Anthropology 3305A-650
History, Territory and the Politics of Identity
PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2022

Updated: July 27, 2022

Instructor:
Dr. Randa Farah
Office hours: Will be posted on OWL.
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Mode of course delivery:
This course will be conducted online for 2022-2023.

Requisites:
Prerequisite: Registration in third year or above.
Antirequisite: None.

Course Description:
The reproduction of histories and identities are often linked to contestation over territorial stretches. In this course we examine particular cases, especially those involving ‘national’ claims over territories. Claims to a national identity is quite often the motive to claim the right to statehood and national territory. But nation-states are historical formations which replaced multiethnic empires in bloody wars, as they sought to purify 'national' territories from all 'others' deemed different. The nation-states today remain the basic unit in the global order, exemplified at the United Nations, whose members are neither in unity, nor are they equal. Powerful states and empires have historically dominated other peoples and territories, as was the case with indigenous and colonized populations, where territorial expansion went hand in hand with erasing and then rewriting histories or re-inscribing territories with new pasts. Indeed, all assertions to power and claims to collective identities, involve new politics of the past, or the forging of historical narratives. Yet, there are other forms of identification and senses of belonging that are beyond or below the nation, sometimes coexisting peacefully with it, other times posing serious challenges to it. Students learn about these themes by drawing on case studies, that exemplify the emergence or the vanishing of polities, and those involving struggles over territories, histories, and identities as they unfold within power structures and processes.

The course will be online and interactive and includes lectures, class and group discussions, documentaries.
Learning Outcomes:

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

- Apply conceptual frameworks to analyze history, territory and identity as interrelated concepts.
- Identify theories and definitions pertaining to nations and nationalism, as a compelling but historical form of collective identity.
- Distinguish among similar concepts such as national belonging from other forms of collective identities, sub-national or supra-national identities, distinguishing the ‘national’ from ‘nation-state’ and citizenship.
- Analyze territorial markers as historical and political, reinforcing borders and boundaries of inclusion and exclusion.
- Situate claims to self-determination and political sovereignty in a historical context wherein the concepts of territory and peoplehood are often central tenets in such claims.
- Analyze historical narratives as inseparable from the exercise of power and the struggle against it.
- Apply scholarly approaches to analyze how imperial and colonial powers re-map territories and reconfigure societies and cultures.
- Grasp the complexities of history, territory and identity in a number of cases, such as the former Yugoslavia, India, Palestine, indigenous peoples, Cyprus, Rwanda and others.

Course Materials:

*Registered students will be able to access course readings through the course’s on-line OWL site before the first day of class.*

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.

Evaluation:

Two written assignments: 20% x 2 = 40%

Online quizzes: 6 x 10 = 60%

*More information about the essay and other assignments, specific expectations, and helpful resources will be made available to students on the course OWL site.*

Late submissions: Please note that 2% of your grade will be deducted for each day you are late in submitting the written assignments. **No late assignments are accepted more than five days (including weekends) after the deadline.** However, this does not apply if you have permission for special accommodation from Academic Counseling, in which case the needed accommodation will be provided.

Where to submit: Submit your written assignments electronically through OWL’s Assignments feature.
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 (http://www.turnitin.com).

**Course Specific Conditions Required 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, with links to the full policies, at:
http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/academic_policies.html

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