Department of Anthropology
3GG3 ANTHROPOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY EUROPE
Tuesdays, 7:00 – 10:00 pm, BSB 137

Professor: Petra Rethmann
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:00 – 13:00

Course Description:
This course offers an introduction to – and an overview of – the anthropology of Europe. Historically a rather marginalized arena in anthropology, at least since the 1989/90 fall of the Berlin Wall and so-called Eastern European velvet revolutions has the anthropology of Europe started to join the anthropological fray. In this course we examine Europe not only as a physical place, but also as a concept and a pursuit. The objectives of the course are as follows: 1) to gain familiarity with anthropological concepts important to the anthropology of Europe, and 2) to develop forms of inquiry that challenge common knowledge about Europe.

Course Requirements:
20% of your final work will be based on a class presentation in relation to one of the readings. Presentations should include: 1) List of key terms; 2) Summary of the author’s main argument; 3) Two or three issues or questions raised by the reading in connection with the themes of (and/or other readings from) the course. You can also draw connections between texts.

The goal of presentations is not to be an expert on the text you are presenting, but to facilitate discussion. This you that you should have thought carefully about the reading, and come prepared to class to help the class extract important point, and to thing about the ideas contained in the reading.

20% of your final mark will reflect class attendance and participation in classroom discussions

20% of your final mark will be based on an analysis of one or two of the readings that we’ve discussed in class before the mid-term break. This paper is due on Tuesday, October 16. It should not exceed the length of 750 words.

Your analysis should consist of a concise statement or the specific thesis or question your paper will explore. It should then proceed to explore that thesis or statement.

40% of your final mark will be based on a final paper related to the issues discussed in class. This paper is due Friday, December 7, at 4:30 in Chester New Hall 535. It should not exceed the length of 2000 words, including bibliography.

Required Readings:
In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to
all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

**SCHEDULE of READINGS**

**September 4**

**Introduction to the Course**

**September 11**

**Defining Europe: Citizenship, Identity, and Idea**

**Required Readings:**

Balibar, Étienne  

De Genova, Nicholas  

**Suggestions for Further Readings:**

Ahmed, Akbar  

Boyer, Dominic  

Brubaker, Rogers  

Chakrabarty, Dipesh  

Ghodsee, Kristen  

Holmes, Douglas  

Levy, Daniel, Max Pensky, and John Torpey  

MacDonald, Sharon  

Mak, Geert  

Özyürek, Ezra

Peebles, Gustav

Shore, Cris

**September 18**
Film: *Fire at Sea* (2016, dir. Gianfranco Rosi)

**September 25**

**Defining Europe: Movement and Migration**

**Required Readings:**
Holmes, Seth M. and Heide Castaneda

Fassin, Didier

**Suggestions for Further Readings:**
Bunzl, Matti

Murphy, John P.

Rogozen-Soltar, Mikaela H.

Stolcke, Verena

Kallius, Annastiina, Daniel Monterescu, and Prem Kumar Rajaram

**October 2**

**Defining Europe: Gender and Class**

**Required Readings:**
Ewing, Katherine
Mandel, Ruth

Yildiz, Yasemin

**Suggestions for Further Readings:**

Eribon, Didier

Ghodsee, Kristen

Murray, Douglas

Scott, Joan W.

**October 9**

**Mid-Term Recess**

**October 16**

**Remembering and Forgetting: The Politics of the Past**

**The first paper is due**

**Required Readings:**

Bach, Jonathan

Boyer, Dominic

**Suggestions for Further Readings:**

Bach, Jonathan

Berdahl, Daphne

Boyer, Dominic

Crapanzano, Vincent

Ghodsee, Kristen
Macdonald, Sharon
Olick, Jeffrey K.
Till, Karen E.
Todorova, Maria, and Zsuzsa Gille

**October 23**
Film: *The Lives of Others (Das Leben der Anderen)* (2006; dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck)

**October 30**
Memory and Material Culture
Required Readings:
Fehérváry, Krisztina
Muehlebach, Andrea

Suggestions for Further Readings:
Balthazar, Ana-Carolina
Fehérváry, Krisztina
2013  *Politics in Color and Concrete: Socialist Materialities and the Middle Class in Hungary.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press

**November 6**
Anger and Right-Wing Populism
Required Readings:
Shoshan, Nitzan
Hamann, Ulrike,
Hann, Chris

Suggestions for Further Readings:
Feldman, Allen

Miller-Idriss, Cynthia

Mishra, Pankaj

Shoshan, Nitzan

**November 13**

**Film:** *In the Fade (Aus dem Nichts)* (2017, dir. Fatih Akin)

**November 20**

**Right-Wing Populism and Transnationalism**

**Required Readings:**

Rethmann, Petra

Snyder, Timothy

**Suggestions for Further Readings:**

Gingrich, Andre, and Marcus Banks

**November 27**

**Agency and Protest: The Politics of Alternate Visions**

**Required Readings:**

Fassin, Didier

Rasza, Maple

**Suggestions for Further Readings:**

Franquesa, Jaume

Greenberg, Jessica

Juris, Jeffrey S.

Rasza, Maple

Rethmann, Petra

December 4
It’s Up to You!

University Policies

**Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

**Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student’s religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.
Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

**Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

**Privacy Protection**

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

**Course Modification**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.