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STUDIES IN VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY

2016/2017 Fall Term

ANTH 3550

Instructor: Brian J. Given Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Tuesdays: 2:45-4:00 pm
Fridays 12:00-1:45pm (or by appointment)

Films, lectures and discussion: Tuesdays, 11:35-2:25 pm (Sept. 9 to Dec. 6) Location: SA 404 (Southam Hall).

This is mainly an ethnographic film/video course, tracing the development of this important anthropological medium from its earliest roots to the present. Visual anthropology is by no means limited to photographs, film and video but rather includes the study of the full range of media and the relationship between media and culture. We will pay attention to still photography, advertising, propaganda, issues of visual discourse and the Internet environment, for example. The course is also about central methodological and theoretical issues relating to representation of the cultural and sub-cultural other as well as issues of cultural reproduction.

Precludes additional credit for ANTH 3107.

Student Assignments and Evaluation

There is one essay project and two examinations (one in-class and the second during the formal examination period).

1. In-class Exam You will be asked to write two short essays for this test, on 2 of 3 topics provided by the Prof., of about 500 words each. This exam (a combined total of 4 pages) is weighted at 25% of the course grade. You will be asked to address two topics, films or other media discussed in class. The best answers will be based on assigned readings, class lectures and materials viewed in class. This exam is scheduled for Nov. 1, at the beginning of class – 11:35am and will take one hour.

2. Student's Topic essay: Each student is asked to prepare a written paper or a media or multimedia project. This assignment is weighted at 50% of the course grade. The topic must be approved by the instructor. Please note that students' multimedia projects are seldom self-explanatory at the level of anthropological theory so they usually require an explanation in the form of a short written or oral "essay" which places your work in the context of the course topics and materials. Your grade will be based on your essay, project and explanatory materials. I will be glad to read and comment on earlier drafts of your paper, provided that you bring it to me at least three weeks before the due date (I'll do my best after that, but time will be very limited!). I am happy to discuss your work with you anytime. You can begin work on this project immediately. This essay is due on the last day of our classes. December 6th. Please note that essays must be submitted on time. To be fair to those students who submit on time, the penalty for late submission will be 5% per day.

3. Final Exam (during the formal exam period) You will be asked to write two short essays for this test, on two of three topics provided by the Prof., of about 500 words each. This exam (a combined total of 4 pages) is weighted at 25% of the course grade. You will be asked to address two topics or films discussed in class. The best answers will be based on assigned readings, class lectures and discussion and materials viewed in class. The exam covers the entire term. This exam will be scheduled by the Registrar.

4. Please note: the assignment of final grades is always subject to the Dean's approval. The Dean has the power to change grades.

Assignment dates

Please note that the time to begin work on your papers or projects is now. It will be much easier to discuss your work with me early in the term than to wait until many other students need to see me. Please feel free to visit me in my office to discuss your work! See me during office hours or make an appointment.

1. The in-class exam will be written Nov. 1
2. The essay is due Dec. 6th. If you start working on this one early in the term then I will be able to help you. Feel free to come and see me about your paper ... the earlier the better ... please! – The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar, during the formal examination period.

3. Final exam to be scheduled by the Registrar … tbd

Handing in Assignments

Please note: written assignments should be placed in the "essay drop slot" in the door of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology main office, B-750, 7th floor Loeb bldg. Please do not shove them under my door. No assignment will be accepted unless the student retains a copy of that assignment. Do not hand in your only copy please!

A Note About Plagiarism and Duplicate Assignments

I shouldn't have to include the following passage. I do know that most of my students have far too much self-respect to cheat, but it is possible to plagiarize without intending to cheat - please read the following carefully. Your essays and assignments must be your work, informed by the work of other scholars, whom we cite in order to give them credit for their contributions. We often summarize the work of others but we are careful to cite them properly so that we do not appear to be claiming their work as our own. Whenever you use somebody else's ideas or data please take care to cite them properly - to fail to do so leaves you open to charges of plagiarism. Similarly, any collaboration with other students on assignments should be cleared with the instructor in advance and properly credited in your paper. Where apparently duplicate papers are submitted, both parties are vulnerable to charges of plagiarism. If you aren't sure, please check with me! Check the department of Sociology and Anthropology style guide for instructions for appropriate citation of the work of others. We do check to see if material in your paper appears to have been copied from another source without adequate citation. Cases where an academic offense is suspected are referred to the Dean's office.

Requests for Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your ***Letter of Accommodation*** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. I am interested in helping. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

The deadlines for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for the December 2016 exam period is November 11, 2016.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before

the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Review Week Schedule

I will be available during my office hours, and by appointment, during review week.

Required Reading

Ruby, Jay, *Picturing Culture: Explorations of Film and Anthropology*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, (August) 2000. The book is on order at the Carleton Bookstore and should be in stock by the beginning of September.

