This class examines relationships between culture, power and politics. Although early American anthropologists tended to focus only on what they considered to be “culture”, particularly through the study of “salvage” anthropology, the structural-functional school of Great Britain and the French ethnologists of the early 20th century were keenly interested in the relationships of power and politics in non-western, European-colonized societies. In fact, European colonizers used anthropology and ethnology as a source for the better “governing” of colonials. But certainly by WW II American anthropologists had become increasingly interested in the connection between power and culture and several major figures in anthropology were working for the Department of War during the 1940s including Mead, Bateson and Benedict. Interest in relationships between power, politics and culture continued to grow and by the 1980s structuralist, post-structuralist, neo-Marxist, feminist and post-modern schools of anthropology had emerged that were largely devoted to understanding the relationship between power and culture.

In this class we will allow explore some of the ways that anthropologists have looked at the connections between culture and power both in the past and the present. This course is aimed at giving the student a deeper understanding of the different viewpoints and schools of thought that have emerged as anthropology has sought to provide an explanation for the relationships between culture, power, inequality and its socio-political manifestations.

Readings – This is a relatively heavy reading course. If you wish to do well in this course you must keep up with the readings and complete them on a regular basis.
**Required Texts** – Many of the class readings have been made available to you on our class website. They are in .PDF format. However there are also two books that you will need to obtain for this course. The books you will need are:

**E. E. Evans-Pritchard – The Nuer** (USA, Oxford University Press, 1969). *This book can be difficult to obtain, so the professor has provided a copy of relevant chapters from this book on the course website in PDF format for your convenience.*


**Course Grading** – The grading for this course will be based on two quizzes (based on class readings), a midterm and a final exam. Each quiz will be worth a possible 150 points. The midterm and the final exam will each be worth 350 points. The dates for each quiz and exam are noted on the syllabus.

**Policy on Request for Grade Changes** – It is the job of the TAs and myself to evaluate your progress in this course. Your grade is based on our satisfaction with your work for this class. Grade changes will only be made in the event that an actual error has occurred. A student’s grade will not be changed simply because a student feels claims “I deserved a higher grade” or “I worked very hard and should have received a better grade.” *Grades are the prerogative of the class professor and TAs and are not negotiable.*

**Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism** – Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and either action will result in a grade of F for the class and referral to campus administration for further disciplinary action.

**Policy on Missed Classes** – It is the student’s own responsibility to attend classes and to get notes from a classmate if she or he misses a lecture. I do not send notes via emails or give notes to students who missed any lectures. You may want to make sure you have a “buddy” in the class to get notes from if you ever have to miss class.

**Classroom Etiquette** – To maintain a positive learning environment and demonstrate respect for your classmates there are a few rules that I ask you to keep in mind.

First, please minimize talking with your neighbor. In a class of this size, a few people chatting with their neighbor can easily become a disruption for the entire class. If you must have a conversation, please take it outside of the classroom.

Second, please turn off cell phones and pagers or put them into silent mode before class begins. A beeping pager or a ringing cell phone is a nuisance and distraction to the entire class. Also, please do not make calls or hold conversations on your cell phone while in the classroom.
Third, the use of laptops, texting devices, cell phones, etc. are not permitted in the lecture. Please bring paper and pen/pencil with which to take lecture notes

Thank you for your cooperation!

**Grading** - Grading in this class will be based on a standard scale out of a possible 1000 points:

- **A** = 930-1000 points
- **A-** = 900 - 929
- **B+** = 870 - 899
- **B** = 830 - 869
- **B-** = 800 - 829
- **C+** = 770 - 799
- **C** = 730 - 769
- **C-** = 700 - 729
- **D+** = 670 - 699
- **D** = 630 - 669
- **D-** = 600 - 629
- **F** = 599 and below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take home final</td>
<td>350</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total possible points</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
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Course Schedule

Class 1 – (Oct. 2) Introduction to Course - Victorian Anthropology and Socio-Political Ideologies of Colonialism


Video – The Life and Times of Sara Baartman

Class 2 – (Oct. 9) Kinship Systems: Bands, “Big Man” and Chiefly Societies, and Segmentary Lineages

Reading: Evans-Pritchard – The Nuer - focus on chaps. 4, 5 & 6

Video Clips - The Nuer

Class 3 – (Oct. 16) Feudalism – Marxist and Weberian perspectives

Video Clip– Le Roi Danse

Video Clips - Kingdom of Heaven (clips as time permits)

Readings:  Robert J. Holton - Marxist Theories of Social Change and the Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism.

Gianfranco Poggi – Max Weber’s Conceptual Portrait of Feudalism

Class 4 – (Oct. 23) From Feudalism to Capitalism – Shifting Roles of Production and Power according to Marx

Video – TBA (possibly Karl Marx and Marxism)


Karl Marx, Communist Manifesto (ch. 1 – 4)

***Reading Quiz One will be given today, October 23

The midterm review sheet will be posted online this week
Class 5 - (Oct. 30) Midterm

***The Midterm will be given today, Oct. 30, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Class 6 - (Nov. 6) Industrial Society: Hegemony & Political Economy

Video - TBA (possibly *The Secret of American Production*)

Readings: Selections from the Prison Notebooks – “On Intellectuals” and “On Education” by Antonio Gramsci
“The Legacy of Antonio Gramsci” - Joseph A. Buttigieg

Class 7 - (Nov. 13) Gender and Power


Class 8 - (Nov. 20) Transnationalism, Global Economics and Politics

Video –*The Global Assemblyline* or *Mardi Gras; Made in China*
James Ferguson - *The Global Disconnect*
Arjun Appadurai - *Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy*

***Reading Quiz Two will be given today, November 20.***
Class 9 – (Nov. 27) Power and Institutions - Foucault Part One

Reading: Please begin reading Michel Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*

Please note that there is a relatively short overview of this book provided for you on the course eee website. Students are urged to look at this summary before reading the actual text.

Class 10 – (Dec. 4) Power & Institutions – Foucault Part Two

Reading : Finish reading Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Video – *V for Vendetta*

The final exam review sheet will be made available online this week

**FINAL EXAM – Tues, Dec. 11 between 7:00 to 9:00 pm**