

ANTHROPOLOGY OF LAW
ANT 4273, § 3504
Spring 2008
Time: Tuesdays, 6:00PM – 9:00PM
Location: CSE E222

<p>A. Scott Catey, Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office location: Turlington 1350A • Email: catey@ufl.edu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office hours: T: 4 – 6, W: 2 – 3 • Course page : www.catey.org
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Course description:

This course is intended to introduce students to anthropological approaches to the study of law. This will include a survey of the historical development of the anthropology of law, and current research concerns in the field, including disputes and adjudication, legal institutions and practices, law and language, typologies and varieties of law, legal pluralism, and international law and human rights. These topical areas will be engaged through texts that focus on theoretical frames and methodologies in anthropology and other social sciences, with the goal of enabling students to construct and pursue research questions and strategies for anthropological inquiry into law. Materials will be drawn from multiple disciplines, including law and legal history, and will be looked at longitudinally and contextually, with emphasis on the creative bringing together of forms. The first part of the course will focus on the history, theories, and methodologies of anthropologists engaged in research on law; the second part of the course will consist of a deeper topical examination of the sociocultural and political economic dimensions of slavery and the ways in which the “past” continues to inhabit and inform contemporary law and social realities in the United States and beyond. Our efforts to integrate theory, method, and data will emphasize the culture and political economy of law, with special attention paid to language, meaning, cultural forms and logics, relationality, social structures, personhood, property regimes, and communication and information technologies in legal settings and legal institutions.

Required reading for all students (Available at Wild Iris Books, 802 W. University):

1. Frederick Douglass. 2005. *Narrative of the of Life of Frederick Douglass and Other Writings*. Signet.
2. Earl Maltz. 2007. *Dred Scott and the Politics of Slavery*. University of Kansas Press.
3. Angela Y. Davis. 2003. *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Seven Stories Press.
4. Lorna Rhodes. 2004. *Total Confinement: Madness and Reason in the Maximum Security Prison*. UC.
5. Leonard Peltier. 2000. *Prison Writings: My Life is My Sundance*. St. Martin’s.
6. Additional reading materials are assigned some weeks. These will be available on the course webpage at www.catey.org/courses. Materials are to be read **prior** to the class period for which they are assigned.

Requirements:

There are three requirements:

1. Attendance and classroom participation. This will include short quizzes on readings.
2. A midterm examination
3. A final research paper & presentation. Possible topics for the paper will be discussed in class and posted on the course webpage. Students will work in pairs or groups of three; names of group members must be submitted to the instructor by January 22, 2008. Each group will choose one topic from the list for their final paper, and notify the instructor of this choice on or before January 22, 2008. The paper must be between 3000-3500 words, and must examine law through an anthropological framework. The paper must conform to the content and formatting requirements posted on the course webpage. Groups must submit the final paper on or before April 01, 2008. No exceptions. Late submissions will not be accepted; email submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. In addition, each individual student will

be required to submit an individual writing assignment regarding the process of group work. Details will be discussed in class and available on the course webpage.

Grading:

The grading for this course will be competitive, and final grades will not be curved. Those students who perform exceptionally well on the research project (concept, execution, analysis, writing, and format) will be selected to present their work and will receive the highest grades for the course. Presentations will be approximately 20 minutes in length, with an additional 10-15 minutes for Q&A for each group.

Attendance and participation will be integrated into your final grade. Although this is a relatively large class, it is modeled on a seminar format, and attendance at each class meeting is required. Absence will be excused only for death in the immediate family or a student's serious illness. Documentation will be necessary. Each unexcused absence will diminish your grade one full level (i.e. from A to B, from B to C, from C to D, from D to E). Two or more unexcused absences will constitute a failing grade. I do not expect that every student will volunteer to participate, therefore, participation will be encouraged in two ways: (a) engaged voluntary participation will improve your final grade, and (b) I will call on students by name, with the expectation that you will be prepared to respond thoughtfully. If I call your name and you are unprepared, it will negatively impact your grade. If I call your name and you are absent, your grade will be reduced pursuant to the attendance policy for this course.

Grade breakdown:

Attendance, Participation, Quizzes	30%
Midterm	30%
Final paper	30%
Presentation	10%

Schedule: Jan 7 – April 23

Week 1, Jan 8: Introduction: Law, Ethnography, and the Object of Analysis

Read:

Moore excerpts: *General Introduction*; and *Geertz, Local Knowledge* (available on course webpage)

Week 2, Jan 15

Read:

Moore excerpts: *Early Themes*, and *Maine, Morgan, Marx, Durkheim, Foucault*, and *Introduction to Early Classics* (course webpage)

Lazarus-Black, *The Rites of Domination* (course webpage)

Tennyson, *Enoch Arden* (course webpage)

Shakespeare, *Henry V* excerpt (course webpage)

Week 3, Jan 22 GROUPS FORMED / PAPER TOPICS CHOSEN & INSTRUCTOR NOTIFIED TODAY

Read:

Maltz, *The Politics of Slavery*, pp. 1-33 (& see pp. 157-159 for chronology)

Douglass, *Narrative*, 1-100

Review: *Declaration of Independence* and *U.S. Constitution* (course webpage; details in class)

Week 4, Jan 29:

Read:

Maltz, *The Politics of Slavery*, pp. 33-117

Douglass, *Narrative*, 100-160

Review: *Dred Scott* case document (course webpage; details in class)

Week 5, Feb 5

Read:

- Maltz, *The Politics of Slavery*, pp. 118-156.
- Review: *Plessy v Ferguson* case document (course webpage; details in class)
- Brown v Board*, preliminary opinion (course webpage)
- Congressional Record*, 1937 (course webpage)
- DuBois, *On Being Ashamed of Oneself* (course webpage)

Week 6: Feb 12

Read:

- Harris, *Whiteness as Property* (course webpage)
- Charles Houston, statement on Social Security Act (course webpage)
- John Davis, statement on FLSA (course webpage)
- Peltier, *Prison Writings*, parts i-iii

Week 7, Feb 19

Read:

- Rhodes, *Total Confinement*, Part I.
- Peltier, *Prison Writings*, part vi-v

Week 8, Feb 26

Read:

- Rhodes, *Total Confinement*, Part II.
- Peltier, *Prison Writings*, part vi

Week 9, Mar 4: **MIDTERM**

Week 10: Mar 11: SPRING BREAK

Week 11, Mar 18:

Read:

- Rhodes, *Total Confinement*, Part III.

Week 12, Mar 25:

Read:

- Angela Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?*
- Peltier, *Prison Writings*, part vii

Week 13, Apr 1: **FINAL PAPER DUE. NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

Read:

- Merry, *Anthropology and International Law* (course webpage)
- Cowan, *Culture and Rights After Culture and Rights* (course webpage)
- Akram & Johnson, *Race, Civil Rights, and Immigration after 9/11* (course webpage)
- Student Presentations (x2)* will begin in the second half of the period

Week 14, Apr 8: *Student Presentations (x4)*

Week 15, Apr 15: *Student Presentations (x4)*

Academic Honesty

The University of Florida's honor code requires all students to be honest in their academic work. University policies on cheating, plagiarism, and related issues are available at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html>

Useful Information:

- Laptop use during class is not permitted.
- Cell phones and pagers must be turned off during class.
- Late papers will not be accepted.
- Incompletes will not be allowed.
- Plagiarism in any form is subject to university policy.
- Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.
- Students experiencing personal problems that interfere with their academic performance are encouraged to contact the following offices:
 1. University Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575),
 2. Student Mental Health (Student Health Care Center, 392-1171), or
 3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (Student Health Care Center, 392-1161).