See also the articles on your topics schedule.

Suggested Reading

For an extensive reading list, go to CuLearn for ANTH3550. I have prepared lists under "A few books," and "A few articles." The course also has a resource page on the Library Website.

I am always happy to receive suggestions from my students. If you want to bring an article or book in the field of visual anthropology or an interesting film to my attention, please email me.

- Additional readings may be announced from time to time.

- I expect all students to do a considerable amount of reading as part of the preparation of your tests, term paper or project. Students are expected to search the library, the machine-readable databases such as Anthropology Plus, AnthroSource and the many anthropological journals in the library. Good starting points are:

Visual Anthropology, GN347.A1V54, Library
Visual Anthropology Review, GN347.A1V57, Library

See also film reviews in Journals such as Visual Anthropology and The American Anthropologist.

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STUDIES IN VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Date	**Topic and Film/ AV**	**Read for this class**
Sept. 13	Organization – Cross Cultural interpretation and ethnography	
Sept. 20	The Documentary – beginnings and issues - Robert Flaherty	Ruby Ch. 2
	Film: ***Nanook of the North***	
	Film: ***Nanook Revisited***	
Sept 27	Edward Curtis: representing the other	Ruby Intro & Ch. 1
	Film: *In the Land of the War Canoe*	Marsden and Nachbar[1]
Oct. 4	Representing the Other I: Voice	
	Film: *Shooting Indians: A Journey with Jeffrey Thomas* - 56 min.	
	Brian on Edward S. Curtis' project	
Oct. 11	Representing the Other II	
	Brian on single shots: the power of still images	
	Film: Killing Us Softly (29 min.)	

[1] Michael T. Marsden and Jack Nachbar, *The Indian In The Movies*, in Handbook of the North American Indian, Vol. 4, Indian White Relations. I will place a copy on reserve in the Library.

Oct. 18	Anthropological Cinema and Teaching	Ruby Ch. 3
	The work of Robert Gardner	Bruner article[2]
	Film: *Dead Birds* (83 min.)	
OCT 24-28 FALL BREAK		
Nov. 1	IN-CLASS TEST 40 MIN.	
	Constructing the media other	Ruby Ch. 4
	Napoleon Chagnon and Tim Asch	New Yorker Article[1]
	Film: *The Yanomamo: A Multidisciplinary Study* (43 min)	
	Film: *The Axe Fight* (31 min.)	
Nov. 8	Ethics, representation and loss	Ruby Ch. 5
	Film: *Ishi: In Two Worlds* (Richard Tomkins - 19 min.)	
	Film: *What Remains of Us*	
Nov. 15	Reflexivity, Authenticity, Cinema Verite'	Ruby Ch. 6
	Film: (Jean Rouch) *Les Maitres Fous: the Mad Masters* (35 min.)	
	Contrasting voices (all the voices?)	
	Film: *First Contact - 54 min.*	
Nov. 22	Questions of voice, representation and symbols	Ruby Ch. 8
	Film: *Potlatch: A Strict Law Bids Us Dance*	
	Film: *Prologue*: (from the Newcomers Series)	

[2] Edward M. Bruner, Ethnography as Narrative. Published in Victor Turner's The Anthropology of Experience. I will place a copy on Reserve in the Library.

Nov. 29	Voice and Representation II	
	Film: *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*, Part I (86 min.)	
	http://www.isuma.tv/atanarjuat/	
	Film: *Atanarjuat, the Fast Runner*, Part II (86 min.)	
Dec. 6	Voice and Representation III	Ruby Ch. 10
	Film: The Angry Inuk (if we get it on time)	
	Film: *Tsundu: Becoming a Lama*	Given articles
	Film: The Angry Monk	

[1] Patrick Tierney, in his book, published in November 2000, *Darkness in El Dorado*, makes serious allegations against particular anthropologists, other scientists, and journalists who have studied or worked with the Yanomami people of Venezuela. There are many Websites and articles dealing with this controversy. You might begin with http://www.survival.org.uk/chagnon.htm, http://www.dartreview.com/issues/10.30.00/chagnon.html, http://www.mindfully.org/Heritage/Anthropology-Ethics-Patrickhttp://www.mindfully.org/Heritage/Anthropology-Ethics-Patrick-Tierney.htmTierney.htm, and Chagnon's rebuttal at http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/chagnon.html.

3 I will post the Tsundu and Angry articles on WebCT, Brian J. Given, Reviews of *Tsundu: Becoming a Lama* and *Mystic Vision, Sacred Art: Tibetan Thangka Painting in Kathmandu Valley*. American Anthropologist, Vol. 101, No. 3, September 1999, pages 635-639.

The *Angry Monk* review is published in Studies in Religion 38/1 2009.