

**Anthropology 400
Anthropology of War & Foreign Policy
Fall 2006**

Wednesdays 7:20, Krug 210

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Office hours: Wednesday 3:30-4:30
Thursday: 2:30-3:30
Or by appointment

This class looks at the literature on war by anthropologists and cultural critics, with a particular focus on the period after the end of the cold war. How does war work as a cultural institution? Has the nature of war changed since the end of the cold war? What drove the bouts of genocide and ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Darfur and other places? How well is U.S. policy (especially in the context of the war on terror) working? What is distinctive about anthropological knowledge of war? Do American anthropologists have a responsibility to help, or refuse to help, their government fight the war on terror?

Requirements, Grades etc

Reading, writing and class participation are all expected. You are expected to do the readings before class and to come to class on time and stay til the end of class. There will be class lectures (as well as in-class videos), but we will spend much of our class time discussing the readings in seminar format. This only works if students come prepared to discuss the readings. That means students should be ready to say what they agreed and disagreed with, where the logic of the argument in the readings did not work etc. Final grades will take class class participation and attendance into account.

Students are also required to write 2 four-page (double-spaced) reviews of books assigned for the class. (In consultation with the instructor, they can pick a cluster of articles instead). These reviews are due the week the reading is due (i.e. the reviews should be written before the book has been fully discussed in class). There is also a ten-page paper on a topic of the student's choosing (in consultation with the instructor).

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Final paper 40%

Reviews 15% each (30% total)

Class participation 30%

Availability of Readings

Articles will be distributed as pdfs by the instructor.

The following books will be available at the bookstore. Most are also available for amazon.com or www.abebooks.com:

Mary Kaldor, New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era (Polity Books, 1999).

Philip Gourevitch, We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda (Picador, 1999).

Rob Johnston, Analytic Culture in the US Intelligence Community: An Ethnographic Study (CIA 2005).

Leslie Sharp, School of the Americas (Duke University Press, 2004).

Carolyn Nordstrom, Shadows of War: Violence, Power, and International Profiteering in the Twenty-First Century (UC Press, 2004).

Honor Code

The Mason Honor Code reads: “Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.” Plagiarism is a particularly serious matter and, once detected, will result in an F and, possibly, disciplinary action. We will discuss plagiarism in class but, if in doubt, please consult the instructor.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability and need accommodation, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2472. Academic accommodations must be arranged through DRC.

Wed Aug 30 Introduction

Wed Sept 6 Experiences of War and Violence

Renato Rosaldo, "Grief and a Headhunter's Rage" and "An Oblique Account of Warfare." In Renato Rosaldo, Culture and Truth: The Remaking of Social Analysis (Beacon Press, 1989), pp.1-21 and 62-67.

John Keegan, "Agincourt, October 25th, 1415." Chapter 2 of John Keegan, The Face of Battle (Viking, 1976), pp.79-116.

John Ellis, "Battle: The Reality." From John Ellis, Eye-Deep in Hell: Trench Warfare in World War II. (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976), pp.89-104.

William Broyles, "Why Men Love War." Esquire November 1984, pp.55-65.

Wed Sept 13 New and Old Wars

Mary Kaldor, New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era (Polity Books, 1999), chapters 1-2, 4-7.

Peter Singer, "An Era of Corporate Warriors?" Chapter 1 of Peter Singer, Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry (Cornell University Press, 2003), pp.3-18.

Wed Sept 20 Civil War and Genocide After the Cold War: Rwanda and Chechnya

Elizabeth Rubin, "Down the Dark Hole of Chechnya." New York Times Magazine, July 8, 2001.

Philip Gourevitch, We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda (Picador, 1999), first half.

Wed Sept 27 Civil War and Genocide (Cont.): Rwanda and Darfur

Philip Gourevitch, We Wish to Inform You... (second half)

Samantha Power, "Dying in Darfur." The New Yorker, August 30, 2004, p.58.
http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?040830fa_fact1

Wed Oct 4 Public Discourse About War

Samuel Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations," Foreign Affairs, Summer 1993 72(3)
<http://www.alamut.com/subj/economics/misc/clash.html>

Keith Brown, "Samuel Huntington, Meet the Nuer: Kinship, Local Knowledge and the Clash of Civilizations." In Catherine Besteman and Hugh Gusterson (eds.) Why America's Top Pundits Are Wrong (UC Press, 2005), pp.43-59.

Robert Kaplan, "Saints, Terrorists, Blood and Holy Water." In Robert Kaplan, Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History. (St. Martin's Press, 1993), pp.xv-xxvii.

Robert Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy." Atlantic Monthly, February 1994.
<http://dieoff.org/page67.htm>

Tone Bringa, "Haunted by the Imaginations of the Past: Robert Kaplan's *Balkan Ghosts*." In Catherine Besteman and Hugh Gusterson (eds.) Why America's Top Pundits Are Wrong (UC Press, 2005), pp.60-82.

