

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE BALKANS

Course description

This course offers an anthropological introduction to the Balkans, organised around the concept of identity. Because of the perspective 'from below', the focus is not only on ethnic and national lines of division, but on various other criteria of identification (such as kinship, gender, religion, and the urban-rural division) which are important in everyday life. The aim is to correct the dominant 'ethnic' approach to the region and re-direct attention to other cultural and social divisions. In addition, the course will introduce students with the ethnography of the region, and with the work of Western anthropologists and indigenous ethnologists.

PRELIMINARY READING

Students with no familiarity in anthropology are advised to read first:

- Kottak, Conrad Phillip - 1996. *Mirror for Humanity. A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Eriksen, Thomas Hylland - 1995. *Small places, large issues. An introduction to social and cultural anthropology*. London: Pluto Press.
- Moore, Jerry D. - 1997. *Visions of culture. An introduction to anthropological theories and theorists*. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press.

Other preliminary reading:

- Hann, C.M - 1995. *The skeleton at the feast. Contributions to East European anthropology*. Canterbury: Centre for Social Anthropology and Computing, University of Kent.
- Duijzings, Ger - 2000. *Religion and the politics of identity in Kosovo*. London: Hurst.
- Kideckel, David A. (ed.) - 1995. *East European communities. The struggle for balance in turbulent times*. Boulder: Westview Press.
- Halpern, Joel Martin & David A. Kideckel (eds.) - 2000. *Neighbors at war: Anthropological perspectives on Yugoslav culture and history*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press.

Course title: **CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE BALKANS**
Course code: **SEES Goo7 [will it remain like this?]**
Course-unit value: **0.5 cu: 20 hours (2 hour x 10 weeks)**

Availability: **Taught during the first term**
Open to: **MA Central and South-East European Studies**
MA Nationalism and Identity
Course leader: **Dr Ger Duijzings**

Aims

The aim of the course is to:

- ANALYSE the ways in which people form identities, create groups and mark divisions
- FOCUS on aspects of everyday life in South-Eastern Europe
- ANALYSE and EVALUATE anthropological and ethnographic work on the region

Objectives

At the end of this course students are expected to be able to:

- DEMONSTRATE ability to critically assess academic texts
 - INTEGRATE anthropological theories and concepts in their own work
 - DEVELOP research strategies based on anthropological approaches
 - MAKE clear, engaging, and coherent oral and written presentations
 - FRAME their MA dissertations within concepts and theories elaborated in this course.
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Teaching & Learning Methods:

Number of Hours:

Seminars	20
Self Study	180

A list of readings accompanies each session. Students are required to read *all* texts, and give short presentations, normally every second week. Apart from the class reading and the oral presentations, students are expected to read a monograph and present it in class. ALL students are expected to participate in the discussion. The class teacher's role is that of chair and not lecturer. There is no language requirement.

WRITTEN WORK

Students are required to create one page documents for each individual reading they present in class, following the AQCI format (Argument, Question, Connections, and Implications). They also submit one 800-word book review in week 6, and one 2.500-word essay in week 10, on a subject of their choice. The two essays are the main element in the coursework assessment.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be by 50% unseen examination and 50% coursework.

SESSION TOPICS

The concept of identity

Positioning the anthropology of the Balkans

Western anthropologists and indigenous ethnologists

Images of the Balkans

Kinship and the family

Gender and masculinity

Religion and syncretism

The urban-rural division

Empires and borderlands