

ANTH. 1105 – MWT A, Comparative Studies in Cultures and Transformation
Brooklyn College, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology

Spring 2018

Monday & Wednesday, 12:50 pm to 2:05 pm
James Hall, Room 2207

Professor Michael Partis

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Office: James Hall 3301K

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

Course Overview:

This course is a multidisciplinary, multi-regional exploration of cultures and social histories. Our thematic foci are self-rule (autonomy), revolution, and reform. To synthesize our inquiry, each theme is tied to a specific topic. Our central topics will be maroonage, militarized guerrilla warfare, and protest-based social and political movements. We will look at how each theme is not limited to a singular group or area. During our course we will study social and cultural histories in the Caribbean (Cuba and Jamaica), Latin America (Brazil), South America (Suriname), equatorial Africa (Angola and Burkina Faso), Northern Africa (Algeria and Tunisia), and the Middle East. We will approach the study of culture and history in a multi-regional framework, with the study of each above mentioned topic in multiple geographic areas: autonomous settlements in the Americas by separatists during Transatlantic chattel slavery (16th to 19th century), armed resistance to overthrow colonial rule in Africa (1952 to 1973), and non-violent activism against ruling regimes in the Arab world (2011 to present).

Course goals:

By the end of the course, students will understand how anthropological inquiry aims to look at social origins, human praxis, cultural systems, and political structures.

Learning objectives:

- to identify and define the key concepts historically central to cultural anthropological inquiry;
- to demonstrate critical-thinking and communication skills by reading and responding to samples of published work on culture's impact on human ideas, group behavior, and the physical environment;
- to cultivate an ethnographic sensibility to the complexities and contradictions of particular groups of people;
- to evaluate and critique ethnocentrism, racism, sexism and other forms of inequality/power;

Course Requirements:

Class Discussion/Attendance	10%
Three Exams (15 points each)	45%
Three Group Presentations (10 points each)	30%
In-Class Quizzes	15%

TOTAL: 100%

Required Material:

Buck, Pem Davidson. (2016). *In/Equality: An Alternative Anthropology*. CAT Publishing. 9781562266806

Assigned Reading will be on Blackboard:

All required readings for this course will be available in the Buck textbook or through Blackboard. Blackboard is an essential and required feature of this course. You will need it to access electronic versions of the syllabus and PDF files of reading assignments. If you have not already done so, please open your CUNY portal account (<https://cunyportal.cuny.edu/>), which gives you access to our class on Blackboard.

Description of requirements:

Participation: Participation includes: attendance, punctuality, active listening, and consistent involvement in class discussions. Participation is measured by meaningful, thoughtful engagement and interaction. Frequency is considered, but not the sole criteria.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Be on time. If you are not present when attendance is taken, you are considered late. An excused absence requires permission from the professor (and documentation for reason of absent, either in printed form or email). THREE unexcused absences result in an automatic deduction of your final grade. SIX lates result in an automatic deduction of your final grade. The state law regarding non-attendance because of religious beliefs shall be followed as given in the Brooklyn College Bulletin, Undergraduate Programs.

Exams: There will be three Exams. Each is thirty questions, multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank, each worth 0.5 points.

Quizzes: Every class session, there will be a quiz based on the assigned reading. Questions on quizzes will be multiple-choice and/or fill-in-the-blank. Each quiz is worth between 0.5 and 2.0 points.

Group Presentations: There will be three group presentations during the course. Each presentation is based on the themes and topics described in the Course Overview. Each group presentation is worth 10 points.

Academic Integrity:

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member **MUST** report the violation. *Note that any paper found to have been*

plagiarized, which includes unauthorized and/or un-cited uses of internet or other sources will receive a failing grade on the paper as an academic sanction and may lead to disciplinary sanctions if deemed appropriate.

Statement on Student Disabilities:

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

Course Schedule:

Monday January 29th: Introduction; course overview; sign-up for the course's Slack channel

Section 1: Maroonage

Wednesday January 31st (in **TEXTBOOK**): Chapter 1 "A New Pair of Glasses," *In/equality: An Alternative Anthropology*, Fourth Edition. Pem Davidson Buck. 2016.

Monday February 5th (in **TEXTBOOK**): Chapter 4, "Principles Underlying Inequality: The Tributary and the Capitalist Mode of Production." *In/equality: An Alternative Anthropology*, Fourth Edition. Pem Davidson Buck. 2016.

Wednesday February 7th (on **BLACKBOARD**): Candice Goucher and Kofi Agorsah. (2011). "Excavating the Roots of Resistance: The Significance of Maroons in Jamaican Archaeology." In Delle, J. A., Hauser, M. W., & Armstrong, D. V. (Eds.). (2011). *Out of many, one people: the historical archaeology of colonial Jamaica*.

