

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU

Course: Anthropology of Europe

(4 credits)

2008-2009

Prof. Fran Markowitz

Course description: **Anthropology of Europe** demonstrates how Europe has been constructed as the “center” of human history and civilization. Through studying ethnographies of various European regions, the course reveals how anthropology, among other academic disciplines, has advanced this view of the West vs. the rest. During the first weeks, the groundwork for this analysis will be laid by examining a variety of intra-European divisions: the Mediterranean, the Celtic Fringe and Eastern Europe—to say nothing of the sovereign state. In the second semester, greater attention will be paid to (the lack of) urban anthropology in Europe’s center, and how gender, immigrant and diasporic groups are portrayed. The course ends with a consideration of Europe as the EU and Israel-as or in-Europe and the reasons behind such geographic (mis-)placements.

Course Prerequisites: **Intro to Anthropology** ; Qualitative Methods, recommended

Course Requirements: **Anthropology of Europe** is a year-long elective course, divided into two semesters. Course requirements are (1) a critical book review at the end of the first semester, (2) a take-home essay at the end of the second semester, and (3) active class participation. **Note:**

- 1) Attendance is not mandatory, but you are responsible for lecture material as well as the readings.
- 2) An in-class oral quiz, or **בוחן אורלי**, will be given in class on the last day of first semester. It is worth 10% of the final grade.
- 3) A **critical book review** of a full-length ethnography of Europe (published in the last 20 years, that is, 1988-present) is due on the first day of the second semester; it is worth 40% of the final grade. Students may work alone or in pairs (בזוגות).
- 4) A written **final project** is due at the end of the exam period of second semester. It is worth 50% of the final grade. That project is either a) a **take-home essay-מבחן בית** (choose one of two), or b) a **proposal for research in Europe** (in consultation with the instructor). The proposal consists of an abstract; two pages outlining the scope and goals of the project; two pages describing the proposed methodology, and one page explaining the relevance of the project to the wider discipline of anthropology. A detailed bibliography must accompany and support the proposal. Students may work alone—or in pairs. **Due date: To be announced in second semester**

No late papers will be accepted.

Course Plan

Unit I **What is Europe? Where in the world is it?**

- Week 1 **17/11** Introduction:
Imagining Europe:
A Continent of Christian Civilization and Modernity
Regions, Languages and Nation-States
Begin mapping Europe
- Week 2 **24/11** Mapping Europe
Where does Europe begin and end?
What do Europe's boundaries symbolize?
How many countries comprise Europe? 27 EU member states; 30 EU
members and candidates; 49 or 51 countries?
See: http://europa.eu/abc/european_countries/index_en.htm
Europe's latest nation-states: Montenegro (June 2006) and the Republic
of Kosovo (February 2008).
COMPLETE YOUR MAP OF EUROPE
READ: #1--Roger Ballard. 1996. "Islam and the Construction of
Europe," in *Muslims in the Margins*, W.A.R. Shadid and P.S. Van
Koningsveld, eds., pp. 15-52 (read at least the first 10 pages).
- Week 3 **1/12** Ideas of Europe: Occidentalism and. Orientalism
European Self-Construction
"Europe is currently undergoing a virtual orgy of self-construction..."
(Herzfeld 1997:715).
Lines of divide: North/South, East/West; Christianity/Islam
READ: #2—James Carrier. 1992. "Occidentalism: The world turned
upside-down," *American Ethnologist* 19(2):195-212.
Is History to Europe as Asia and Africa are to Anthropology?
READ: #3—Talal Assad. 1997. "Brief Note on the Idea of 'An
Anthropology of Europe'," *American Anthropologist* 99(4) 719-21.

Unit II **Making Europe (Good to Think) Anthropological Terrain: Peasants and Peripheries**

- Week 4 **8/12** Peasant Studies: Who and what are peasants? What do they signify?
READ: #4—Susan Carol Rogers. 1987. "Good to Think: The 'Peasant'
in Contemporary France". *Anthropological Quarterly* 60:56-63.
- Week 5 **15/12** Anthropologies of the Mediterranean
How, When and Why did *Mediterranean Civilization* become
(northwest) European Modernity?
Honor and Shame in a Christian mode
READ: #5—Jill Dubisch. 1998. "Europe Through the Back Door," in
Europe in the Anthropological Imagination, Susan Parman, ed., pp. 34-45.

