

Department of Anthropology

ANTHROPOLOGY 3351G-200

Society and Culture II: Identity, Power and Social Formation

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2022/23

Version date: Jan 5, 2023

Instructor:

Dr. Greg Beckett (he/him)

Email: gbeckett@uwo.ca.

Office Hours: by appointment, email to set up a time to meet

Course information:

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Mode of delivery: Blended. Two hours in-person lecture and discussion and one hour online each week. In person classes meet Wednesdays 9:30–11:30 am in SSC-3014.

Requisites:

Antirequisites: the former Anthropology 3301E.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 3350F.

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 Description:

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 how colonialism, imperialism, and other modes of political power have historically created social groups and social identities (e.g., tribes, races, nations). We will also examine the relationship between local communities and global political, economic, and social processes. And we will look at how historical and contemporary societies have been internally organized through overlapping forms of structured social inequality, with a special focus on class, gender, and race. Throughout, we will also be exploring the relationship between various forms of power, social organization, and inequality on the one hand and various kinds of identities on the other hand.

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:

Farmer, Paul. 2006. *Aids and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. University of California Press.

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, online assignments, an analysis paper, and a final take-home essay 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 each weekly in-person class meeting. Quizzes will focus on the main ideas in the required readings. They are intended to motivate you to complete the readings before coming to class, to help you identify key points from the readings, and to help prepare you for our discussion. There will be no make-up quizzes, but I will drop the lowest two quiz grades.

Online Assignments – 30%

Students will complete weekly assignments in OWL. Weekly assignments may involve answering discussion questions, submitting reading responses, and completing additional readings that supplement the week's lecture and discussion. There will be no make-up assignments, but I will drop the lowest two grades.

Analysis Paper – 25%

Students will write one analysis paper of 1500–2000 words. Essay prompts will be posted to OWL when the paper is assigned. The analysis paper is not a research paper and will not require students to do additional library research; rather, it will entail a close reading of the course material and an argument made through careful analysis of the relevant texts.

Final Essay Exam – 35%

The final exam will be composed of two essay questions that will permit you to make connections across the readings in order to reflect on the broader issues explored in the course. The final take-home essay exam will be due on a date in the April exam period 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, the writing assignments and the final take-home exam in this course must be submitted and students must receive passing grades on both 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.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Policies in the Academic Calendar](#) which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.