

B. Knauft – Spring 2016

ANT385: Applying Anthropology: Classic issues, contemporary engagements

Tu/Th 2:30-3:45, Candler 124

Prerequisites: ANT202, one world area course (ANT280), and one prior ANT300-level course

Enrollment limit: 12

Description

This course for advanced undergraduates delineates and applies enduring concepts and concerns in cultural anthropology to student interests and projects. Tuesday class presentations by the instructor convey historical background and context for longstanding anthropological interests, including based on influential theories and authors in the history of Anthropology. Thursday sessions “flip” the class and engage the week’s issues through the lens of student interventions, examples, and queries – including from their own research interests and/or current examples from world news or popular culture. These are followed by instructor response/engagement/critique and general discussion. Undergraduates take a major role exploring and structuring the application of anthropological issues in the Thursday class meetings and also in their final course research project presentations and papers. These may articulate as desired with students’ capstone undergraduate research and/or their future anticipated professional or personal plans.

Specifics of anthropological engagement and application are contextualized in the course with respect to general rubrics of enduring anthropological interest that include:

- the exploration of cultural diversity
- the critical exposure of social inequality
- the delineation of structural organization
- the subjective understanding of cultural disempowerment
- the pursuit of practical engagement / applied anthropology to ameliorate human problems

Readings are a coursepack of book sections, chapters, and articles posted as PDFs on the course Blackboard site.