Monday February 12th – NO CLASS, COLLEGE CLOSED

Wednesday February 14th (on **BLACKBOARD**): La, Rosa Corzo, Gabino. (2003). "Chapter 3: Eastern Palenques in the Period of Slave Planation Expansion" and "Chapter 5: Runaway Slave Settlements as a System of Resistances." in *Runaway Slave Settlements in Cuba: Resistance and Repression*, University of North Carolina Press.

Monday February 19th – NO CLASS, COLLEGE CLOSED

Tuesday February 20th [college on a Monday schedule] (on **BLACKBOARD**): Price, Richard. *Rainforest Warriors: Human Rights on Trial*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011.

Wednesday February 21st (on **BLACKBOARD**): Anderson, R. (1996). "The Quilombo of Palmares: A New Overview of a Maroon State in Seventeenth-Century Brazil." *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 28(3), 545-566.

Monday February 26th – Class Presentations #1

Wednesday February 28th – EXAM I

Section 2: Guerilla Warfare and Revolution

Monday March 5th (in **TEXTBOOK**): Chapter 6 “Factoring In Race, Caste, and Class,” *In/equality: An Alternative Anthropology*, Fourth Edition. Pem Davidson Buck. 2016.

Wednesday March 7th (on **BLACKBOARD**): Castro, Fidel. (1953) “History Will Absolve Me.” Excerpts no. 1 and no.2.

Castro, Fidel. (1959). “Address to the Congress of the Peasants.”

Monday March 12th (in **TEXTBOOK**): Chapter 2 “Imperialism, Colonialism, and Neocolonialism.” *In/equality: An Alternative Anthropology*, Fourth Edition. Pem Davidson Buck. 2016.

Wednesday March 14th (on **BLACKBOARD**): Cabral, Amilcar. (1973). “Second Address Before the United Nations” p. 15 -38 and “National Liberation and Culture” p. 39 – 56. In *Return to the Source*.

Monday March 19th (on **BLACKBOARD**): Sankara, Thomas. (1983). “Building a new society, ride of social injustice and imperialist domination”

Wednesday March 21st (in **TEXTBOOK**): Chapter 3 “Principles Underlying Equality: The Communal Mode of Production.” *In/equality: An Alternative Anthropology*, Fourth Edition. Pem Davidson Buck. 2016.

Monday March 26th (on **BLACKBOARD**): selections from Che Guevara (1963) *Guerrilla Warfare: A Method*

Wednesday March 28th (on **BLACKBOARD**): Binford, Leigh. (1998). “Hegemony in the Interior of the Salvadoran Revolution: The Erp in Northern Morazán.” *Journal of Latin American Anthropology*.” 4: 2–45

April 2nd and April 4th – No Class, College Closed for Spring Recess

Monday April 9th (**watching IN-CLASS**): Burns, Ken. (2017). Episode 2 “Riding the Tiger” (1961 – 1963)

Wednesday April 11th – No Class, College on a Friday schedule

Monday April 16th and Wednesday April 18th (**watching IN-CLASS**): Burns, Ken. (2017). Episode 4 “Resolve” (January 1967 to June 1967). *The Vietnam War*.

Monday April 23rd – Class Presentations #2

Wednesday April 25th – EXAM II

Section 3: Protest and Reform

Monday April 30rd (in **TEXTBOOK**): Chapter 5 “Factoring Gender.” *In/equality: An Alternative Anthropology*, Fourth Edition. Pem Davidson Buck. 2016.

Wednesday May 2th (on **BLACKBOARD**): Abu-Lughod, Lila. (2012), “Living the “revolution” in an Egyptian village: Moral action in a national space.” *American Ethnologist*, 39: 21–25.

Monday May 7th (on **BLACKBOARD**): Ghannam, F. (2012), Meanings and feelings: Local interpretations of the use of violence in the Egyptian revolution. *American Ethnologist*, 39: 32–36

Wednesday May 9th (in **TEXTBOOK**): Chapter 7 “Maintaining Stratification.” *In/equality: An Alternative Anthropology*, Fourth Edition. Pem Davidson Buck. 2016.

Monday May 14th (on **BLACKBOARD**): Schneider, Nathan. “The Suspicious Revolution: An Interview with Tala Assad.” SSRC Blog. <https://tif.ssrc.org/2011/08/03/the-suspicious-revolution-interview-with-talal-asad/>

Wednesday May 16th – Class Presentation #3

FINAL EXAM PERIOD, DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED: EXAM III