

ANTH 399 VD

Fall 2011

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Anthropology

Cultural Politics: Inside and Outside the US

Class meeting time and place: Wed., 5-7:50 p.m., 109A Davenport Hall

Course WebSite: <http://compass.illinois.edu>

••Course Instructor, Designer, and Organizer

Professor Virginia R. Dominguez

Office Hours:

Wednesdays, 3-4:45 p.m.

Thursdays, 1:45-2:45 p.m. & 4:40-5:40 p.m.

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••Course Assistant: Michele Hanks

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••Guest Instructor (October 19 and 26, November 2 and 9):

Professor Helena Wulff (University of Stockholm)

Email address: Helena.wulff@socant.su.se

Department Staff Offices: 109 Davenport Hall

Department Head: Andrew Orta (109 Davenport Hall)

Overall Goals of the Course

- (1) To understand how and why a great deal of debate, activism, and scholarship in the world is currently being framed in terms of "culture"; and
- (2) To enter such debates with insight, passion, wisdom, and knowledge.

Course Description:

This course looks at the intersections of "culture" and "politics" in the contemporary world, and the passions they arouse. It examines implicit and explicit manifestations of political power in the arts and in popular culture as well as public discourse about culture and public institutions dedicated to the arts, culture, heritage, history, tourism, identity, and education. Among the questions asked are: (1) Why is much of the current talk about globalization framed in terms of "culture"? (2) Why is much of the discourse of "culture" coming from national governments, international organizations, and Fourth World movements? (3) Why are lawyers, philosophers, artists, writers, historians, museum curators, filmmakers, linguists, and multinational corporations involved, or at least implicated? (4) Is cultural politics really just politics by any other name?

Illustrations are drawn from a variety of countries, including the contemporary United States.

Distinguished anthropologists from inside and outside the U.S. will participate throughout much of the fall semester.

Planned guests include: **Lauren Anaya** (attorney and UIUC doctoral candidate); **Professor Giorgio Mariani** (Universita di Roma “La Sapienza” Professor of American Studies and current President of the International American Studies Association); **Professor Jane Desmond** (UIUC Professor of Anthropology and Director of the International Forum for U.S. Studies); UIUC doctoral candidate **Michele Hanks**; Krannert Art Museum curator **Dr. Allyson Purpura**; Professor **Janet Dixon Keller** (Associate Dean of the UIUC Graduate College and Professor of Anthropology); **Professor Helaine Silverman** (UIUC Professor Anthropology and Archaeology, and Director of CHAMP—the Collaborative for Cultural Heritage and Museum Practices); Professor **Ulf Hannerz** (University of Stockholm Professor Emeritus and past president of the European Association of Social Anthropologists); and **Dr. Isar Godreau** (Universidad de Puerto Rico en Cayey researcher and immediate past Director of the UPR-Cayey Instituto de Investigaciones Interdisciplinarias).

Course Materials: The eight books below were ordered through the local bookstores and have been put on reserve at the UIUC Undergraduate Library. All are available in paperback; used copies are available in many cases as well. *For those weeks when the assigned readings are journal articles or book chapters, you will find them in PDF form on the course website and/or on e-reserves for this course.* Additional outside readings will be necessary for your final project as well as for two specific weeks during the semester (and explanations appear below and will also be given orally in class). Films/DVDs/videos will be used frequently and form an integral part of the course.

- (1) Anderson, Benedict, Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism
- (2) Banks, Marcus, Using Visual Data in Qualitative Research (2007)
- (3) Bender, Barbara, Stonehenge: Making Space
- (4) Gilroy, Paul, There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack: The Cultural Politics of Race and Nation
- (5) Hobsbawm, Eric and Terence Ranger, The Invention of Tradition
- (6) Price, Sally, Primitive Art in Civilized Places
- (7) Trask, Haunani-Kay, From a Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawai'i
- (8) Wulff, Helena, Dancing at the Crossroads: Memory and Mobility in Ireland

Some additional books and articles on reserve (to be drawn on, as needed for projects and expansion of topics):

