

ANTHROPOLOGY 3351G-650

Society and Culture II: Identity, Power and Social Formation

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Greg Beckett (he/him)
Email: gbeckett@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Via email or Zoom, by appointment

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Mode of delivery: For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online, asynchronously and synchronously using Zoom videoconferencing technology, with discussions to take place weekly during the scheduled synchronous class time.

Synchronous class time: Thursdays 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EST.

Calendar Course Description: This course examines the various principles through which societies are organized, by examining the construction of social formations and social identities over time in contexts of differential power.

Antirequisites: the former Anthropology 3301E.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 3350F and third or fourth year standing in any anthropology module.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus:

This course follows immediately on Anthropology 3350F, continuing with the analysis of social organization by examining the construction of actual social formations over time, in contexts of unequal power, through a reading of case studies. For instance, we will examine the formation of African tribes in response to British colonial policies, the formation of particular kinds of Latin American peasant communities at the intersection of local and global processes, and the kinds of cultural and political processes that contributed to the emergence of that distinctive form of society we call nations. We will then turn to how complex societies are internally organized through overlapping forms of structured social inequality such as class, gender and ethnicity. Throughout, we will also be exploring the relationship between various forms of social organization and inequality on the one hand and various kinds of identity on the other hand: that is, between social and cultural processes.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify how power relations connect societies in different regions and how subordinate groups respond actively to the circumstances that confront them.
- Examine how differential power operates within societies, and how those relations and the responses to them together generate intersecting and overlapping forms of social inequality and social identity.
- Analyze anthropological concepts and cases and effectively communicate that analysis both orally (through participation in regular class discussions) and in written assignments.
- Work collaboratively with a group of peers to develop shared understandings of course readings and to prepare regular brief oral presentations on those themes.

Course Materials:

TBD

Registered students will be able to access all course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on weekly quizzes, weekly assignments, a group presentation, a short analysis paper, and a final exam, as follows:

Weekly Quizzes – 10%

There will be an online quiz each week throughout the course. Quizzes are to be completed in OWL before the week's assigned online lecture. Quizzes will focus on the main ideas in the required readings. They are intended to motivate you to complete all of the reading before viewing the lecture and to help you identify key points from the readings. There will be no make-up quizzes but I will drop the lowest two quiz grades.

Weekly Online Discussion and Assignments – 15%

Students will participate in synchronous online discussion and complete weekly assignments as assigned in OWL. Weekly assignments may involve posting discussion questions or reading responses or completing short readings/videos assignments that supplement the week's lecture. Assignments will typically be multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. There will be no make-up assignments but I will drop the lowest two grades.

Two Essays – 50% (25% each)

Students will write two essays each 1500–2000 words and each worth 25% (for a total of 50% of the final grade). Essay prompts will be posted to OWL when each essay is assigned. These essays are not meant to be research papers and will not require students to do additional library research; rather, they will entail a close reading of the course material and a careful analysis of the relevant texts. The first essay is due in February (Date TBD); the second essay is due in March (Date TBD).

Final Take-Home Exam – 25%

The final exam will be composed of two essay questions that will permit you to make connections across the readings to reflect on the broader issues explored in the course. The final exam will take place during the exam schedule in April scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

More information on writing assignments, including due dates, will be made available to students on the course OWL site.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

In order to pass an essay course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.

As an essay-designated course, both writing assignments and the final take-home exam in this course must be submitted and two of the three must receive passing grades in order to pass this course.

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined in Western's academic policies by clicking on this link: [Western's academic policies](#).