

Collective Identity and Political Violence: Representing 9/11

ANTH 240

Lec 10517R

Fall 2004

T/TH 9:30-10:50

GS 118

Professor: **Lanita Jacobs-Huey**

Office: Grace Fod Salvatori Hall (GFS) 128
[Note: To get to my office, you must first enter the Anthropology Dept. in GFS 120]

Phone: 213-740-1909

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Office Hours: M/W 10-11AM; also by appt. You can also contact me Monday-Friday via email.

Course Webpage: <http://www.usc.edu/isd/locations/cst/911Website/index.html>
[username: tommy password: anthro240]

Required Texts:

1. ANTH 240 Reader (*Abbreviated as **RDR** in Reading & Exam Schedule*)
2. Dudziak, Mary L. (ed.). 2003. September 11 in History: A Watershed Moment? London: Duke. (*Abbreviated as **Dudziak** in Reading & Exam Schedule*) [\$22.95-new/\$17.25-used]
3. Hall, Stuart (ed.). 1997. Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices. New York: Sage. (*Abbreviated as **Hall** in Reading & Exam Schedule*) [\$37.95-new/\$28.50-used]
4. Langewiesche, William. 2002. American Ground: Unbuilding the World Trade Center. New York: North Point Press. (*Abbreviated as **Langewiesche** in Reading & Exam Schedule*) [\$13-new/\$9.75-used]
5. Lavenda, Robert H. and Emily A. Schultz. 2002. Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology, 2nd Edition. London: Mayfield Publishing Company. (*Abbreviated as **L&S** in Reading & Exam Schedule*) [\$69.25-new/\$51.95-used; shrinkwrapped with Applying Anthropology text]
6. Podolefsky, Aaron and Peter J. Brown. 1999. Applying Anthropology: An Introductory Reader, Fifth Edition. Mt. View, CA: Mayfield Publishers. (*Abbreviated as **AA** in Reading & Exam Schedule*)
7. Sturken, Marita and Lisa Cartwright. 2001. Practices of Looking: Images, Power, and Politics. *In* Practices of Looking: An Introduction to Visual Culture. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (*Abbreviated as **Sturken & Cartwright** in Reading & Exam Schedule*) [\$39.95-new/\$30-used]

NOTE: All course texts are **on reserve** in Leavey Library.

Course Description: This course examines the political implications of representing culture(s), with the 9/11 terrorist attacks serving as a topical anchor. Each week we will consider dimensions of representation as they emerged around the events of 9/11 and analyze how those dimensions operate in other cultural contexts. Some of the central questions to be addressed include: *How do we “read” visual, textual, and aural portrayals of 9/11 attacks? How have representations of American identity been refashioned in light of the catastrophic events of 9/11 and how is this reshaping of identity reflected in and across global and local landscapes? What are the political ramifications of certain representations and what implications might they have for the way we view Western and non-Western cultures?* These and other questions will be addressed through a critical synthesis of ethnographic, theoretical, and popular films/videos and texts, as well as a series of guest speakers who will comment on topics relevant to the terrorist attacks (e.g., gender roles, U.S. foreign policy in Middle East). This course aims to show how qualitative and historically-situated “ways of seeing” and representing culture can deepen our understanding of 9/11 and its aftermath. More broadly, this course will show how various mediums construct cultural representations that have implications for people’s lived experience, cultural identity, and political perspectives.

Grading: There will be a midterm and a final exam covering assigned readings, films, and guest speaker presentations. Your score on the midterm will constitute 30% of your grade and your score on the final exam will constitute 40%. Each of the exams will include short-answer and essay questions and will be “non-cumulative.” The final 30% of your grade will be determined by your participation and performance in discussion sections. Extra-credit opportunities will be provided on the midterm and final exam in the form of 2-point bonus questions. The grading scale is as follows.

Grading Scale:

94-100 = A	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	≥ 59 = F
90-93 = A-	84-86 = B	74-76 = C	64-66 = D	
	80-83 = B-	70-73 = C-	60-63 = D-	

GRADE BASIS
Discussion Section: 30%
Midterm: 30 %
Final Exam: 40%

An Official Note on Examinations: Make-up exams will only be given under extraordinary circumstances and will require documentation from a physician. The content and form of any make-up exam will be at my discretion. In any case, you should inform me via email or phone prior to missing an exam. If you feel you must reschedule an exam on account of having (a) two additional exams scheduled at the same time or (b) three exams in a 24-hour period, inform me *at least* two weeks prior to our scheduled mid-term. The final exam **must** be taken at the time noted below.

