**ANT 4274 THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF POLITICS**

**Instructor: Max Kirsch SS 170**

**Office: SO 177 3 Credits**

**Office Hours:**

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The Anthropology of Politics will examine how anthropology has used the concept of politics and applied it to its studies and fieldwork. Politics in hunter and gather communities is vastly different from other forms of social organization, or indeed, can be said not to exist at all. The present period has been dominated by Global Politics, which in turn has greatly changed all that has come before it. The past fifty years has seen the greatest change in the way social organization is reproduced, and politics has been a large part of that transformation. We will look at what politics is and how is has changed, including the study of such phenomena and concepts as violence, war, hegemony, human rights and peace and conflict. Case studies will be the primary data for our discussions, representing different parts of the world and time periods.

This is an upper-level 4000 numbered course. Students are expected to have some background in the social sciences and previous experience with research and writing. The Course will be organized into working groups who will be responsible for each week’s readings and discussion. Although final papers/projects will be individual responsibilities, groups may work together for the presentations and weekly discussions.

Global Politics has come to be the current discussion in the Anthropology of Politics, and much of the reading will relate back to the global system and the role of local communities, regions, and countries within it. The major topics of human rights, development, peace and reconciliation, and Power will run throughout the course, and each will be covered with readings that interrelate with each other. Power in particular will be a central concept in all of the readings and topics, and students are encouraged to center their case studies and final topics on this concept. As corruption on all levels, from the micro- (institutional) to the macro (state) has also taken a major place in our daily life, the study of this phenomenon and its reach and presentation as normal phenomenon will also be a central issue of discussion.

**Course Objectives**

Students will read, analyze and discuss current issues outlined in the description of the course and complete the course with a project and/or paper that demonstrates an understanding of course topics as outlined in the description and in the weekly topic headings

**Required (\*) and Optional Texts and Reference Material**

\*Vincent, Joan, (ed.) 2002. *The Anthropology of Politics.* Malden, MA: Blackwell

\*Nugent, David and Joan Vincent, (eds.) 2004. *A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics.* Malden, MA: Blackwell

\*Kirsch, Max 2006. *Inclusion and Exclusion in the Global Arena.* London and New York: Routledge

Donahue, M. Joan and Barbara Rose Johnson, (eds). 1998. *Water, Culture, Power.* Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

Lee, Richard and Eleanor Leacock (1982) *Politics and History in Band Societies*. Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press

[Friedrich Engels](http://www.amazon.com/Friedrich-Engels/e/B000APMKCQ/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_3?qid=1388857291&sr=1-3) and Eleanor Burke Leacock (1972*).* [*The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State, in the Light of the Researches of Lewis H. Morgan*](http://www.amazon.com/Origin-Family-Private-Property-Researches/dp/0717803597/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1388857291&sr=1-3&keywords=The+origins+of+the+Family%2C+Private+Property+and+the+State). New York: Monthly Review Press.

Wolf, Eric, 1999. *Envisioning Power.* Berkeley: University of California Press.

Karl Polanyi (2001). [*The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*](http://www.amazon.com/Great-Transformation-Political-Economic-Origins/dp/080705643X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1388857600&sr=1-1&keywords=The+Great+Transformation)*.* Boston, MA: Beacon Press.

Morton Fried, 1967 *The Evolution of Political Society*. Random House

Harvey, David 2005 *A Brief History of Neoliberalism.* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Farmer, Paul 2005. *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor.* Berkeley: University of California Press

Nash, June 2006. *Social Movements, A Reader.* Malden, MA: Blackwell.

**Preparation of your presentations, midterm and final paper:**

Please note that your presentations, along with your papers, should go beyond a simply summary of the material. The idea is to gain practice in synthesizing diverse sources into your own voice and point of view. To do this, make sure that you prepare your presentations before class, keeping in mind that for all of your oral and written work, you will need to (a) develop a theme, a thesis or set of theses, argument or other structure for your argument, b) demonstrate your understanding of the material; c) in most cases, integrate material from multiple authors and topic areas and d) prepare your oral presentation or written paper clearly and cogently. If you are having trouble making sense of your initial drafts, read them out loud to yourself—I have always found that a useful method for noting where unclear areas are situated. All opinions MUST be backed up by references. While your point of view is welcomed, it must be documented with readings from the syllabus and/or outside readings.