- (1) Marcus Banks, Visual Methods in Social Research
- (2) Jane Desmond, Staging Tourism: Bodies on Display from Waikiki to SeaWorld
- (3) Ivan Karp and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (eds.), Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display
- (4) “Contested Cultural Heritage: A Selective Historiography.” In Contested Cultural Heritage. Helaine Silverman, ed. Pp. 1-49. New York: Springer, 2011)
- (5) John Tomlinson, Cultural Imperialism

ATTENTION concerning Special Accommodations

Students with special needs or disabilities that may require some modification of seating or other class requirements should inform Professor Dominguez at the very beginning of the course, so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

HONOR CODE

By enrolling in this course you agree to abide by its honor code. UIUC prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty and this course takes that very seriously. To make sure you understand and abide by the university policies concerning plagiarism, see the explanations available online. The following website is especially good: <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>. Plagiarized work will result in an F just like any in-class form of cheating.

Requirements:

- (1) Committed, timely, and active class participation throughout the semester. **Regular attendance each Wednesday is fully expected.** This is **worth 10%** of your overall course grade.
- (2) Seven Response Papers (700-900 words, single-spaced), submitted as follows:
 - Four Response Papers submitted to Professor Dominguez in class, choosing from the following dates: Sept. 7, Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, or Nov. 30
 - Three Response Papers submitted to Professor Wulff in class, choosing from the following dates: Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, and Nov. 9.

Your first Response Paper of the semester is worth 5% of your overall course grade; Your second Response Paper is worth 6% of your overall course grade; and Each of the remaining Response Papers will be worth 7% of your overall course grade.
- (3) Two Written Reports (1000-1250 words, single-spaced or double-spaced) on particular exercises---one due August 31 and the other due October 5. **The first will count as 9% of your overall course grade and the second will count as 10% of your overall course grade.**
- (4) A Final Paper based on library research on a topic concerning the politics of culture/cultural politics in the U.S. or elsewhere (15-20 pages, double-spaced). **This Final Paper will be worth 25% of your overall course grade. It will be due by NOON Thursday December 15, 2011, both as an email attachment sent to the Dominguez gmail account AND in hardcopy (deposited in Professor Dominguez's mailbox in 109 Davenport Hall).**

EXPLANATIONS OF TERMS AND EXPECTATIONS:

••Response Paper: A paper of 700-900 words (or about 1.5 to 2.0 **single-spaced** pages of analytic thinking (questions, analyses of main points as well as interesting secondary points, critiques, surprises). A Response Paper does not typically have a formal title, a list of References Cited, or footnotes. It also does not need to have a single argument. It must, however, engage with the ideas and arguments of the assigned readings. Each page of your paper must have a page number.

••Written Report: A paper of 1000-1250 words (submitted **single-spaced OR double-spaced**) that includes data you have gathered and analyzed as a result of doing a specific exercise of data-gathering (one due on August 31 and the other due on October 5). Each Written Report will need to have a formal title you choose, a date of submission, your name, a list of References Cited (at the end), a concluding paragraph, an introductory paragraph that tells the reader what your research exercise was and what your main conclusion is, and at least one paragraph detailing your method of analyzing the data. You may include footnotes or endnotes but are not required to do so. You may include 1-2 tables or graphs capturing some of your findings. You may even attach (as an Appendix) some photocopies of pages from the text(s) you studied and analyzed as part of the assignment/exercise. Make sure that each page of your paper has a page number.

••Final Paper: A paper that is 15-20 pages long (**double-spaced**) on a topic of your choosing that concerns the politics of culture/cultural politics inside the U.S., outside the U.S., or both. It must be based on library research and not just Internet research. You must give it a title. It must also include your name and the date of submission. In addition, make sure that the paper has a clear topic, an explanation of your method of research, an argument (conclusion) presented at the beginning and reiterated at the end of the paper, data/findings based on your research, and a list of References Cited that exceeds one page of references to scholarly works. You may include footnotes or endnotes, tables, photos, graphs, and even appendices. *If you include appendices, they are not to count toward the overall page length of the paper* (i.e. a 10-page paper with 5 pages of appendices will not be acceptable).

