Syllabus

SUBJECTIVITY: TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGIC ANTHROPOLOGY - 53863

Last update 14-10-2013

HU Credits:  2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Sociology and Anthropology

Academic year: 1

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Yehuda Goodman

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Coordinator Office Hours: R4507 M 2-3 email appt

Teaching Staff:  
  Dr. Yehuda Goodman
Course/Module description:
We will explore psychological anthropology emphasizing current theories of subjectivity as developed mainly in the USA. Underscoring theoretical inquiry through ethnography, we will follow changes in the past century and in recent decades: From Culture and Personality research to research into cultural relativism in constructing the self and will examine new conceptualization of the self like the fragmented self and self in context, self in action, self and institutions and subjectivity as a replacement for the self.

Course/Module aims:
Critical reading in psychological anthropology, following an analytical history of it and learning major currents and principles, thus setting the ground for future research within this paradigm.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
-- Identify core principles in the early and current conceptualizations in psychological anthropology
-- Follow closely changes in the psychological anthropology paradigm.
-- Categorize the various approaches within this paradigm
-- Interpret relevant reading material in light of the paradigm principles
-- Generalize from a specific research ethnographic project to broader approaches
-- Criticize the various approaches in psychological anthropology to allow for further theoretical development

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture, conversation and critical discussion on various reading in psychological anthropology (relating to the various approaches expressed in them). We will have shared reading in class of the various ethnographies.

Course/Module Content:
-- Rationale: Subjectivity as an analytical, historical and disciplinary question
-- What is psychological anthropology? what is subjectivity and how do we inquire into it?
-- Major issues in psychological anthropology. History of a research paradigm
-- Subjectivity and alternative concepts: personality, self, persona, identity
-- Subjectivity and language, fragmentation, the body, gender and the unconscious
-- Culture and personality: cultural patterns and cultural relativism
-- Culture and personality: Sexuality and socialization
-- The fragmented self and deconstructing the self
-- The pragmatic turn in understanding the subject
-- Subjectivity, history and memory
-- Morality and subjectivity
-- Subjectivity and subject position
-- Subjectivity — New formulations
-- Subjectivity as loss

Required Reading:

Benedict, Ruth Fulton (1930). Psychological types in the Cultures of the Southwest.
Mead, Margaret (1935). Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies.
Ewing, Katherine. 1990. The Illusio of Wholeness: Culture, Self and the Experience
of Inconsistency. Ethos, 18 (3): 251-278.
Desjarlais, Robert and Theresa O'Neill A. 1998. Introduction. Pragmatic Turn in
Brenneis, Donald 1998. Identifying Practice: Comment on "The Pragmatic Turn in
Desjarlais, Robert 1998. The Makings of Personhood in a Shelter for People
Considered Homeless and Mentally Ill. Ethos. 27 (4):466-489.
Linde Charlotte, 2000. The Acquisition of a Speaker by a Story: How History
McCullum, Chris, 2002. Relatedness and Self-Definition: Two Dominant Themes in Middle-Class
Ziggon, Zarett 2011. A Moral and Ethical Assemblage in Russian Orthodox Drug
Adrian Bonie 2004. The Cameras Positioning: Brides, Grooms, and Their
Holland, Dorothy and Kevin Leander, 2004. Ethnographic Studies of Positioning and
University of California Press.
Biehl, Jo-ta. 2005. Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment. Especially the
California Press.
Additional Reading Material:

- Spiro, Melford. 1993. Is the Western Conception of the Self "Peculiar" within the 
  Aires, In Illness and Irony: On the Ambiguity of Suffering in Culture. Michael 
  Analysis, 47(2)]
- Holland, Dorothy and Andrew Kipnis 1994. Metaphors for Embarrassment and 
  Stories of Exposure: The Not-So-Egocentric Self in American Culture. Ethos 22(3): 
  316 – 342.
- Lester, J. Rebecca. 2009. Brokering Authenticity: Borderline Personality Disorder and 
  the Ethics of Care in an American Eating Disorder Clinic. Current Anthropology 
  50(3): 281-302
  Subjectivities in Algeria. Ethos, 26(2): 204 - 228
- Saymor, Susan. 2004. Multiple Caretaking of Infants and Young Children: An Area in 
- Chapin, Bambi L. 2004. Transforming Possession: Josephine and the Work of 
  for Meaning: A Conversation between Psychology and Anthropology. Ethos, 36(1): 
  1-28
  Others and Being understood. Ethos, 36 (41): 475-489
- Barlow Kathleen and Bambi Chapin (Eds.). 2010: Mothering as Everyday Practice. 
  Ethos 38(4)
- Aikiko Hayashi and Joe Tobin 2011 The Japanese Preschools Pedagogy of Peripheral 
  Participation. 39.2 Ethos 39(2)
- Sandel, David 2010. Where Mourning Takes Them Ethos 38 (2)
- Odden, Harold 2009. Interaction of Temperament and Culture Ethos 37 (2)

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 5 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 85 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 10 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: