ANT 391 ANTHROPOLOGY BETWEEN CULTURE AND SOCIETY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unique</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30660</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>2:00 - 5:00</td>
<td>SAC 5.118</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instructor: Sofian Merabet (sofian.merabet@austin.utexas.edu)
Office Hours: Thursday 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
or by appointment in SAC 5.164

Course Description:

Based on recent book publications by faculty members of the UT Anthropology Department, this graduate seminar explores some of the current debates in the US surrounding the anthropological study of culture and society. How can we make sense of sociocultural anthropology as an academic discipline today? is the central question of this course. Problematizing the role area studies have played in shaping the idea of the “field,” we will look at location as a principal site of epistemological limitation and possibility for anthropological research.

Required Texts (listed alphabetically): [ordered at the University Coop, www.universitycoop.com, 2246 Guadalupe Street, Austin, (512) 476-7211]


**Course Requirements for Registered Students:**

The class relies on the intellectual commitment and active participation of all students. It will be run primarily as discussions within a seminar format. In order for the course to be effective, all students must have the reading assignments completed and ready for in-depth discussion for each class. Regular attendance is required. Attendance in class, however, does not constitute participation. You must come to class having carefully read all materials and be prepared to discuss, question, and argue about issues raised in the readings. It will be beneficial for you to take excerpts/notes on any material that you find enlightening, controversial, or objectionable. You should also take notes in class on themes, key terms, and debates we tackle. These note-taking strategies will be crucial when you write your weekly response papers. In short:

1) Do all assigned readings (while taking excerpts/notes!) by the date indicated on the syllabus and participate actively in the general class discussion.
2) Regular one to two 15-minute presentations on the weekly readings to be assigned to students. They are intended to launch the general seminar discussions.
3) Three-page description of the research paper (“Project Outline”) to be submitted to me and presented to the rest of the class on Tuesday, October 20th.
4) 10-minute presentations on the respective final research project on Tuesday, December 1st.
5) 15 to 20-page term paper on any relevant topic dealing with the anthropological study of culture and society due on **Thursday, December 3rd**. Focused topics on your own scholarly interests that raise a central research issue or query are best. Avoid general or overview topics. You **must** include at least 25% of the readings in your paper.

The writing assignment is designed to develop critical reading, analytical, and writing skills. Evaluation criteria include: critical and integrative analysis of texts, clarity of thought, ability to synthesize readings and, occasionally, class discussions into your own argument, and ability to formulate a theoretical grounding for it. **Every student is encouraged to visit the University Writing Center (UWC: http://uwc.utexas.edu/).**

**Grading Procedure:**

- Term Paper: 70%.
- Presentations of weekly readings: 15%.
- Presentations of own work (in process as well as final): 15%.

*Please note that the instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives.*

**Reading Schedule:** (this schedule is tentative and subject to possible revision)

**Week 1:**

- Tuesday, September 1\(^{st}\)  - Introduction to the seminar

**Week 2:**

  
  Austin: The University of Texas Press.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Tuesday, September 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- Menchaca, Martha (2011) <em>Naturalizing Mexican Immigrants: A Texas History</em>. Austin: The University of Texas Press.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Tuesday, September 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- Hale, Charles (2006) “…más que un indio (more than an Indian)”: Racial Ambivalence and Neoliberal Multiculturalism in Guatemala. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Tuesday, October 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- Sturm, Circe (2011) <em>Becoming Indian: The Struggle over Cherokee Identity in the 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Century</em>. Santa Fe: School of Advanced Research Press.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Tuesday, October 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- Campbell, Craig (2014) <em>Agitating Images: Photography against History in Indigenous Siberia</em>. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- <strong>Term Paper Outline Presentations due!</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week 9:

- Tuesday, October 27th


Week 10:

- Tuesday, November 3rd


Week 11:

- Tuesday, November 10th


Week 12:

- Tuesday, November 17th


Week 13:

- Tuesday, November 24th

*American Anthropological Association (AAA) and Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conferences.*

Week 14:

- Thursday, December 1st


**Final Papers due on Thursday, December 3rd!**
University Writing Center (UWC: http://uwc.utexas.edu/):
This year, the University Writing Center moves to the first floor of the PCL and also begins to supply writing support for CoLA graduate students and faculty. Below, find a list of some of the UWC services.

Consultations:
A limited number of one-on-one consultations are available for graduate students and faculty members. In these one-hour sessions, the consultant won’t proofread or edit writing, but rather provide non-directive, non-evaluative support about the audience, purpose and context of academic writing, as well as discuss how to improve the writing process, time management and motivation.

To schedule an appointment please call 512-471-6222 or visit uwc.utexas.edu

Writing groups:
Facilitated writing groups are available for CoLA graduate students and faculty. Groups are capped at six participants per group and participants are expected to make a commitment to their group every six weeks. These writing groups will meet at the UWC. For a complete schedule of writing groups, see the calendar below:

Writing group A: Monday 9 am
Writing group B: Wednesday 2 pm
Writing group C: Thursday 9:30 am
Writing group D: Thursday 7 pm

Even if you aren’t able to meet during any of these times, join the UWC on Sept 4th at 11:00 am for a workshop on creating and maintaining writing groups co-hosted with Virginia Luehrsen of the Graduate Student Writing Groups.

Workshops:
The Graduate Writing Retreat will be held from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday November 9th. This retreat will incorporate time and space for focused writing, resources for graduate writers, snacks, motivation and on-hand consultants. Registration needed!

Long Night Against Procrastination is a drop-in write-in held at the end of the semester for night owls and last-ditch writers. Writing consultants, treats and motivation will be provided from 7 pm-3 am on December 7. Anyone, from freshmen to faculty, is welcome to join for a write-a-thon celebration of joyous deadlines, final pushes and the end of the semester.

CoLA intersession writing retreat. On January 14-15, the UWC will host an intersession writing retreat for graduate students and faculty. Writing consultants will be on hand to provide support, motivation and resources. Application needed!

If you have any questions, contact: Mary Hedengren, Graduate Writing Coordinator, University Writing Center, The University of Texas at Austin.
Emergency Evacuation Policy:

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line/BCAL: 232-5050

Gerald Robert Harkins Ed.D
Associate Vice President Campus Safety and Security
The University of Texas at Austin
P.O. Box 7546
Austin, TX 78713-7546
Phone: 512-471-5767
Fax: 512-471-5999
E-mail: bharkins@austin.utexas.edu

Additional Information under: http://www.utexas.edu/emergency/