Attendance: A grading percentage will not be given for class attendance. However, consistent and punctual attendance in lecture and discussion section(s) is strongly encouraged to increase your understanding of course materials. Your record of attendance may also be considered in the case of borderline grades. It is ultimately *your* responsibility to be aware of class lectures and assignments. Should sickness, family emergencies, or other events necessitate your absence from class, I recommend that you consult your peers for lecture notes.

Academic Accommodations: Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability should register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when necessary documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible, preferably by or before fifth week. DSP is open Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-5PM. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is 213-740-0776.

Class Structure: Class meetings will consist of both lecture and discussion, with a clear emphasis on the latter. As such, it is essential that you keep up with the weekly readings and that you hand in discussion section assignments on time. Fifty-minute discussion sections meet consecutively on Mondays at 9AM (Dis. 10518) and 11AM (Dis. 10518R) in GFS 107. Your T.A. is Courtney Everts Mykytyn (everts@usc.edu).

Class Resources: This course has an *interactive web page* designed to enhance critical discussion about course readings and themes. Consult the web page for *discussion questions* pertinent to assigned readings, as well as *course media* (e.g., video, audio, photos, magazine articles) that relate to class themes. The discussion questions are an important resource for the midterm and final exam. This course also makes use of **Blackboard** (<https://totale.usc.edu>) for posting *class information* (e.g., *syllabus, grades, announcements, assignments, etc.*)

READING & EXAM SCHEDULE*

- Week 1:** **COURSE INTRODUCTION: *How has 9/11 Impacted everyday Life?***
- 8/24
8/26
- *Class Overview:* Syllabus, Expectations, Assigned Readings, Nature of Films, Exam Policy, Essay Guidelines, What this class is **not** about
 - *Morrow: Has Your Paradigm Shifted?* [in RDR]
 - *Film: In Memorium: 9/11 – New York City (HBO)*
- Week 2:** **QUALITATIVE METHODS FOR EXAMINING AND REPRESENTING CULTURE: *How might we explore and represent culture and cultural diversity in its complexity?***
- 8/31
9/2
- *Agar: Who Are You To Do This* [in RDR]
 - *AA, Ch. 1: Body Ritual among the Nacirema*
 - *Geertz: Thick Description* [in RDR]
 - *L&S, Ch. 1: Anthropology*
 - *L&S, Ch. 2: Culture*
- Week 3:** **POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION: REPRESENTING THE “OTHER”: *How is cultural diversity based on race, religion, gender, and nationality represented post 9/11?***
- 9/7
9/9
- *Abu-Lughod: Writing Against Culture* [in RDR]
 - *Besinger: Muslims, Arabs, and Misconceptions* [in RDR]
 - *Hall, Ch. 4: The Spectacle of the “Other”*
 - *L&S, Ch. 5: Religion and Worldview*
 - *White: Religion and Middle Eastern Terrorism* [in RDR]
 - *Film: In My Own Skin*
- Week 4:** **GENDER, CULTURE, AND REPRESENTATION: *Is “cultural relativism” relevant to the practice of veiling in the Middle East?***
- 9/14
9/16
- *Abu-Lughod: Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?* [in RDR]
 - *El Guindi: Chapters 7 & 11* [In RDR]
 - *Fernea & Fernea: Behind the Veil* [in RDR]
 - *Hornstein: The Question that We Should be Asking* [in RDR]
 - *Nagengast: Women, Minorities, and Indigenous Populations* [in RDR]
 - *Film: Beneath the Veil, The Ladies Room*
- Week 5:** **ISSUES AND CRISES OF IDENTITY: REPRESENTING A NEW AMERICA: *How have broad conceptions of America and U.S. citizenship been reconfigured in light of the events of 9/11?***
- 9/21
9/23
- *Brownstein: Following Sept. 11, Nation Accepts Unprecedented ...* [in RDR]
 - *Carlson: The Case for a National ID Card* [in RDR]
 - *Dudziak: Introduction (1-9)*
 - *Kantrowitz & Naughton: Generation 9-11 and Newsweek Response Letters*
 - *Film: Life or Liberty*
- Week 6:** **“READING” POPULAR REPRESENTATIONS OF CULTURE: *How do we “read” video, text, and photographic images, and musical performances around 9/11?***
- 9/28
9/30
- *Hall, Ch. 1: The Work of Representation*
 - *Sturken & Cartwright: Practices of Looking - Images, Power, and Politics*
 - *Lowry: Time for a Refresher Course in Media Literacy* [in RDR]