Weekly Outline:

- Week 1 (August 24)----Introduction: Learning to Look, Listen, Wonder, and Proceed
- Week 2 (Aug. 31)-----The Discursive Environment We Live in: Notions of "Culture" and "Politics" around Us. Does Anyone besides Academics Talk about "Cultural Politics"?
- EXERCISE and WRITTEN REPORT DUE IN CLASS AUG. 31

Prepare for Week 2 by:

- (a) Reading a U.S. newspaper daily (in print or on line)
- (b) Looking for and marking ALL times the words "politics," "political," "culture," and "cultural" appear on the pages (or screens) of the U.S. newspaper you chose to read,
- (c) Developing hypotheses about the meanings of these words in the contemporary U.S. based on the usage patterns you find. (TRY CREATING CHARTS, JUXTAPOSING USAGES, FINDING INCONSISTENCIES, SPOTTING CONTRADICTIONS, AND THINKING OF CONCEPTUAL AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES).
- (d) Writing a **Written Report** based on what you find, how you analyze your findings, and what you think it might actually mean.

To make for a lively class on August 31, make sure to bring some of your data/materials to class (in addition to the Written Report that you will turn in to Professor Dominguez at the end of class).

GUEST: attorney and UIUC doctoral candidate Lauren Anaya

- Week 3 (Sept. 7)-----Imagined National Communities and the Politics of Culture

ASSIGNED READINGS: (1) Benedict Anderson's Imagined Communities; and

- (2) Lindstrom, Lamont, "Pasin Tumbuna: Culture and Nationalism in Papua New Guinea." In From Beijing to Port Moresby: The Politics of National Identity in Cultural Policies. Virginia R. Dominguez and David Wu, eds. Pp. 141-188. (New York: Gordon and Breach Publishers, 1998)

GUEST: Professor Giorgio Mariani (Universita di Roma "La Sapienza")

- Week 4 (Sept. 14)-----Secession Movements/Sovereignty Efforts Today: Invoking/Using/Claiming Cultural Unity as Basis for Sovereignty Claim

ASSIGNED READING: Haunani-Kay Trask's From a Native Daughter

•Week 5 (Sept. 21)-----Is Tradition Traditional?

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- (1) Hanson, Allan—"The Making of the Maori: Culture Invention and its Logic," American Anthropologist 91(4): 890-902 (1989);
- (2) Desmond, Jane—pages 2-33 of her book, Staging Tourism: Bodies on Display from Waikiki to Sea World (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999); and
- (3) chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7 in Hobsbawm and Ranger's The Invention of Tradition (i.e. pages 1-100 and 211-307)

GUEST: Professor and IFUSS Director, Jane Desmond (UIUC)

•Week 6 (Sept. 28)-----Materiality, Physical Sites, and Their Uses

ASSIGNED READING: Barbara Bender's Stonehenge: Making Space

GUESTS: Krannert Art Museum curator Dr. Allyson Purpura, and UIUC doctoral candidate Michele Hanks

•Week 7 (Oct. 5)-----Cultural Policies, Supranational Entities, and Modernity: The UNESCO Context (Whose Politics? Whose Sense of Culture?)

•EXERCISE AND WRITTEN REPORT DUE IN CLASS OCT. 5:

Prepare for Week 7 by:

- (a) Going to the UIUC Main Library, and finding, checking out, AND READING any **one** of the 60-70 UNESCO-sponsored books our library has on cultural policies. Most are short and entitled Cultural Policy in _____ (the name of a country).
- (b) Coming up with questions, analyses, and critiques of what you find. Are yours "political" critiques? "Cultural critiques"? "Economic" critiques? Or something else? Do they allow you to begin to develop a better sense of what is meant by "cultural politics," or do they seem to invite something we might call a "cultural political" critique? You will find it useful to revisit any of the course readings assigned so far as you try to formulate questions, analyses, and critiques of your own.
- (c) Writing a **Written Report** based on what you find, how you analyze your findings, and what you think it might actually mean.

GUEST: Dean and Professor, Janet Dixon Keller (UIUC)

- Week 8 (Oct. 12)-----Are Heritage Declarations and Preservation Efforts Laudable or Regrettable? Are They Really Based on an Accounting of the Past, a Politics of Domestication (Culture vs. Heritage), an Indirect Battle over Authority, or a Form of Liberal Imperialism?

