George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form

Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  X NEW  ____ MODIFY  ____ DELETE

Local Unit:  SOAN  Graduate Council Approval Date:  

Course Abbreviation:  ANTH  Course Number: 536

Full Course Title: Anthropology and the Human Condition: Seminar II

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): ANTH HUMAN COND II

Credit hours: 3  Program of Record: ANTH

Repeatable for Credit?  
___ D=Yes, not within same term  Up to  hours
___ T=Yes, within the same term  Up to  hours
X  N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  
___ Lecture (LEC)  ___ Lab (LAB)  ___ Recitation (RCT)
___ Studio (STU)  ___ Internship (INT)  ___ Independent Study (IND)  X  Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format  3 :3 :0  Course Level:  GF(500-600) X  GA(700+)

Maximum Enrollment: 18  For NEW courses, first term to be offered: sp 05

Prerequisites or corequisites: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. ANTH 536 Anthropology and the Human Condition: Seminar II. (3:3:0). Graduate Standing or Permission of Instructor. Examination of contemporary theorists of anthropology and ongoing debates over epistemology and the multiple strands that inform anthropological theory and practice will be covered.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:
Last term offered:  Previous Course Abbreviation:  Previous number:
Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:
Submitted by:  ________________________________ email: pblack@gmu.edu

Department/Program:  ________________________________ Date: __________________

College Committee:  ________________________________ Date: __________________

Graduate Council Representative:  ________________________________ Date: __________________
ANTH 536  ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE HUMAN CONDITION, SEMINAR II (3 credits)

The second part of a two-part core proseminar, this course examines contemporary cultural theories and highlights ongoing debates over epistemology and interpretation. Subject matter will include contemporary anthropological approaches, such as feminism, practice theory, neo-marxism, interpretation and reflexivity, postmodernism, and transnational and translocal anthropology.

Course Requirements

The course requires a substantial amount of reading (on average 150 pages a week), but you may read in the survey mode, as you might when compiling an annotated bibliography – for a given week's readings, skim some, read others more deeply. Students are expected to do assigned reading in advance of class meetings, as listed.

Course requirements include a midterm examination (20%), final examination (25%), weekly reading summaries of 1-2 pages (20%), and two papers of 7-10 pages (30%) each during the semester. Each of the papers must incorporate course material, although you may choose your own theme or topic. Your bibliography must include at least two articles from journals in the area of anthropology. In some cases, more detailed guidelines as to the content of reading comments may be specified, requiring students to evaluate readings in the light of particularly salient debates in the field of anthropology.

You will also be graded on the basis of the frequency and quality of your general classroom participation. Every student will be expected to talk for 2 or 3 minutes on their reactions to the readings each week (5%).

Required Texts


Course packets will be available in the bookstore. Some readings will be on reserve at the Johnson Center. This will be announced in class.
WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION

WEEKS 2 AND 3 ON THE CUSP

Barnard, Alan. History and Theory, pp. 120-138.
Geertz, 1972 "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight." From Interpretation of Cultures 412-453.
Booth, The Craft of Research

WEEK 4 ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORY

Perspectives on the Transition
Bernard, H. Russell. “Methods Belong to All of Us”

WEEK 5 ANTHROPOLOGY OF POWER

Marxism
Booth, The Craft of Research

WEEK 6 KNOWLEDGE/POWER

PAPER 1 DUE

Knauf, "Moments of Knowledge and Power", from Genealogies, 141-175.

Hegemony/Resistance
Kearney, Michael. Excerpts, “Reconceptualizing the Peasantry.”

WEEK 7 PRACTICE PERSPECTIVES
Required reading


Booth, The Craft of Research

WEEKS 8 AND 9 THE CRISIS OF REPRESENTATION, THE POLITICS OF CULTURE AND POSTMODERNISM

TAKE-HOME MID-TERM DUE, Week 8


*The Crisis of Representation, The Politics of Culture, and Postmodernism*


Keesing, Roger. “Theories of Culture Revisited”

WEEK 10 REFLEXIVITY AND POSITIONING


Rosaldo, Renato. “Grief and a Headhunter’s Rage”


Booth, The Craft of Research

WEEKS 11 AND 12 FEMINIST CONUNDRUMS


*Feminist Conundrums*

Yanagisako and Collier, “Gender and Kinship Reconsidered…”


Martin, Emily. 1994. *Flexible Bodies* (excerpts)
PAPER 2 DUE, Week 13

Knauft, "Pushing Anthropology Past the Posts," from Genealogies, 63-104.

WEEK 15 THE FUTURE?


FINAL EXAM