

Anthropology and the Past (A)

Sociology and Anthropology 472

Section: D100

Term: 2007 Spring

Instructor: Dr. Michael Kenny

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Discussion Topics: This seminar aims at a comparative understanding of the relation between memory, forgetting, and collective images of the past. We will therefore consider the significance of history "both oral tradition and written history" for the formation of personal and political identity. Our concern is not with what 'really' happened in the past, but with how images of the past are generated and shape the present.

Grading: Mid-term on readings: 30%

Participation: 10%

Research paper: 60%

Given that this is a 400-level course, the research paper is its centerpiece. So, what might such a paper look like? There are a number of options, but focusing on historical memory of ethnic/national conflict is an important option \210 for example, memories of the Holocaust, or the Palestinian intifada, the events of the Yugoslav crisis, the Residential Schools in Canada, or the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland. Other possibilities lie in the examination of 'invented tradition' - national myths or origin, practices deliberately invented to bolster a sense of national/cultural identity, the "recovered memory" debate, and so on. In short, there are a number of possible approaches, and all are welcome (with the approval of the instructor) as long as they fall within the general parameters of the seminar.

All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned. 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 inform themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Policies & Procedures).

Required Texts: Basso, Keith. *Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language among the Western Apache*. University of New Mexico Press.

Connerton, Paul. *How Societies Remember*. Cambridge University Press.

Maurice Halbwachs. *On*

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

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Prerequisite/Corequisite: Minimum of 90 credit hours including SA 301 or 350, or consent of the instructor.

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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