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- (1) Dominguez, Virginia R., “The Politics of Heritage in Contemporary Israel.” In Nationalist Ideologies and the Production of National Cultures. Richard Fox, ed. Pp. 130-147. (American Ethnological Society Monograph Series, 1990)
- (2) Galaty, Michael L., “Blood of Our Ancestors: Cultural Heritage Management in the Balkans.” In Contested Cultural Heritage. Helaine Silverman, ed. Pp. 109-124. (New York: Springer, 2011)
- (3) Hanks, Michele M., “Re-imagining the National Past: Negotiating the Roles of Science, Religion, and History in Contemporary British Ghost Tourism.” In Contested Cultural Heritage. Helaine Silverman, ed. Pp. 125-139. (New York: Springer, 2011)
- (4) Hartnett, Alexandra, “Aestheticized Geographies of Conflict: The Politicization of Culture and the Culture of Politics in Belfast’s Mural Tradition.” In Contested Cultural Heritage. Helaine Silverman, ed. Pp. 69-107. (New York: Springer, 2011)
- (5) Ikram, Salima, “Collecting and Repatriating Egypt’s Past: Toward a New Nationalism.” In Contested Cultural Heritage. Helaine Silverman, ed. Pp. 141-154. (New York: Springer, 2011)
- (6) Silverman, Helaine, “Embodied Heritage, Identity Politics, and Tourism,” Anthropology and Humanism (2005) volume 30(issue 2): 141-155.

GUEST: Professor and CHAMP Director, Helaine Silverman

- Week 9 (Oct. 19)-----Art in Global Circulation: The Politics of Value and Appreciation

ASSIGNED READING: Sally Price’s Primitive Art in Civilized Places

GUEST INSTRUCTOR: Professor Helena Wulff (University of Stockholm)

- Week 10 (Oct. 26)-----The Social Life of Words and Images

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- (1) Banks, Marcus, Using Visual Data in Qualitative Research; and
- (2) Hannerz, Ulf, “Flat World and the Tower of Babel: Linguistic Practices in a Global Discipline.” In Hannerz’s Anthropology’s World: Life in a Twenty-First Century Discipline. (New York: Pluto Books, 2010)

GUEST INSTRUCTOR: Professor Helena Wulff (University of Stockholm)

GUEST: Professor Ulf Hannerz (University of Stockholm)

- Week 11 (Nov. 2)-----Debating Dance: Tradition, Modernity, and Nationalism in a Postcolonial Age

ASSIGNED READING: Wulff, Helena (2009). Dancing at the Crossroads: Memory and Mobility in Ireland. Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2009). Concentrate on chapters 1-4 and 6.

GUEST INSTRUCTOR: Professor Helena Wulff (University of Stockholm)

- Week 12 (Nov. 9)--A Center for Circulation: Manhattan as a Magnet for Young People

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- (1) Ortner, Sherry B., "Reading America: Preliminary Notes on Class and Culture." In Anthropology and Social Theory. Pages 19-42 (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006)
- (2) Shokeid, Moshe, "Exceptional Experiences in Everyday Life," Cultural Anthropology (2009/1992) volume 7 (issue 2): 232-243.
- (3) Wulff, Helena, "Young Swedes in New York: Workplace and Playground." In Rolf Lundén and Erik Åsard (eds.), Networks of Americanization. Pages 94-105 (Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International, 1992)

GUEST INSTRUCTOR: Professor Helena Wulff (University of Stockholm)

- Week 13 (Nov. 16) **NO CLASS (week of the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, this year in Montreal)**

.....Nov. 23-----THANKSGIVING BREAK.....

- Week 14 (Nov. 30)-- Racialization, Culturalism, and Cultural Imperialism

ASSIGNED READING: Paul Gilroy's There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack: The Cultural Politics of Race and Nation

GUEST: Dr. Isar Godreau (Universidad de Puerto Rico at Cayey)

- Week 15 (Dec. 7)—Reflections and brief reports on research projects for Final Papers

ASSIGNMENT: Work on your Final Paper, and come to class ready to make a brief report on your findings and your likely argument

*****FINAL PAPER DUE BY NOON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011*****