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, אוּרְלִי בּוּחָן, 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.
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 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

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
Is History to Europe as Asia and Africa are to Anthropology?

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?

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
Week 6  
22/12  Hail Britannia!  
Internal colonialism?  
The Exotics of Britain: The Celtic Fringe  
Key Debates in the Anthropology of Ireland  

Week 7  
29/12  The Celtic Fringe continued: Scotland and the Islands  

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?  

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  

Week 11  
26/01  The War in Bosnia…and What's Happened Since  
Film: “We are all Neighbors” by Tone Bringa (52 mins.)  

Week 12  
02/02  German (Re-)Unification  

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

2 Europe and her Jews

3 European Gypsies

4 European Muslims: Gastarbeiters and post-colonials

5 The Color(s) of Europe: Immigrants, Race Talk, Culture Talk

6 If “There Ain’t No Black in the Union Jack” what’s the meaning of white?

7 Diasporas, Immigrants…and Captive Nations
The Basques
READ: #19—Robert P. Clark 1980. Euzkadi: Basque Nationalism in Spain Since the Civil War
European Places and Spaces: Europe as her cities
London, Paris, Rome…Napoli: European poverty?

Schedules, Monuments and Metros: Regulating Urban Life

IV Gender and Power in European Civilization

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"

Woman as Nation, or a Threat to It?

An Integrated Europe? Israel in Europe?