

Introduction to Legal Anthropology: The Cultural Power of the Law

Course Number: SAN211, Fall 2006

Room Number:34 , Mondays 18:00-19:30 (6-7:30PM)

Masaryk University, BA Level

Instructor: Laura Bunt, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: 6-7PM Wednesdays (or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Traditionally, anthropologists have used the culture concept, and other anthropological methods, to explore the power the law has in shaping the aesthetic, political, and existential dimensions of human lives around the world. This course is designed to give undergraduate social science students a general introduction to anthropological methods in regards to the law and legal practices in different societies. We will pay particular attention to contemporary legal anthropological theory which emphasizes the role of power and history in shaping the law.

Course readings focus on anthropological rather than legal methodologies providing original analysis of particular legal developments. Readings cover several world areas including: Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin American, the Middle East, and South Asia.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must produce TWO 3-4 page essays based upon the reading and class discussions. Instructor will assign essay questions in advance of due dates. Student are also required to write TWO 1 page response papers.

COURSE RULES

Students are expected to come to class having already read the readings cited on the syllabus for that day. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY, ROLE WILL BE TAKEN IN EVERY CLASS.** Students are allowed 3 undocumented absences. Any student missing more than 4 classes without a documented (i.e. medical or family) emergency will be dropped from the class without exception. (Students observing religious holidays are excused from class, but please inform instructor in advance).

COURSE GRADING POLICY

75% Essay Assignments

15% Response Papers

10% Class Attendance

COURSE READINGS

All reading is available online through the university system and is on reserve at the library

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1: SEPT 18TH ORIENTATION WEEK (NO CLASSES)

WEEK 2: SEPT 25TH INTRODUCTION, FIRST DAY OF CLASS

WEEK 3: OCT 2ND (pgs. 1-30) “Dialogues in Legal Anthropology” by J. Starr & J. Collier in *History and Power in the Study of Law: New Directions in Legal Anthropology (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues)*.

WEEK 4: OCT 9TH (pgs. 18-71) “Evolving an Ethnography of the Law: A Personal Document” by L. Nadar in *The Life of the Law : Anthropological Projects*.

WEEK 5: OCT 16TH (pgs. 113-130) “Constitution-Making in Islamic Iran: the Impact of Theocracy on the Order of a Nation-State” by S.M. Arjomand in *History and Power in the Study of Law: New Directions in Legal Anthropology (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues)*.

FIRST RESPONSE PAPER DUE IN CLASS

WEEK 6: OCT 23RD **ESSAY WRITING IN ENGLISH LECTURE** (ATTENDANCE MANDATORY, ESSAY QUESTION WILL BE HANDED OUT)

WEEK 7: OCT 30TH **READING WEEK (NO CLASS)**

WEEK 8: NOV 6TH (pgs. 72-116), “Lawyers and Anthropologists” by L. Nadar in *The Life of the Law : Anthropological Projects*.

FIRST ESSAY DUE IN CLASS, NOVEMBER 6TH

WEEK 9: NOV 13TH (pgs. 131-152) “Law and the Colonial State in India” by B. Cohen in *History and Power in the Study of Law: New Directions in Legal Anthropology (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues)*.

WEEK 10: NOV 20TH (pgs. 153-167) “Contours of Change: Agrarian Law in Colonial Uganda 1895-1962” by J. Vincent in *History and Power in the Study of Law: New Directions in Legal Anthropology (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues)*.

WEEK 11: NOV 27TH (pgs. 168-200) “Thinking About “Interests”: Legal Processes in the European Community” by F. Snyder in *History and Power in the Study of Law: New Directions in Legal Anthropology (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues)*.

WEEK 12: DEC 4TH (pgs. 277-301), “History and the Redefinition of Custom in Kilimanjaro” by S.F. Moore in *History and Power in the Study of Law: New Directions in Legal Anthropology (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues)*.

WEEK 13: DEC 11TH (pgs. 302-319) “Islamic ‘Case Law’ and the Logic of Consequence” by L. Rosen in *History and Power in the Study of Law: New Directions in Legal Anthropology (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues)*.

SECOND RESPONSE PAPER DUE IN CLASS

WEEK 14: DEC 18TH (pgs. 319-344) “The Crown, the Colonist and the Course of Zapotec Village Law” by L. Nadar in *History and Power in the Study of Law: New Directions in Legal Anthropology (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues)*.

*****REVIEW AND PREPARATION FOR FINAL EXAM (ATTENDANCE MANDATORY, ESSAY QUESTION WILL BE HANDED OUT)*****

FINAL ESSAY DUE AT END OF EXAMINATION PERIOD