document (spravka) from a physician, especially if you are scheduled to

make a class presentation. **Four unexcused absences** will result in “X” for the whole course. Participation will be graded based on active participation, which 1) demonstrates awareness of the subject; 2) shows knowledge of the reading; 3) shows ability to criticize the topic.

4 Short papers:

20 points

- *Short reflection paper will be mainly based on reading critique of one of the articles, which will be provided in advance. Student has to discuss author’s arguments. Samples will be posted on the Moodle course site (click political anthropology, enrollment key: ANTH 376). Assignments should be sent to the instructors e-mail.*

Deadlines

Papers must be submitted to the office manager of Anthropology Department before the deadline (moodle system can be also used). The time you submit will be recorded by the office manager and confirmed by your signature. Papers and assignments submitted beyond the deadline will not be accepted or graded. Deadlines can only be extended upon prior permission request and for medical reasons. Only those late papers with valid or legitimate excuse will be accepted but penalized that will affect the final grade for the assignment. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade (i. E. A- to B+).

Mid Term exam. Exam will be in-class writing and will be based on 4 questions based on class topics, student should select two of them.

Final project and presentation:

25 points

- *The final paper will be an original ethnographic research with at least seven sources. The topic will be developed in consultation with the instructor, and can cover any political themes in Kyrgyzstan. The paper should contain 6-7 pages with bibliography (double-space, 12 t. new roman..) It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.*

Grading scale:

A =100-95	C =76-73
A-=94-90	C-=72-70
B+=89-87	D+=69-67
B =86-83	D =66-63
B-=82-80	D-=62-60
C+=79-77	F =59 and less

Mobile phones

Mobile phones and other electronic devices must be off while you are attending the class.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated during the course. Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person’s ideas and representing them as your own original work. You must either paraphrase the sentence by putting it completely in your own words and citing it with the proper footnote, endnote or in text citation, or put the quotation marks or make block quotation if you use the direct words of the source without any change with the following footnote, endnote or other citation after the copied words. All information must be cited. Always cite a legitimate source. Wikipedia is not a legitimate source. Books published by university presses and academic papers found on JSTOR are legitimate sources.

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated during the course. Cheating is the use of unauthorized sources during exams such as books, student's notes, cellular phones, etc.

Class presentations

If you fail to make a class presentation on time, you will not be given a second chance to do it and lose those points assigned for the presentation.

Note: no laptops are allowed during the class.

Appeals

If you don't agree with your grade for an assignment, you must submit a written appeal for the name of the Anthropology Department Head explaining the reasons of your disagreement. Oral appeals are not considered.

Class Syllabus. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the class outline, exam dates or assignment. It is your responsibility to attend the class and be informed of any changes to the syllabus.

Schedule:

1 week

Introduction to the subject

Syllabus, course policies.

2 week

Premises of political anthropology

- Meyer Fortes and Edward Evan Evans-Pritchard: "African political Systems"
- Evans Pritchard: "Nuer politics: Structure and Politics"

3 week

Facing Politics and Power in Anthropology

- Eric R. Wolf: "Facing Power—Old Insights, New Questions"
- M. Foucault: "Intellectuals and Power"

4 week

Politics in Agrarian Societies and the Rise of the State

- Talal Asad: Market Model, Class Structure and Consent: A Reconsideration of Swat Political Organization
- film

5 week

Colonial Rule

- Ann Stoler, "Perceptions of Protest: Defining the Dangerous in Colonial Sumatra "
- Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty; 1988; Can The Subaltern Speak?; Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture; Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg; Urbana/Chicago; University of Illinois Press; 271-313

6 week

Colonialism and World Capitalism

- June Nash, "Ethnographic Aspects of the World Capitalist System"
- Film or guest lecturer

7 week

From Colonialism to "Globalization"

- Jonathan Friedman, “ , Socio-political Disorder, and Ethnification as Expressions of Declining Global Hegemony”
- Immanuel Wallerstein, 1997, “The Rise and Future Demise of World-Systems Analysis.”

8 week

The politics of identity

- Anderson: “Imagined Communities”
- mid term exam

9 week

Anthropological Commitment

- Kathleen Gough, “New Proposals for Anthropologists,”
- Gerald Sider: “Can Anthropology Ever Be Innocent?”
- Recommended reading: Robert Young: Academic activism and knowledge in post-colonial reading.

10 week

Resistance

- Lila Abu-Lughod: “The Romance of Resistance: Tracing Transformations of Power Through Bedouin Women”
- Film: The Kaypao: Indians of the Brazilian Rain Forest.

11 week

Methodology in political anthropology

Edward Shatz: The politics of multiple identities: lineage and ethnicity in Kazakhstan

12 week

- Round table (ICP, anthropology department): “Political sciences and anthropology: theories and methods”
- Murzakulova, J. Schoberlein: “The invention of legitimacy: struggles in Kyrgyzstan to Craft an Effective Nation-State ideology”
- *Recommended reading:*
Johan Rasanaygam: “The moral construction of the state in Uzbekistan”, extract from the dissertation extract.

13 week

Towards an anthropology of state

- Akhil Gupta: “Blurred Boundaries: The Discourse of Corruption, the Culture of Politics, and the Imagined State”
- Fergusson J., A. Gupta: “Spatializing states: toward an ethnography of neoliberal governmentality”

14 week

- Herzfeld: “Cultural intimacy”
- Reeves, Madeleine. "Travels in the Margins of the State: Everyday Geography in the Ferghana Valley Borderlands."

15 week

- Ong Aihwa: (Re)Articulations of Citizenship
- Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt. Friction : An Ethnography of Global Connection. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2005. Print

16 week

Glossary