

ST-Sex, Work & International Capital

Sociology and Anthropology 460

Section: D100

Term: 2006 Spring

Instructor: Dr. Ingrid Putkonen

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Discussion Topics: This course will be held during the Day at Harbour Centre Campus.

The Anthropology of Globalization

Our present world is characterized by a transnational flow of capital, images, information and people. In order to accommodate the interconnection of factors and the repercussions that these have on cultural and biological diversity, anthropologists have had to rethink their field site. One fruitful concept in this regard is the idea of 'ethnoscape'. A focus on ethnoscapes has allowed some anthropologists to study processes of homogenization where local populations are incorporated into the global arena, while at the same time, other anthropologists have used this field site to highlight the contestations taking place, from subtle means to more pronounced ones which have led to protests and social movements. In both cases, the complicated process of social and political transformation in cross-cultural contexts will be addressed.

The course has two principal objectives. The first is to examine how shifting ideas about 'culture' can help us to understand transnational cultural, political and economic conditions. With this end in mind, this part of the course will focus on mapping current transnational conditions and explore the mechanisms by which globalization can be said to occur. The second part of the course, which addresses the second objective, will concentrate, on the one hand, on specific case studies of socio-cultural hybridity and, on the other hand, on case studies which demonstrate the ability of people to resist globalized socio-political and economic conditions.

Therefore, the aim of this course is to assist students in identifying and further examining the main issues which characterize global interactions between different groups, cultural perspectives and economic forces.

Grading: Attendance and Participation 10%

Presentation 20%

Midterm 30%

Term Paper 40%

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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: Esteva, G. and M.S. Prakash (1998) *Grassroots Postmodernism. Remaking the Soil of Cultures.* Zed Books.

Inda, J. and R. Rosaldo, eds. (2002) *The Anthropology of Globalization: A Reader.* Blackwell Press.

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Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Minimum of 90 credit hours or consent of instructor. Recommended: at least two upper division course 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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