- Week 6 **22/12** Hail Britannia!
Internal colonialism?
The Exotics of Britain: The Celtic Fringe
Key Debates in the Anthropology of Ireland
READ: #6—Thomas Wilson. 1998. "Themes in the Anthropology of Ireland," in Parman, ed., pp. 107-117.
- Week 7 **29/12** The Celtic Fringe continued: Scotland and the Islands
READ: #7—Jane Nadel-Klein. 1991. "Reweaving the Fringe: Localism, Tradition, and Representation in British Ethnography." *American Ethnologist* 18: 500-517.
- Week 8 **5/01** Making/Breaking Eastern Europe
The Iron Curtain, the Warsaw Pact (1955) and the Cold War
What was socialism and what was its sociocultural impact?
READ: #8—selections from Katherine Verdery. 1991. "Theorizing Socialism: A Prologue to the 'Transition'." *American Ethnologist* 18(3): 426-432.
- Week 9 **12/01** What's "east" about Eastern Europe?
The messiness of the Balkans
READ: #9—pages 12-20 in the Introduction to Maria Todorova's 1997 *Imagining the Balkans*.
- Week 10 **19/01** The Velvet Revolution and The dissolution of Yugoslavia
READ: #10--Andre Simić. 1993. "The First and Last Yugoslav: Some Thoughts on the Dissolution of a State," *Anthropology of East Europe Review* 11 (1&2):15-21.
- Week 11 **26/01** The War in Bosnia...and What's Happened Since
Film: "We are all Neighbors" by Tone Bringa (52 mins.)
READ: #11--Tone R. Bringa. 1993. "National Categories, National Identification and Identity Formation in 'Multinational' Bosnia," *Anthropology of East Europe Review* 11(1&2):80-89.
- Week 12 **02/02** German (Re-)Unification
READ #12—Daphne Berdahl. 2001."Go, Trabi, Go!" Reflections on a Car and its Symbolization over Time. *Anthropology and Humanism* 25 (2):131-141.
- Week 13 **09/02** What Have We Learned?
Postsocialism, Transitology and the New Europe
Summary Discussion and **IN-CLASS QUIZ**

SECOND SEMESTER

Unit III Who/What is a European? Europe and her Others

- Week 1 Re-Mapping Europe; Recreating Central Europe
READ: #12—Jacques Rupnik. 1994. "Europe's New Frontiers: Remapping Europe," *Daedalus* 123 (1):91-114.
- 2 Europe and her Jews
READ: #13—Konstanty Gebert. 1994. "Jewish Identities in Poland: New, Old, and Imaginary," in *Jewish Identities in the New Europe*, Jonathan Webber, ed., pp. 161-167. and/or #13a—Fran Markowitz. 2009 (forthcoming). "One Community Amongst the Others: Sarajevo's Jews" in *Kaleidoscopic Bosnia: Heterogeneity and Hybridity in Sarajevo*, Chapter 6.
- 3 European Gypsies
READ: #14—Elzbieta M. Gozdzia. 1995. "Needy Guests, Reluctant Hosts: The Plight of Rumanians in Poland." *Anthropology of East Europe Review* 13 (1):9-14.
RECOMMENDED: Michael Stewart. 1997. *The Time of the Gypsies*. Westview Press.
- 4 European Muslims: *Gastarbeiters* and post-colonials
READ: #15—Ruth Mandel. 1994. "'Fortress Europe' and the Foreigners Within: Germany's Turks," in *The Anthropology of Europe: Identity and Boundaries in Conflict*, Victoria Goddard, Josep R. Llobera and Cris Shore, eds., pp.113-124
RECOMMENDED: #16--Joan Gross, David McMurray and Ted Swedenburg. 1994. "Arab Noise and Ramadan Nights: Rai, Rap and Franco-Maghrebi Identity." *Diaspora* 3(1):3-39.
- 5 The Color(s) of Europe: Immigrants, Race Talk, Culture Talk
READ: #17—Verena Stolcke. 1995. Talking Culture: New Boundaries, New Rhetorics of Exclusion in Europe
- 6 If "There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack" what's the meaning of white?
READ #18—Ann Phoenix 1998.. "Representing New Identities: 'Whiteness' as Contested Identity in Young People's Accounts," in *The New Migration in Europe: Social Constructions and Social Realities*, Khalid Koser and Helma Lutz, eds., pp. 109-123.
- 7 Diasporas, Immigrants...and Captive Nations
The Basques
READ: #19—Robert P. Clark 1980. Euzkadi: Basque Nationalism in Spain Since the Civil War

- 8 European Places and Spaces: Europe as her cities
London, Paris, Rome...Napoli: European poverty?
READ #20—Thomas Belmonte. 1989. Chapter 7, “The Triumvirate of
Want” in *The Broken Fountain* [Think about what might comprise the
first 6 chapters].
- 9 Schedules, Monuments and Metros: Regulating Urban Life
READ #21—Alaina Lemon. 1998. “Shifting Metropes: Social order and Chaos
on the Moscow Metro.” *Anthropology of East Europe Review* 16 (2):83-89.

IV Gender and Power in European Civilization

- 10 Monotheism and Male Dominance: Men's and Women's Collusion?
READ #22—Susan Carol Rogers. 1975. "Female Forms of Power and the
Myth of Male Dominance"
- 11 Woman as Nation, or a Threat to It?
READ one or both-- #21 Eva Huseby-Darvas. 1996.”Feminism, the Murderer
of Mothers:’ The Rise and Fall of Neo-nationalist Reconstruction of Gender in
Hungary,” in *Women out of Place*, Brackette F. Williams, ed., pp. 161-185.
#22 Begona Aretxaga. 1995. Dirty Protest: Symbolic Overdetermination and
Gender in Northern Ireland Ethnic Violence. *Ethos* 23(2):123-148.
- 12, 13 An Integrated Europe? Israel in Europe?
READ--#23 Thomas M. Wilson. 1998, "An Anthropology of the European
Union from Above and Below