Students in small groups will be required to pick a case study to research, and to present the case study at the end of the semester. All students in the group will receive the same grade for the presentation. Case studies must be approved by the instructor.

All communications and e-mails about the course will also originate from Blackboard. Your student username is your FAUNET ID. If you do not know your FAUNET ID, see <https://secure.fau.ed.adaccount>. You will need to enter your social security number and PIN in order to obtain your FAUNET ID. Your initial password for Blackboard is you PIN (PINS are by default set to 2 zeros followed by the 2-digit DAY and 2-digit YEAR of birth. Your e-mail address in Blackboard is set as your FAU email address (to forward email to another account you should go to MyFAU and select “auto forward.”

**Grading**

***Participation in discussion and attendance will account for at least 25% of final grade, over and above the percentages noted below. More than three absences will lower the course grade by one full grade. Additional absences will results in a further lowering of the overall grade.***

Grades will be otherwise determined as follows:

Group Presentation 10%

Quizzes 20%

Midterm Exam (in class) 30%

Final Paper: 40%

*Please note that any grades notated in Blackboard are not official grades and may not be correct. Only grades entered into the FAU system are official, along with grades noted on papers.*

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** When providing source material for class assignments or exams, **WIKIPEDIA** and other un-reviewed network citations **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** These sites provide no proof that they are providing correct information and provide no context for their statements. In general, Internet citations will not be given the same weight as sources provided in the syllabus and in the bibliography at the end of the syllabus. *Students are expected to use the library and the sources provided. Note that many of the articles are available either on Blackboard or in electronic form via the University catalogue.*

**Classroom etiquette policy**

*Students disrupting normal classroom operations will be asked to leave and will be marked absent for the week. Computers may be used* ***ONLY*** *for note-taking. Students using their computers or other electronic equipment for other reasons, such as checking their e-mail and/or messages will also be asked to leave the class and will be marked absent for the week. If students are asked to leave the class more than once they will automatically fail the course.*

**Disability policy statement**

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who, due to a disability, require special accommodation to properly execute course work must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 240 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8010) -- and follow all OSD procedures.*

**Code of Academic Integrity policy statement**

*Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations at* [*http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001\_Code\_of\_Academic\_Integrity.pdf*](http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf)

*All papers will be examined through a plagiarism detector. All papers that have more than 15% of unquoted language from sources will result in an F for the class and may be reported to College authorities.*

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Jan 7: Introduction and Organization of the Class**

**Jan 14: What is Anthropology and How Has it Changed**

**Readings:** Kirsch, M. Anthropology On Blackboard

The Environment On Blackboard

**Jan 21: Intro to the Anthropology of Politics**

**Readings:** Introduction to Joan Vincent, *The Anthropology of Politics*

Introduction to David Nugent and Joan Vincent, Eds. *A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics*

Nash, June 2002, “Transnational Civil Society” in Nugent and Vincent, pp. 437-448.

**Jan 28: NO CLASS**

**Feb 4: Power, Places and People**

**Feb 11: /QUIZ 1; Power, Places and People, Continued**

**Readings:** Schwartz, Katrina: “Panther Politics: Neoliberalizing Nature in Southwest Florida” *Environment and Planning* A 2013, Volume 45, pp 2323-2343 (On Blackboard)

**Feb 18: Levels of Analysis and Key Terms**

**Feb 25: Human Rights, Sovereignty and Legitimacy**

**Readings:** Kirsch, M 2006, Introduction to *Inclusion and Exclusion in the Global Arena*

**March 4: NO CLASS/SPRING BREAK**

**March 11: Development and Indigenous Peoples**

**Readings:** Nash, J. Women,

**March 18: /QUIZ 2; Peace and Reconciliation**

**March 25: Globalization, Reconsidered**

**April 1: NO CLASS**

**April 8: Presentations**

**April 15: Presentations**

**April 22: LAST CLASS/PAPERS DUE**

***Late papers will not be accepted without prior approval***