Social Anthropology
2017-8 Honours Modules

Semester 1

SA3030 - Critical Thinkers and Formative Texts

Professor Roy Dilley (rmd)

Tuesdays 2-4pm, Room 50, United College

The module focuses on a range of theoretical approaches in social and cultural anthropology. Beginning with Structuralism, which has had a profound influence upon the discipline, the module also examines Post-Structuralist, Interpretive, Semantic and other approaches within anthropology. To achieve a sense of the developments of social theory and of theoretical critique is one of the aims of the module.

SA3032 - Regional Ethnography 1 – Anthropology of Roma/Gypsies

Dr Raluca Roman (rr44)

Tuesdays 1-2pm, Arts Seminar Room 4 (Lecture) and Thursdays 2-3pm, Arts Seminar Room 9 (Seminar)

The aim of this course is to offer students a comprehensive introduction to key themes and issues emerging from the anthropology of Roma/Gypsies. We will start by critically examining some of the main ideas through which Roma/Gypsies have been imagined and represented in popular discourse and academia. We will do this by engaging with key anthropological studies of Roma/Gypsies, highlighting the connection between the study of Roma/Gypsies and central anthropological themes: kinship, exchange, personhood and cosmology. We will then look at what happens to Roma/Gypsies' lives when broader processes of globalisation and Europeanisation take place, with a focus placed on migration and political mobilisation. Finally, we will engage with new approaches to the anthropological study of Roma/Gypsies, with a focus placed on the analysis of ambiguity and collaboration between anthropologists and Roma/Gypsy communities. Some of the key themes the course will explore are: cosmology and personhood, marginality and identity, migration and borders, politicisation of Roma issues and religious mobilisation, hybridity and collaboration.

SA3053 - Individuality, Community & Morality: Post-Socialism

Dr Aimee Joyce (aj69)

Mondays 10am-12pm, Arts Seminar Room 6 (Lecture) and Fridays 2-4pm, Arts Seminar Room 9 (Practical)

This module explores Postsocialism in its Global context, using case studies from East Central Europe, Russia, China, Vietnam and Cuba. The collapse of Socialism in the 1990s instigated a massive transformation of social, political, and economic life across Eurasi, and subsequently the world. Anthropological studies of Postsocialist change and continuity have been challenged by paradoxes, contradictions, and ambiguities of transformation of the individual, local and global scale. "Actually existing Socialism" varied from region to region shaped by shared forms and meaning, and their specific local adaptions. Similarly, new economic forms have been domesticated, reinvented and embedded in diverse and conflicting ways. This module focuses on the daily lives of people and their experiences and understanding of that complicated reality. The goal of this module is to think comparatively and critically about Postsocialism through an anthropological approach. Themes covered include: markets, moralities, new labour practices, kinship, gender, religion, new forms of citizenship, nationalism and ethnicity, memory and history, changing consumption patterns, nostalgia, changing property regimes, and Europeanization.
SA3060 - Contemporary Issues
Dr Adam Reed (ader)
Mondays 12-2pm and Fridays 1-2pm – Arts Seminar Room 4
The purpose of the module is to provide a forum in which students can learn about theoretical and empirical themes that are at the leading edge of current anthropological research. The content and focus will therefore shift from year to year in line with new intellectual developments in the discipline.

SA 4866 - Anthropology and Eurasia
Dr Stephanie Bunn (sjb20)
Thursdays 11am – 1pm, Arts Seminar Room 7 (Lecture) and Thursdays 3-5pm, venue TBC (Film)
This module forms an important introduction to the anthropology and history of the Eurasian region. It draws on Russian and Soviet ethnographies alongside more recent European and American anthropological studies, addressing the Soviet period and life post-independence. Peoples covered in this module are from the five former Soviet Central Asian states, along with groups from Mongolia, South Siberia, and Xinjiang. The module provides a broad overview of regional ethnography alongside relevant anthropological themes. These include pastoral nomadism and oasis life; socialism and post-socialism; human-environment relations and ecological issues; Islam and shamanism; food and feasting; oral epics and popular culture; and domestic practices.

SA4860 - Anthropology of Religion & Politics: Pentacostalism
Dr Adam Reed (ader)
Wednesdays 11am – 1pm, Room 50 and Fridays 10-11am, Room 50.
The intention of this module is to analyse the impact of religion on politics in societies around the world in order to understand the global context of religious movements from an anthropological perspective, with a focus on Pentacostalism.

SA 4098 - Library Dissertation (whole year)
SA 4099 - Fieldwork Dissertation (whole year)
Dr Raluca Roman (rr44)
Mondays 2-4pm, Arts Lecture Theatre (weeks 3, 5, 8)
Semester 2

SA3049 - Perception, Imagination and Communication
Dr Huon Wardle (hobw)
Monday 10-11am (Lecture) and Friday 9-11am (Tutorial/Seminar), St Mary's Lecture Room 2
This module will explore the basic human capacities to see, envision and share knowledge as these are transformed within diverse cultures. We will examine different kinds of evidence - the experience of a blind man regaining sight or the existence of culturally specific forms of madness - asking what these tell us about human perceptual, imaginative and communicative abilities. The module will involve some experimentation along the lines of Bartlett's famous 'War of the Ghosts' memory experiment, eschewing reduction either to instinct or to social construction approaches.

