

ANTHROPOLOGY 3351G-650

Society and Culture II: Power, Identity, and Social Formations

Department of Anthropology

Brief Course Outline

Winter 2024

Version date: August 29, 2023

Instructor and Class Information:

Class day/time: Asynchronous online activities plus one hour of synchronous discussion on Tuesdays 7:00-8:00 pm

Instructor: Kim Clark

Email: akc@uwo.ca

Credit Value: 0.5

Antirequisite: 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.

Delivery Format:

This course includes both asynchronous online learning and a more interactive component via a synchronous (real time) discussion session on Zoom on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:00 pm Ontario time.

Course Description:

This course follows immediately on Anthropology 3350F, continuing with the analysis of social organization by examining the emergence 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 organized through intersecting dynamics 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 posted on the OWL course site before the beginning of the term.

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:

Most of the readings for this course can be found in digital format through the "Course Readings" tool in the course OWL site, at no cost to students.

Evaluation:

Weekly activities – 40% of your final grade.

The following weekly activities are designed to keep you engaged with the material to deepen your learning.

Quizzes – 15%

12 brief weekly quizzes (with five true-or-false questions on the readings) to assess reading comprehension, to be completed on OWL before our class discussion session on Tuesdays – top 10 marks counted at 1.5% each.

Brief OWL activities – 7.5%

12 brief exercises (that will take no more than a couple of minutes each week) that will engage you with the weekly topic in a non-graded format. You will earn 0.75% (three quarters of a point) towards your grade for each exercise you complete, up to 10 of them.

Discussion Participation – 17.5%

Discussion questions on the readings will be posted in advance, and students should do the readings with the discussion questions in mind, making some notes for each answer. The discussion questions are designed to guide you in identifying the most important points in the readings, and to provide the opportunity to begin to explore the authors' underlying assumptions.

Students will be divided into discussion groups at the beginning of the course, and the groups will be reconfigured halfway through the term. Each student should come to the synchronous class session prepared to discuss any/all of the discussion questions. At the beginning of the Tuesday session, each discussion group will be assigned one of the questions, at random, to present to the remainder of the class. Following a 15-minute break-out group session where each discussion group will prepare their answer, the class will reconvene to discuss together the assigned questions and any other issues related to the week's topic that students wish to raise.

Discussion participation will be assessed halfway through the term, and again at the end of the course. Part of your discussion grade will be assigned by the members of your group at the end of each six weeks, and part of it will be based on your self-assessment of your contributions to the group. I may adjust grades if necessary to ensure consistency across groups. (Additional guidance will be posted on OWL about how to evaluate discussion group members, and how to be a productive member of a group.) Discussion participation will make up 8.75% percent of the grade for each six weeks, totaling 17.5% across the course.

Writing Assignments (two short essays and one final take-home exam) – 60%

In addition to the above weekly activities, there are also writing assignments that will give you an opportunity to reflect on your learning at key points over the course. Writing assignments are an excellent way to organize your thoughts about the course material and practice your analytical and communication skills. They are also essential to meeting the requirements of this course's essay designation.

Two writing assignments – 35%

You are expected to complete two relatively short writing assignments of about 1500 words each during the term. The two papers will together be worth 35% of your grade. The exact weighting of each of them will be determined by how well you do on them, so it will be finalized at the end of the term. Your writing assignment that earns the higher grade will be worth 20% and the one with the lower grade will be worth 15%.

One final take-home exam – 25%

The final take-home exam will be due at a time determined by the Registrar's Office during the December exam period. Students will be provided with instructions for this assignment two weeks ahead of the due date.

Course Specific Statements and Policies

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

Accessibility: This course is designed with accessibility and flexibility in mind. Two of the weekly activities (quizzes and OWL activities) permit you to miss two assignments (or drop the lowest two grades, in the case of the quizzes). The course OWL site, recorded lectures and course readings will be formatted for accessibility. The combination of asynchronous learning and synchronous Zoom discussions is designed to accommodate students with a range of different schedules and situations, while still including interactive learning. There are a range of ways that students can participate in the weekly discussions. For the two writing assignments (but not the final take-home exam) there will be both a 48-hour grace period after the submission target date and, for use when you need it, a "late days bank" that you can withdraw days from without the need for any explanation or documentation. I welcome other suggestions for how to make the course more accessible to you. There will be a course survey before the term starts that will include an opportunity to provide those suggestions.

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