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- Week 7:** **LANGUAGE, POLITICS, AND 9/11: *What is the nature of political rhetoric around 9/11 and its aftermath?; how does this language serve to construct collective identity and difference or notions of “us” versus “them”?***
- 10/5 Midterm
10/7
- Dudziak: Kaplan- Homeland Insecurities (55-69)
 - Lakoff: Metaphor and War [in RDR]
 - Martelle: New Words for a Nation’s Anguish [in RDR]
 - Mohan, Geoffrey: Graduation Speech Riles Sacramento [in RDR]
 - Tawa, ‘9-11’: The Term Sparks a Minor War of Words [in RDR]
 - Films: *Flag TV*
We Too Sing America
- Midterm on Monday 10/5!**
- Week 8:** **9/11 (COUNTER)NARRATIVES: *What forms of representation or counter-discourses have emerged about the 9/11 attack? [African American/urban comedy as a form of socio-political critique]***
- 10/12
10/14
- Gwaltney, Introduction and Ch. 1: A Nation within a Nation [in RDR]
 - Jacobs-Huey: “The Arab is the New Nigger: AfAm Comics Celebrate Irony & Tragedy of 9/11”
 - Lawrence: You So Crazy, Ch. 1 [in RDR]
 - Neuman: Hear the One About the Traveling Taliban? [in RDR]
 - Watkins: Introduction - On the Real Side [in RDR]
 - Guest Speaker(s): TBA
- Week 9:** **9/11 AND EDITORIAL CARTOONS: *What forms of representation, or counter-discourses have emerged about the 9/11 attacks? [Editorial cartoons as socio-political critique]***
- 10/19
10/21
- Nichols: Huey Freeman: American Hero [in RDR]
 - Beal: Boondocks Cartoon Censored [in RDR]
 - Films: *Running Mate: Gender & Politics in Editorial Cartoons*
Drawing Conclusions: Editorial Cartoonists Consider Hillary Rodham Clinton
- Week 10:** **RACE, REPRESENTATION, AND 9/11: RACIAL PROFILING: *What are the political implications of racial profiling post 9/11; do increased instances of racial profiling against ethnic minorities in the U.S. unsettle notions of collective “American” identity and nationhood post 9/11?***
- 10/26
10/28
- Ansary: An Afghan-American Speaks [in RDR]
 - Dudziak: The Citizen and the Terrorist- Leti Volpp (147-162)
 - Foner: The Most Patriotic Act [in RDR]
 - Kingsolver: And our Flag was Still There [in RDR]
 - MacDonald: The Myth of Racial Profiling [in RDR]
 - Rothschild: The New McCarthyism [in RDR]
 - Winton: Hate Crimes Soar following Attacks [in RDR]
 - Film: *Homeland Insecurity*
- Week 11:** **9/11 AND RACIAL PROFILING: *What are the political implications of racial profiling post 9/11; what does history tell us about what’s at stake?***
- 11/2
11/4
- AA, Ch. 17: White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack
 - Tuan: I’m American with a Japanese Look [in RDR]
 - Waters: The Costs of a Costless Community [in RDR]

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- Week 12:** **REMEMBERING 9/11: MUSEUM AND OTHER DISPLAYS: *How do we “remember” the events of 9/11?; how do museums represent notions of collective and national identity?***
- 11/9
11/11
- Hall, Ch. 3: The Poetics and Politics of Exhibiting Other Cultures
 - Sturken: Memorializing Absence [in RDR]
- Week 13:** **ADVERTISING AND 9/11: *What images and values are implicit in advertising post 9/11?; in what ways does advertising reflect the post 9/11 socio-political climate ?***
- 11/16
11/18
- AA, Ch. 40, Advertising and Global Culture
 - AA, Ch. 41, The Price of Progress
 - Dudziak: Echoes of the Cold War-Elaine Tyler May (35-54)
 - Silberstein: Selling America [in RDR]
 - Sturken & Cartwright: Consumer Culture & the Manufacturing of Desire
 - Wehr: The Events of 9/11 [in RDR; *Optional*]
 - Film: *Affluenza*
- Week 14:** **POST- 9/11 REALITIES: UNBUILDING THE WORLD TRADE CENTER: *What can be learned about identity, memory, and nation in the de-construction of the WTC?***
- 11/23
11/25 No Class
- Langewiesch: Unbuilding the World Trade Center
- Week 15:** **9/11 AND QUESTIONS OF CULPABILITY: *What do we do with what we’ve learned and discussed? Where do questions of culpability and/or morality fit in this critical exercise?***
- 11/30
12/2
- Dudziak: Civil Liberties in the Dragons’ Domain (163-179)
 - Dudziak: Afterward: Remembering September 11 (212-214)
 - Sundar: Toward and Anthropology of Culpability
 - Film: *TBA*

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH 8-10AM GFS 118

*The Reading and Exam Schedule may be subject to modification (e.g., trimming, additions, etc.).

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