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ANTY 423.01: Culture and Identity

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**ANTHROPOLOGY 423: CULTURE AND IDENTITY**  
**SPRING 2018**  
MWF * 3:10-4:00pm * Liberal Arts 106  

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Richard A. Sattler  
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**OFFICE:** Social Science 222  
**OFFICE HOURS:** TW 11:00-12:00am  
**R 1:00-2:00pm**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the comparative study of identity formation along and across racial, ethnic, and ethno-national lines. Emphasis is placed on issues of ethnogenesis, cultural resistance, and transformation. The roles of cultural domination and colonialism are examined, as well as cultural sharing to understand both the cultural commonalities and differences in identity formation.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Students will gain an appreciation of the nature and processes of ethnic identity formation.
2. Students will acquire an understanding of the flexibility, fluidity, and dynamic nature of ethnic identities.
3. Students will increase their knowledge of the role of social conflict and inequality in identity formation.
4. Students will gain a familiarity with the literature and current research on the topic.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Course Evaluation:**

- **Examinations** - There will be three take-home exams. All exams will consist of four essay questions and each will be worth 100 points. The final exam will not be comprehensive. Each examination is worth 15% of your grade.

- **Discussion** – This class invites discussion and a portion of each week will be set aside for discussion. You are expected to actively participate in this discussion. Discussion is worth 20% of your grade.

- **Reading Journal:** All students will post a weekly reading journal entry over that week’s assigned readings. These will be posted on Moodle and are due on by midnight **Tuesday** of the week assigned. (Students have until Saturday at midnight on the first week of class). Reading Journals are worth 10% of your grade. See “Guide to Reading Journals” on Moodle.

- **Research Papers** - Each student must write a ten to twelve (10-12) page research paper using at least ten (10) sources other than the required course texts on a topic of their choice relating to the subject of the class. You must submit your topic for approval by the instructor by the end of the fifth week of class (Feb 23). The paper is to be posted on Moodle and is due in by midnight on **Friday, Apr 27**. The paper is worth 25% of your grade. If you need assistance in starting your paper, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. See “Guide to Research Papers” on Moodle for details.

- **Students with Disabilities:** If you need special accommodations, you should contact Disability Services for Students to make arrangements and let me know if there is anything I need to be aware of or that I need to do.

- **Graduate Students:** Graduate students are required to write a fifteen to twenty (15-20) page research paper with at least 15 sources on a topic of their choice relating to the subject of the class. Graduate students will be graded on individual academic performance.

- **Extra Credit:** Students wishing to earn extra credit may write a 2-4 page critical review of any book dealing with ethnic or racial identities, with the consent of the instructor. Reviews are worth up to 20 points each and only one (1) review can be accepted per student. See “Guide to Reviews” on Moodle for details. There may be other extra credit opportunities over the course of the semester which will be announced in class. All extra credit is to be posted on Moodle and due on the **Friday before finals week** by midnight.
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**Late Work and Make-Ups:** Students are expected to turn in all work on the scheduled due dates listed in the syllabus. Make-ups will only be given in the case of unavoidable absences. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible in such cases and to arrange for a make-up. Late work is subject to a 1/3-letter grade penalty per day (exclusive of weekends and holidays). No late work will be accepted after the regularly scheduled final exam unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

**Academic Honesty:** All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

**Required Readings:**

**Online Readings:** Available on-line on Moodle

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### Provisional Course Outline

#### Week 1
**Introduction & Overview**
**Readings:** Eriksen, Ch. 1; Song, “Introduction;” Therborn, “Human, Nasty, and Short;” Therborn, “Three Kinds of (In)equality”

#### Week 2
**Theorizing Ethnicity I**
**Readings:** Eriksen, Ch. 2-4; Song, Ch. 1, 2

Jan 29 (Mon) - Video: *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, pt 2

#### Week 3
**Theorizing Race**

Feb 5 (Mon) - Video: *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, pt 3

#### Week 4
**Making & Changing Identities**
**Readings:** Eriksen, Ch. 5; Song, Ch. 3; Albers, “Changing Patterns of Ethnicity in the Northeastern Plains, 1780-1870”; Haaland, ”Cultural Content and Ethnic Boundaries”; Sattler, ”Remnants, Renegades, and Runaways”

#### Week 5
**Language, Place, Religion, & Identity**
**Readings:** Obeyesekere, ”On Buddhist Identity in Sri Lanka”; Kandre, ”Yao (Iu Mien) Supernaturalism, Language, and Ethnicity”; Levine, ”Constructing a Market, Constructing an Identity”; McCarthy, ”Ethno-R eligious Mobilization”; Scott, ”Mapping the Past”; Smith ”Making Culture Matter”

Feb 19 (Mon) **Presidents’ Day (No Class)**

Feb 23 (Fri) **Paper Topics Due**

Feb 25 (Sun) **1st Midterm Due**

#### Week 6
**Multietnicity & Pluralism: Overview**
**Readings:** Jenkins and Gottlieb, ”Identity Conflicts and their Regulation”; King, ”State and Ethnicity in Precolonial Northern Nigeria”; Meir, ”Jews, Ukrainians, and Russians in Kiev”; Jonsson, ”Yao Minority Identity and the location of Difference in the South China Borderlands”

Feb 26 (Mon) - Video: *The blending of culture*

#### Week 7
**Pluralism: Ethnic Stratification & Inequality I**
**Readings:** Eriksen, Ch. 7; Song, Ch. 7; Webner, ”Essentialising Essentialism, Essentialising Silence”; Van Dijk, ”Discourse and Racism;”; Essed, ”Everyday Racism”

Mar 5 (Mon) - Video: *Unnatural causes: Pt. 1: In sickness and in wealth*

#### Week 8
**Pluralism: Ethnic Stratification & Inequality II**
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Mar 12 (Mon) - Video: Unnatural causes: Pt. 2: When the bough breaks

WEEK 9 ETHNIC CONFLICT

Mar 19 (Mon) - Video: Don’t fence me in

WEEK 9 SPRING BREAK
MAR 26-APR 1 NO CLASSES

WEEK 11 ETHNICITY & NATIONALISM

Apr 8 (Sun) 2nd MIDTERM DUE

WEEK 12 GLOBAL ETHNICITY: COLONIALISM

Apr 9 (Mon) - Video: The Africans, a triple heritage. Pt. 4, Tools of exploitation

WEEK 13 GLOBAL ETHNICITY: POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Apr 16 (Mon) - Video: Song of Umm Dalaila

WEEK 14 GLOBAL ETHNICITY: THE GLOBAL & THE LOCAL

Apr 27 (Fri) PAPERS DUE

WEEK 15 HYBRIDITY & THE FUTURE OF ETHNICITY
Readings: Eriksen, Ch. 9; Song, Ch. 4, 8; Baker-Cristales, “Salvadoran Transformations”; Hintzen, “The Caribbean”; Johnsson, “Mien Alter-Natives in Thai Modernity”

Apr 30 (Mon) - Video: Multiracial identity

WEEK 15 FINALS WEEK
May 8 (Tue) @ 5:00pm FINAL EXAM DUE

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