

approaches to globalization 🌐 anthropology 248A 🌐 course code: 60737 🌐 spring, 2008

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tuesdays, noon–2:50pm, sspb 4250

office hours: tuesdays, 10:00am–noon, or by appt

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first meeting: tuesday, april 1, noon,

social science plaza b, room 4250

🌐 COURSE DESCRIPTION 🌐

Many contemporary approaches to globalization emphasize neoliberalism, mass media, and migration. While these themes appear in this course, its goal is to pair theoretical and ethnographic approaches (often within the same text) so as to foster an alternative set of critical readings of globalization, focusing on area studies, disciplinarity, history, postcoloniality, queer theory, semiosis, and the virtual.

🌐 COURSE REQUIREMENTS 🌐

1) You must attend the weekly seminar and have prepared for it by doing the assigned reading ahead of time. You must participate actively in the seminar discussions, including co-leading one course discussion. If you cannot make a course meeting, please do not send an email explaining why: simply do not show up.

2) You must do eight précis (every course meeting but the first meeting and one of your choosing). The précis will take the form of a one-page generous, engaged, and critical commentary on the readings for that week. Précis will be circulated in class to learn how others are reacting to the texts. Please note the following rules, as there will be no exceptions:

🕒 Précis must be turned in within the first five minutes of class in triplicate.

🕒 Précis can never be turned in at a later date.

🕒 You must attend any course meeting in which you turn in a précis (someone else may not turn them in for you).

3) You must write a course paper, which is due on Friday, June 13, at 5pm. It must be emailed by this time as a Word document to tboellst@uci.edu.

☺ The paper must be between 5,000 and 8,000 words in length, inclusive of title, endnotes, and references (I will use the "word count" function of Word to confirm this).

☺ The paper must cite and draw upon course texts and discussions in an extensive manner, and should also engage in some way with your own research interests. It must use American Anthropological Association formatting (see http://aaanet.org/pubs/style_guide.htm) and include full bibliographic references to course texts as they are used. You may bring in outside readings but it is not necessary to do so. I recommend that you discuss your paper's argument with me during the course meetings or in office hours.

Your course grade will be calculated as follows: course paper 50 percent; each précis 5 percent (for a total of 40 percent); participation in the seminar, 10 percent.

REQUIRED BOOKS (placed on reserve)

Engseng Ho. *The Graves of Tarim: Genealogy and Mobility across the Indian Ocean*. University of California Press, 2006.

Mahmood Mamdani. *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*. Princeton University Press, 1996.

Elizabeth Povinelli. *The Empire of Love: Toward a Theory of Intimacy, Genealogy, and Carnality*. Duke University Press, 2006.

James Siegel. *Fetish, Recognition, Revolution*. Princeton University Press, 1997.

Patricia Spyer. *The Memory of Trade: Modernity's Entanglements on an Eastern Indonesian Island*. Duke University Press, 2000.

Marilyn Strathern. *Commons and Borderlands: Working Papers on Interdisciplinarity, Accountability, and the Flow of Knowledge*. Sean Kingston Publishing, 2004.

T. L. Taylor. *Play Between Worlds: Exploring Online Game Culture*. MIT Press, 2006.

Nigel Thrift. *Spatial Formations*. Sage Publications, 1996.

REQUIRED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Tom Boellstorff. *Playing Back the Nation: Waria, Indonesian Transvestites*. *Cultural Anthropology* 19.2:159-95, 2004.

———. *When Marriage Falls: Queer Coincidences in Straight Time*. *GLQ* 13.2/3:227-48, 2007.

Andrew Barry and Nigel Thrift. *Gabriel Tarde: Imitation, Invention, and Economy*. *Economy and Society* 36(4):509-25, 2007.

Neil Brenner. *Beyond State-Centrism? Space, Territoriality, and Geographical Scale in Globalization Studies*. *Theory and Society* 28(1):39-78, 1999.

