

ANT 3258 (section 1; FALL 2022. 3cr)
The Anthropology of Violence and Warfare
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00-9:50 AM

Classroom: 3103 Blair Hall
Office: 3137 Blair Hall
Office Hours:
12:00-1:00 PM; M,W,F (3137 Blair Hall)
3:00 PM -4:00 PM; M (3137 Blair Hall)

Instructor: Professor Don Holly
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Main office: 581-3123

Course Description

A broad examination and critical analysis of human violence and warfare. Adopting a variety of theoretical perspectives, the Anthropology of Violence and Warfare explores the anthropological record of violence in human evolution, history, and society.

Introduction

This course is a survey of human suffering wrought by other humans. It is a difficult class in two main ways. First: there is a lot to cover. We will survey violence and warfare across the spectrum of the anthropological record, including observations of violence by our closest living relatives (the chimpanzees), fossil evidence for hominin violence, the archaeological record of it—which spans the entirety of human history and social organization (from the Paleolithic to the modern era, and from hunter-gatherer bands to ancient states)—and the totality of violence and warfare observed by socio-cultural anthropologists. In classic anthropological fashion, our approach will be broad and comparative. Accordingly, we will focus less on specific events (i.e. World War I, Salem witch trials, the Holocaust), and more on identifying general themes and trends (i.e. war, witchcraft, genocide) in the human history of violence. We will also take on the difficult task of trying to explain it. Second: this is a deeply troubling class. We will stare into the abyss, hopefully survive our deep dive, and maybe even find some light there—or at least answers.

This is a seminar-styled course. Most days we'll survey the record of human violence and anthropological explanations for it together, and discuss a core reading. On other days you and some of your classmates will be tasked with leading a focused discussion on a relevant section of the course. To prepare for this, you will do additional readings on a specific subtopic and write a short paper that further addresses and unpacks it; the point here is to have you develop some expertise in an area or theory related to the readings that you will be presenting to the class. As a group you will come up with some broad questions that connect the readings and content of the unit, pose them to the class, and guide discussion.

Learning Objectives

- demonstrate familiarity with the anthropological record of violence and warfare
- articulate an understanding of a specific body of evidence and knowledge in the anthropology of violence
- identify, critically evaluate, and apply theories and explanations of human violence and warfare

Class Schedule

Why do we do the Owl Dance? Because owls see into the darkest of places, and the darkest of all is the human heart
(Muskogee Owl Dancers)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
22 August	into the abyss	student groups assigned
24 August	natural born killers	read article
26 August	killer apes	read article
29 August	war in the tribal zone I	read article
31 August	<i>film</i> : “dead birds”	
2 September	<i>film</i> : dead birds & discussion	
5 September	no class: labor day	
7 September	war makes states, states make war	read article
9 September	war in the tribal zone II	read article
12 September	group #1 discussion	group 1 essays due
14 September	quiz 1	
16 September	gods of war	read article
19 September	dark shamans and sorcery	read article
21 September	<i>film</i> : magical death & discussion	read article
23 September	witchcraft	read article
26 September	monsters	read article
28 September	necroviolence	read article
30 September	human sacrifice	read article
3 October	group #2 discussion	group 2 essays due
5 October	quiz 2	
7 October	no class: fall break	
10 October	rites of pain and corporal punishment	read article
12 October	house of pain	read article
14 October	rape	read article
17 October	crime and punishment	read article
19 October	structural violence	read article
21 October	<i>film</i> : the hunting ground	
24 October	<i>film</i> : the hunting ground & discussion	read article
26 October	group #3 discussion	group 3 essays due
28 October	quiz 3	
31 October	culture wars	read article
2 November	street-fighting men (and women)	read article
4 November	war games and blood sports	read article
7 November	modern violence and warfare	read article
9 November	terror & torture	read article
11 November	<i>film</i> : the ghosts of Abu Ghraib	
14 November	<i>film</i> : the ghosts of Abu Ghraib & discussion	
16 November	group #4 discussion	group 4 essays due
18 November	quiz 4	
21-25 November	no class: thanksgiving break	
28 November	the anthropologist goes to war	read article
30 December	ethnic violence & genocide	read article
2 December	<i>film</i> : the act of killing	
5 December	<i>film</i> : the act of killing	
7 December	<i>film</i> : the act of killing & discussion	read article
7 December	rules of engagement & human rights	read article
9 December	peace out; student evaluations	
13 December (tues; 8am)	quiz 5	

