ST-Sex, Work & International Capital

Sociology and Anthropology 460

Section: E100

Term: 2006 Fall

Instructor: Dara Culhane

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Discussion Topics: This course will be held in the Evening at Harbour Centre Campus.

Scholars in many disciplines have identified a performative turnî currently underway in the social sciences and humanities. Anthropologists are active participants in this turn to performanceî drawing on a long disciplinary history of interest in the politics of ritual, ceremony and cultural performance most closely associated with Victor Turner; through Dell Hymesí and othersí work on the verbal arts of oral history, storytelling, narrative and performance that constituted the ethnography of speakingî school; and into contemporary work on collaborative and experimental ethnography, politics of representation, and public anthropology in the emerging interdisciplinary field of Performance Studiesî.

 The first few weeks of the course will be guided by the question: Why a performative turnî now? Critiques of the history of anthropology have alerted us to the complex relationships between theoretical frameworks, research methodologies and the political conditions in which they emerge and are practiced. What can we learn about the performative turn by understanding it as a movement shaped by the context of its (our) times? Locating the contemporary performative turn in the context of its emergence we will explore anthropologyís and ethnographyís particular contributions to this movement; and engage in debates about where the performative may turn critical anthropologists in the near future.

 Susbstantively, we will consider:

 (1) historical and contemporary anthropological/ethnographic analyses of events marked as performancesî in diverse cultural and political contexts;

 (2) performative writing and performance as modes for representing and communicating ethnographic research;

 (3) performative ethnographyî as collaborative, experimental methodology.

The course will integrate theoretical and methodological discussions through consideration of 3 case studies:

(1) colonialism, history, politics and performance: Kwaíkwaíkwakw Potlatching in B.C.

(2) gentrification, representation, politics and performance: Performing Downtown Eastside Vancouver.

(3) neoliberalism, globalization, politics and performance: Bogadís 3 case studies presented in ELECTORAL GUERILLA THEATRE (Netherlands, Australia, U.S.A.)

Grading: (1) Performance in everyday life: ethnographic exercise 20%

(2) Book Review 20%

(3) Seminar Participation 15%

(4) Commentary on Bogad 20%

(5) Final Project 25%

All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned.î

 The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic dishonesty and misconduct procedures (Policy T 10.03). It is the responsibility of students to in form themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Polices & Procedures).î

Required Texts: Bogad, L. M. (2005) ELECTORIAL GUERRILLA THEATRE: radical ridicule and social movements. New York: Routledge.

A readings package available first week of class.

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Minimum of 90 credit hours or consent of instructor. Recommended: at least two upper division courses in sociology and/or anthropology. Students who took SA 360 in 04-3 and SA 463 in 03-1 may not take this course for further credit.

Notes: All students are expected to read and understand SFU's policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T 10.02 and T 10.03). These policies are available at the following web addresses: http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm and http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm

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