Anthropology 137, Section 1
Special Topics in Cultural Anthropology:
The Ethnographic Imagination

Special topic for Spring 2005:
Ethnography, theory, and critique since the ‘70s.

<table>
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<th>Professor S. Ortner</th>
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<td>Office hours: T – Thu 2:30-3:30</td>
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Class times: T - Thu 3:30-4:45
Room A 139 Fowler

Books for purchase at UCLA bookstore (*):
*M. Sahlins, Historical Metaphors and Mythical Realities
*S. Ortner, High Religion: A Cultural and Political History of Sherpa Buddhism.
*S. Ortner, Life and Death on Mt. Everest: Sherpas and Himalayan Mountaineering.

Course pak available at Print Run, 950 Gayley, next to In and Out, tel. 310.824.5150
All books available at Powell Reserve.
Extra course pak available in Anthropology Department reading room, 3rd floor, Haines Hall

FORMAT

The course will consist of:
1) assigned readings, to be addressed in lecture and discussion in the class. Class readings should be finished by Tuesday so that the lectures will make sense and discussion will be possible.
2) Two outside ethnographies, to be read in conjunction with papers.
3) Three papers applying the class readings to the outside ethnographies, or to other additional readings. All papers will be due on the Monday after the last week of the unit in question.

ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN. 100% ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED. MORE THAN ONE ABSENCE WITHOUT WRITTEN EXCUSE WILL AFFECT YOUR GRADE.
SYLLABUS

Week 1 (4/5,7). Introduction.
  Tuesday: Overview of the course, including outside readings.
  Thursday: Lecture on Functionalism. **Optional reading:** Adam Kuper,
  Anthropology and Anthropologists, Ch. 3, “The 1930s and 1940s – from
  Function to Structure.”

Part I

Week 2 (4/12, 14). The interpretive turn
  Spirit of Capitalism;” Part II, Ch. 5, “Asceticism and the Spirit of
  Capitalism.”
  Clifford Geertz, “Religion as a Cultural System,” in his Interpretation of Cultures
  Sherry Ortner, “Gods’ Bodies, Gods’ Food,” in Roy Willis, ed., The Analysis of
  Symbolism.

Week 3 (4/19,21). The Marxist turn
  Karl Marx, “Introduction to a Critique of Political Economy” (in The German
  Ideology)
  Eric Wolf, Europe and the People without History, Ch. 3, “Modes of Production.”
  Steven Feuchtwang, “Investigating Religion,” in Maurice Bloch, ed., Marxist
  Analysis and Social Anthropology.

Week 4 (4/26,28): Synthesis: Early practice theory
  *Marshall Sahlins, Historical Metaphors and Mythical Realities (read whole
  book)

PAPER I: Discuss at least one reading from each week in Part I with reference to Ortner,
  *High Religion; 5-7 pages, DUE MONDAY MAY 2. PLEASE DO NOT BE
  LATE. I FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT DEADLINES AND IT PUTS
  ME IN A BAD MOOD WHEN I GRADE LATE PAPERS. THIS IS NOT
  TO YOUR BENEFIT.

Part II

  Michel Foucault, “Two Lectures,” in N. Dirks, G. Eley, and S. Ortner, eds.,
  Culture/Power/History
  Nicholas Dirks, Castes of Mind, Ch. 8, “The Policing of Tradition.”
  Ann Stoler and Frederick Cooper, Tensions of Empire, Chs. xxx

Week 6 (5/10,12). Para-colonial encounters and Practice Theory revisited.
  *Sherry Ortner, Life and Death on Mt. Everest, Chs. 1-3, 5-7.
Week 7 (5/17, 19). Third world/post-colonial/global feminism
Saba Mahmood, Politics of Piety, Ch. 1, “The Subject of Freedom”
Uma Narayan, Dislocating Cultures, Ch. 3, “Cross-Cultural Connections, Border Crossings, and ‘Death by Culture’”
Nicole Constable, Maid to Order in Hong Kong, Ch. 7, “Resistance and Protest.”

PAPER 2: Discuss at least one reading from each week in Part II with reference to Ortner, *High Religion, or with reference to several non-assigned chapters in the assigned books. (Check tables of contents and don’t forget that all course books are available on reserve.) 5-7 pp. DUE MONDAY MAY 23. PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE. SEE ABOVE.

Part III

Week 8 (5/24, 29). Studying up
Laura Nader, “Up the Anthropologist,” in Dell Hymes, ed., Reinventing Anthropology
Hugh Gusterson, Nuclear Rites: A Weapons Laboratory at the end of the Cold War, Chs 1 and 2.

Week 9 (5/31, 6/2). Anthropology of media, with an emphasis on globalization
IN F. Ginsburg, L. Abu-Lughod, and B. Larkin, eds., Media Worlds:
Anthropology on New Terrain, READ:
Mayfair Yang, “Mass Media and Transnational Subjectivity in Shanghai”
Louisa Schein, “Mapping Hmong Media in Diasporic Space.”

Week 10 (6/7, 9). Anthropology and activism
George Marcus and Michael Fisher, Anthropology as Cultural Critique, Ch. 5

PAPER 3: Discuss at least one selection from each week in Part III with reference to an outside ethnography of your choice, or with reference to several non-assigned chapters in the assigned books. 5-7 pages. DUE MONDAY JUNE 13. SEE ABOVE FOR DIRE WARNINGS.