Assessment

<u>assignments</u>	<u>percentage of grade</u>	<u>date</u>
Quizzes (5)	15 X 5 = 75	9/14, 10/5, 10/28, 11/18, 12/13
Short Paper	20	depends on when your group presents
Group discussion	5	depends on when your group presents

grading scale

A: 100-90; B: 89-80; C: 79-70; D: 69-60; F: 59-0

assignment guidelines

- Readings
All articles are posted on D2L. Get the readings done before the class in which they are discussed. TIP: build a time into your schedule to do this #habit
- Quizzes
Quizzes are based on class lectures, discussions, readings, films, guest speakers, etc. TIP: listen and study.
- Group discussion
At the beginning of the semester, each student will be randomly assigned to one of four discussion groups. These groups will lead the class discussion on their assigned day. Discussion groups should prepare for this by coming to class with 3-4 smart questions that connect the content and readings of the unit (all the classes since the last student-led discussion). One strategy is to have each member of your group come up a question and lead discussion on it (10 minutes or so). You will receive a grade based on how well the group discussion went (preparedness, quality of discussion, participation, interest, etc.), with some consideration for individual participation/effort. TIP: prepare, pull your weight, and work together.
- Short paper (5 pages)
As a member of a discussion group, you are charged with writing a short paper on *one* of the specific topics covered by your group. In addition to the articles and chapters that all the students in the class are reading, you will read five additional works published in peer-reviewed journals or academic book (chapters) on your specific topic and write a short paper. Your paper should cover main themes/issues/questions related to your topic and also incorporate your readings. I'm looking for a scholarly, critical, and evidence-based exploration of the topic—not a breezy, opinion piece. The aim here is to help you become a burgeoning “expert” on your topic and to prepare you (and your group) to lead class discussion. Be sure to cite your five articles (and the relevant assigned readings) in your paper. TIP: you don't have much time—find your readings, read them, write your paper. Also, choose as narrow of a topic as you can find readings for.

special class statement

In this class we take a deep dive into the dark heart of humanity. We will talk often and frankly about such awful things as murder, assault, rape, torture, child abuse, and domestic violence. Please consider if this is the right class for you. You can also look at the class schedule and excuse yourself ahead of a scheduled discussion or do so at any time if a particular topic comes up. I don't take attendance, but if you miss a class you should arrange to get the notes from a classmate. Getting and knowing the material is your responsibility.

There are people here at EIU to help you. See the following page for available resources on campus. You can also call 1-800-656-HOPE for sexual assault and 1-800-799-SAFE for domestic violence. Both hotlines are open 24hrs.

Policies

Assignments

Quizzes must be taken on the date specified in the syllabus. Failure to take the quiz on the assigned date without adequate forewarning and documented excuse will result in a 10% penalty on the makeup. Don't miss the final quiz.

Writing assignments must be typed and double-spaced, employ a standard 10-12 size font, and run the required amount of pages (see specific assignment) not including the bibliography. Cited material must be referenced in a bibliography following the body of the document. I prefer that you use the author-date (Harvard) citation style. For example, an in-text citation should read: The flatlanders are a matrilineal, matrilocal, horticultural people that inhabit the plains of Chicagoland (EastFarmer 2016). Then, include the full reference in the bibliography:

EastFarmer, S.

2016 *The Flatlanders*. Free City Press, The Free City.

(see <http://www.americananthro.org/StayInformed/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=2044>) for information & examples.

All papers are due on the date specified. Papers will be assessed a 5% penalty for each day late for up to four days following the deadline. Papers should be submitted on D2L. Don't email me your paper.

I do not give extra credit.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct <http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>. I report violations to the Office of Student Standards. TIP: if pressed, write a bad paper, but don't cheat/plagiarize.

Classroom Environment

A significant portion of your course grade is based on material presented in class. Many years of teaching tells me that students who do not attend class do poorly in the course. Your presence and active participation also makes for a better class. Your classmates and I are counting on you to be there and engaged.

The classroom is a sacred space where we should be able to have critical, honest, and thoughtful discussions. Let's be civil and sensitive to each other's viewpoints, but also forgiving, with the assumption that mistakes are made in good faith and in growth.

Don't use your cell phones in class, or your computer for non-class related stuff; doing so is a distraction to everyone (especially you).

Please come see me during office hours. This time has been set aside for you. You are also welcome to drop by my office outside of office hours. Come with questions, concerns, or just to chat.

Student Success

Struggling with school work? See me and/or contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success/581-6696).

Struggling in other ways? We have many resources to help you: Counseling (Human Services bldg; 217-581-3413; 866-567-2400 after hrs); Health Clinic (human services bldg.; 217 581-3013); Health Education Resource Center (2201 Blair Hall; 217-581-7786); Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity (Stevenson; 217-581-7786); Food Pantry (1347 McAfee); Legal Services (2420 MLK Union; 217-581-6054); financial Aid (student Services; 217 581 6405)

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Call 217-581-6583 or email acjackson3@eiu.edu for information or to make an appointment.

COVID-19

Get vaccinated/boosted and get tested and stay at home if you feel sick.

Emergency Statement

For medical emergencies, call 911. In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor. Do not leave the building. If there's a fire, activate the fire alarm and exit the building. If there's an undead pandemic, muster in my office for the distribution of weapons. I get the Kayapo war club.