Catherine Besteman, "Why I Disagree with Robert Kaplan." In Catherine Besteman and Hugh Gusterson (eds.) Why America's Top Pundits Are Wrong (UC Press, 2005), pp.83-101

Wed Oct 11 U.S. Policy: Intelligence

Rob Johnston, Analytic Culture in the US Intelligence Community: An Ethnographic Study (CIA 2005).

Wed Oct 18 U.S. Policy: Nuclear Weapons

Carol Cohn, "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals." Signs 12(4):687-718 (1987).

Hugh Gusterson, "Nuclear Weapons and the Other in the Western Imagination." Cultural Anthropology 14(1):111-143 (1999)

Joe Masco, "Mutant Ecologies: Radioactive Life in Post-Cold War New Mexico." Chapter 7 of Joe Masco, The Nuclear Borderlands: The Manhattan Project in Post-Cold War New Mexico (Princeton University Press, 2006), pp.289-327.

Valerie Kuletz, "Introduction" and "Mapping the Nuclear Landscape," chapters 1 & 2 of Valerie Kuletz, Tainted Desert: Environmental and Social Ruin in the American West (Routledge, 1998), pp.3-37.

Wed Oct 25 The War on Terror

Nasra Hassan, "An Arsenal of Believers." New Yorker November 19, 2001, pp.36-41.

Patrick Graham, "Beyond Fallujah: A Year With the Iraqi Resistance." Harpers June 2004, pp.37-48.

Jonathan Friedman "Impaired Empire." Anthropological Quarterly, Winter 2001, pp.95-104.

Hugh Gusterson, "The McNamara Complex." Anthropological Quarterly, Winter 2001, pp.171-177.

Hugh Gusterson, "The Auditors." Boston Review of Books, November/December 2005.

Janet McIntosh, "What Have the 9/11 Investigators Overlooked?" Christian Science Monitor 2002 reprinted in Roberto Gonzales (ed.) Anthropology in the Public Sphere (Texas University Press, 2004, pp.161-164

Wade Davis, "We Need a Global Declaration of Interdependence." International Herald Tribune 2002 reprinted in Roberto Gonzales (ed.) Anthropology in the Public Sphere (Texas University Press, 2004, pp.165-169

Dale Eickelman, "First Know the Enemy, Then Act" Los Angeles Times 2001 reprinted in Roberto Gonzales (ed.) Anthropology in the Public Sphere (Texas University Press, 2004, pp.214-218.

Film: A Death in Gaza

Wed Nov 1 (4s) U.S. Policy: Military Aid

Leslie Sharp, School of the Americas (Duke University Press, 2004), first half

Wed Nov 8 Military aid (cont.)

Leslie Sharp, The School of the Americas (second half)

Cynthia Enloe, "Base Women," chapter 4 of Cynthia Enloe, Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics (UC Press, 1989), pp.65-92).

Wed Nov 15 (AAA) Reflections on the Ethnography of War

Carolyn Nordstrom, Shadows of War: Violence, Power, and International Profiteering in the Twenty-First Century (UC Press, 2004). Read first half.

Wed Nov 22 **THANKSGIVING**

Wed Nov 29 Reflections (cont.)

Carolyn Nordstrom, Shadows of War... Read second half.

Wed Dec 6 The Responsibility of Anthropologists

Franz Boas, "Scientists as Spies." The Nation (1919), reprinted in Roberto Gonzales (ed.) Anthropology in the Public Sphere (Texas University Press, 2004, pp.23-25.

Eric Wolf and Joseph Jorgenson, "Anthropology on the Warpath in Thailand." New York Review of Books, November 19, 1970. <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/10763>

Gerald Berreman, "Contemporary Anthropology and Moral Accountability" (1973) reprinted in Roberto Gonzales (ed.) Anthropology in the Public Sphere (Texas University Press, 2004, pp.46-51.

David Price, "Through a Fog Darkly: The Cold War's Impact on Free inquiry," chapter 16 of David Price, Threatening Anthropology: McCarthyism and the FBI's Surveillance of Activist Anthropologists (Duke University Press, 2004), pp.341-354.

David Price, "Anthropologists as Spies" The Nation 2000 reprinted in Roberto Gonzales (ed.) Anthropology in the Public Sphere (Texas University Press, 2004), pp. 62-70.

American Council of Trustees and Alumni, Defending Civilization: How Our Universities are Failing America, 2001.

Montgomery McFate, "The Military Utility of Understanding Adversary Culture." Joint Force Quarterly 38:42-48 (2005).
http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jel/jfq_pubs/1038.pdf#search=%22montgomery%20mcfate%20joint%20force%20quarterly%22

David Glenn, "Cloak and Classroom." Chronicle of Higher Education March 25, 2005, p.14.