

Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO)

Academic year 2019-2020

Riots, Insurgencies, Revolutions

ANSO119- Autumn - 3 ECTS

[Schedule & Room](#)

Course Description

We live in volatile times. Many of us are asking the question of how we are to live together in light of enormous political, economic, and environmental destabilizations. Many others have watched – or participated in – the growing number of political unrests that characterize our world today. This course explores historical and ethnographic texts that seek to explain the politics, ethics, and tactics of a variety of political mobilizations. Organized around a set of keywords (Disruption, Assembly, Riot, Insurgency, Revolution, Violence, and Prefiguration), our discussion will range from Maoist rebels in India and Black Lives Matter in the US, to the Egyptian Revolution and Occupy. It also takes a historical and theoretical look at 17th and 18th century bread riots, anti-colonial peasant insurgencies and the Haitian revolution. What shape has the political taken across space and time? What shape is the political taking today?



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Syllabus

This course depends greatly on students' participation. Attendance is mandatory, and students are required to read all assigned material prior to class. They are also expected to actively engage in class discussion. Final grades will be calculated according to the following assignments:

1. Reader Responses (50%)
2. Participation in class discussion = 20% of the final grade.
3. Final Paper (30% of the final grade)

Detailed instructions for the RR and the final paper draft will be provided in class.

“Additional” are *movies or readings that will be made available to students on course reserve – unfortunately, we do not have the time to watch or discuss all them in class, but students are welcome to watch/read them in their own time.*

COURSE OUTLINE

Meeting 1 (October 14, 2019. 8:15-10:00 and 14:15-16:00 – Room S7)

8:15-10:00: Riot and Disruption

Clover, Joshua. 2016. *Riot, Strike, Riot: The New Era of Uprisings*. Verso. *Introduction*.

Thompson, E.P. 1993. *The Moral Economy of the Crowd in the Eighteenth Century*. In: *Customs in Common: Studies in Traditional Popular Culture*. The New Press. **Pgs.76-94 and 107-115.**

Toscano, Alberto. 2011. *Logistics and Opposition*. url:

<http://www.metamute.org/editorial/articles/logistics-and-opposition>

14:15-16:00: Assembly and Prefiguration

Maple Razsa and Andrej Kurnik. 2012. “The Occupy Movement in Žižek’s Hometown: Direct democracy and a politics of becoming.” *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 3(2): 238-258.

Butler, Judith. 2015. *Notes Toward a Performative Theory of Assembly*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapter 5: “We, the People”: Thoughts on Freedom of Assembly. (Pp. 154-192).

Meeting 2 (October 15, 2019; 10:15-14:00 – Room S7)

10:15-12:00: Revolution as Encompassing Horizon of Social Change

Marx, Karl and Frederik Engels 1992 (1848) *The Communist Manifesto*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Introduction (“A Specter is Haunting Europe”) and Chapter 1: Bourgeois and Proletarians.

Evans, Kate. 2015. *Red Rosa: A Graphic Biography of Rosa Luxemburg*. Verso.

12:15-14:00: Revolutions: Thinkable and Unthinkable

Yurchak, Alexei. 2003. Soviet Hegemony of Form: Everything Was Forever, Until It Was No More. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*.

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. 1995. *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Boston: Beacon Press. Chapter 3: An Unthinkable History: The Haitian Revolution as a Non-Event (pgs. 70-107).

Additional:

Buck-Morss, Susan. 2000. Hegel and Haiti. *Critical Inquiry*. Vol. 26(4). Selections 821-849

Film: *Egalite for All: Toussaint Louverture & The Haitian Revolution* (PBS, 2009).

Meeting 3 (October 21, 2019; 8:15-10:00 and 14:15-16:00 – Room S7)

8:15-10:00: Violence

Fanon, Frantz. 1963. *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press. On Violence (Chapter I). [No need to read “On Violence in the International Context; just “On Violence.” In some editions, “On Violence is translated as “Concerning Violence.”)

Publi[c]ation Collective. 2017. *This Here Collection is Incoherent*. **Selections TBA.**

14:15-16:00: Insurgency

Guha, Ranajit. 1983. *Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India*. Durham: Duke University Press. Introduction (Pgs. 1-17).

Shah, Alpa. 2018: Nightmarch: Among India’s Revolutionary Guerillas. *Introduction and Chapters TBA*

Meeting 4 (October 22, 2019; 10:15-12:00 – Room S7)

10:15-12:00: Revolution Achieved and Lost

Amira Mittermaier. 2014. Death and Martyrdom in the Arab Uprisings: An Introduction. *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*, Vol. 80(5): 583-604

Elyachar, Julia. 2014. Upending Infrastructure: Tamarod, Resistance, and Agency after the January 25th Revolution in Egypt, *History and Anthropology*, 2014.

Winegar, Jessica. 2012. The Privilege of Revolution: Gender, Class, Space, and Affect in Egypt. *American Ethnologist*. 39 (1): 67–70.