SA3061 - Reading Ethnography
Dr Paloma Gay y Blasco
Mondays 4-5pm (Lecture), CAS Library and Fridays 1-3pm (Seminar/Tutorial), CAS Library
This module will help students develop the essential skill of reading ethnography. Its aim is to investigate the distinctiveness of anthropology as a way of knowing the world, and of ethnographic writing as an also distinctive way of constructing and conveying that knowledge. The module will lay bare some of the central, often implicit, codes and conventions of ethnographic writing, and will explore how anthropologists use these to create and transmit knowledge about diverse social worlds. Rather than aiming to impart knowledge, the aim of the module is to provide students with the skills necessary to analyse ethnographies, and to guide them through an investigation into the distinctive qualities of anthropological knowledge.

SA3062 - Anthropology, Indigenous Peoples and Resource Extraction
Dr Tony Crook (tc23)
Wednesdays 10am-12pm, School II
This module focuses on the social and cultural relations produced by resource management projects and explores the global and local frames through a series of world-wide case studies of mining, oil, gas and forestry projects. Resource projects have long been important sites of cultural contact, environmental impact and anthropological interest: whether first contact with prospectors, disputes with multinational companies, sustainable development initiatives or civil-society monitoring, resource exploration and extraction has long played an important part in the interface with non-western and indigenous peoples and the forces of globalisation. The module also examines the potential for anthropological skills and knowledge to contribute to an industry that has increasingly to account for its social and environmental impacts to a global constituency.

SA3065 - Anthropology of Economic Life
Dr Mette High (mmh20)
Wednesdays 12-1pm, St Mary’s Lecture Room 2 and Thursdays 12-2pm, KEN: Watson Lecture Room
This module provides an introduction to the main anthropological approaches to economic life. It explores both classical and current analytical frameworks for understanding how people live and organise their lives in different ways. Students should be aware that this module is not intended to be an economics course for anthropologists and others. Instead, grounded in the comparative and ethnographically-based discipline of anthropology, it brings together a wide range of regional, cultural and historical material.
SA3506 - Methods in Social Anthropology  
Dr Aimee Joyce (sj69)  
Mondays 1-3pm, Arts Seminar Room 3  
This module provides an introduction to the various methods of enquiry and interpretation used in social anthropological research. It aims to give the student an account, in historical and contemporary perspectives, of the development of anthropological methodologies and research techniques. It also aims to equip them with a range of basic skills and procedures which they can apply at a later date to their own research-based projects. The module will provide knowledge of a wide range of research methods used by anthropologists, and encourage a critical awareness of the theoretical assumptions and potential problems associated with the use of such methods.

SA 4058 - Visual Anthropology  
Dr Stan Frankland (mcf1)  
Mondays 3-4pm (Lecture) - School II, Tuesdays 2-4pm (Film) - School II and Thursdays 2-3 OR 3-4pm (Tutorial), Room 50  
This module provides an introduction to visual anthropology. This topic embraces a broad range of subjects such as photography, material culture, art and ethnographic film. The focus here is on film as a medium of ethnographic investigation and the changing nature of how it has been used as a form of enquiry. Debates about the role of the visual and vision are examined through the contribution of important film-makers. The module involves viewing and critically discussing films, as well as lectures.

SA 4850 – Andes  
Dr Sabine Hyland (sph)  
Tuesdays 12-2pm, Room 50  
This course introduces students to anthropological and historical perspectives on the Andean region of South America. The primary focus of this module will be on the historical anthropology of the Andes; however, archaeological and ethnographic literature about the Andes will also be discussed. An overriding theme throughout the class will be on epistolomy: how do we “know” what we think we “know” about the Andean past? What are the different types of sources that we rely on for insights and how do we reconcile the differences among these sources? Special attention will be paid to indigenous narratives for what they can reveal about Andean perceptions of history and cosmology.

SA 4863 - Youth in Africa  
Dr Mattia Fumanti (mf610)  
Tuesdays 10-11am (Lecture) – School II, Tuesdays 4-6pm (Film) – School V and Thursdays 11-12 OR 12-1pm (Tutorial), Room 50  
This module will offer students the opportunity to examine past and present theoretical debates on colonial and postcolonial transformations in Africa. It will look at the ways in which major social, political and economic shifts at local and global level have contributed to the making and re-making of colonial and postcolonial youthful subjectivities. The module will focus specifically on a series of interconnected debates on the role of youth in colonial and postcolonial Africa. This is intended to increase students' awareness of the role played by African youth in wider political, social, and economic transformations on the continent, and for current anthropological debates on agency and personhood, on gender and intimacy, on subjectivity and identity.