Johan Fornäs, Kajsa Klein, Martina Ladendorf, Jenny Sundén, and Malin Sveningsson. *Into Digital*

- Borderlands. In *Digital Borderlands: Cultural Studies of Identity and Interactivity on the Internet* (pp. 1–47). Johan Fornäs, et al. ed. Peter Lang, 2002.
- J. K. Gibson-Graham. *Querying Globalization. In their The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It): A Feminist Critique of Political Economy* (pp. 120–147). Blackwell, 1996.
- Daniel P. S. Goh. States of Ethnography: Colonialism, Resistance, and Cultural Transcription in Malaya and the Philippines, 1890s–1930s. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 49(1):109–42. 2007.
- Karen Ho. Situating Global Capitalisms: A View from Wall Street Investment Banks. *Cultural Anthropology* 20(1):68–96. 2005.
- Webb Keane. Semiotics and the Social Analysis of Material Things. *Language & Communication* 23:409–25. 2003.
- Alan Klima. Thai Love Thai: Financing Emotion in Post-crash Thailand. *Ethnos* 69(4):445–64. 2004.
- Vincent-Antonin Lepinay. Economy of the Germ: Capital, Accumulation, and Vibration. *Economy and Society* 36(4):526–48. 2007.
- Bill Maurer. A Fish Story: Rethinking Globalization on Virgin Gorda. *American Ethnologist* 27(3):670–701. 2000.
- Philip McMichael. Globalization: Myths and Realities. *Rural Sociology* 61(1):25–55. 1996.
- Rudolf Mrázek. "Let Us Become Radio Mechanics": Technology and National Identity in Late-Colonial Netherlands East Indies. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 39(1):3–33. 1997.
- Robert Redfield. Doctors, Borders, and Life in Crisis. *Cultural Anthropology* 20(3):328–61. 2005.
- Danilyn Rutherford. Intimacy and Alienation: Money and the Foreign in Biak. *Public Culture* 13(2):299–324. 2001.
- Caitlin Zaloom. Ambiguous Numbers: Trading Technologies and Interpretation in Financial Markets. *American Ethnologist* 30(2):258–72. 2003.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS (placed on reserve)

- Tom Boellstorff. *The Gay Archipelago: Sexuality and Nation in Indonesia*. Princeton University Press, 2005 (for week 6).
- . *A Coincidence of Desires: Anthropology, Queer Studies, Indonesia*. Duke University Press, 2007 (for week 9).
- . *Coming of Age in Second Life: An Anthropologist Explores the Virtually Human*. Princeton University Press, 2008 (for week 10).

COURSE SCHEDULE

week one, 4/1. introduction.

week two, 4/8.

Marilyn Strathern, *Commons and Borderlands*.

Bill Maurer, *A Fish Story*.

Philip McMichael, *Globalization*.

week three, 4/15.

Nigel Thrift, Spatial Formations.

J. K. Gibson-Graham, Querying Globalization.

Neil Brenner, Beyond State-Centrism?

week four, 4/22.

Engseng Ho, The Graves of Tarim.

Daniel Goh, States of Ethnography.

Rudolf Mrázek, "Let Us Become Radio Mechanics."

week five, 4/29.

Mahmood Mamdani, Citizen and Subject.

Robert Redfield, Doctors, Borders, and Life in Crisis.

week six, 5/6.

James Siegel, Fetish, Recognition, Revolution.

Webb Keane, Semiotics and the Social Analysis of Material Things.

week seven, 5/13

Patricia Spyer, The Memory of Trade.

Danilyn Rutherford, Intimacy and Alienation.

week eight, 5/20

Andrew Barry and Nigel Thrift, Gabriel Tarde.

Vincent-Antonin Lepinay, Economy of the Germ.

Karen Ho, Situating Global Capitalisms.

Caitlin Zaloom, Ambiguous Numbers.

Alan Klima, Thai Love Thai.

week nine, 5/27

Elizabeth Povinelli, The Empire of Love.

Tom Boellstorff, Playing Back the Nation.

Tom Boellstorff, When Marriage Falls.

week ten, 6/3

T. L. Taylor, Play Between Worlds.

Fornäs et al, Into Digital Borderlands.

course paper due friday 6/13, 5pm, emailed to tboellst@uci.edu.