

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHAEOLOGY
ANTHROPOLOGY 371 – 01 POLITICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ST 132

Tuesday & Thursday

09:30 – 10:45 AM

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Saulesh Yessenova

Email: sbyessen@ucalgary.ca

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Ana Karen Ramé

Email: ana.rame1@ucalgary.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Political anthropology is an important field of study within socio-cultural anthropology. It is concerned with political structures and processes that illuminate connections between culture, politics, and economics. For a good part of the 20th century, political systems in non-Western societies were a major preoccupation of political anthropology. However, later the focus expanded following large-scale political developments such as decolonization, globalization neocolonialism, the Cold War, and the collapse of the Second World. In this course, students are invited to examine the nuclear arms race, one of the defining political phenomena of the 20th century, and thereby learn about its global scale and significance for political life of communities and societies around the world.

COURSE FORMAT: The course will include lectures, class discussions, films, assigned readings, and other activities. Lectures will not simply repeat the material in the assigned readings, but will contain additional material that may be included in formal assessment. Therefore, students are encouraged to attend all classes, take notes, and complete assigned readings prior to the class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- ✚ Think anthropologically about nuclear politics.
- ✚ Provide informed commentary on the Cold War and the nuclear arms race it produced.
- ✚ Discuss in an informed manner the connection between politics, culture, and identity.
- ✚ Ask good questions concerning humanity's nuclear past, present, and future.
- ✚ Understand moral and political dilemmas involved in scientific and technological progress.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Masco, Joseph. *The nuclear borderlands: the Manhattan Project in Post-Cold War New Mexico* Princeton University Press, 2013.

This text is available at the university bookstore. Additional required readings are indicated on the course outline below and are available through the library.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Course assignments are designed to assess student's knowledge and critical understanding of the material covered in assigned readings, lectures, and films shown in class. For take home assignments, late submission penalty: 2 points/a day, incl. weekends and holidays. Final paper will be due after the lecture period on the date to be specified.

In-class test is on 10 October	25%
Take-home mid-term assignment is due 9 November	35%
Final take-home assignment is due after classes end	40%

Further details on course assignments will be provided in class and at the time assignments are given. All course work will be graded on a 100-point system. At the end of the course, the total number of marks will be converted to the official university letter grade system according to the following equivalences:

A+	100 - 94.9%	B+	84.8 – 79.9%	C+	70.8– 66.9%	D+	58.8 – 54.9%
A	94.8 - 89.9%	B	79.8 - 74.9%	C	66.8 – 62.9%	D	54.8 – 49.9%
A-	89.8 - 84.9%	B-	74.8 – 70.9%	C-	62.8 – 58.9%	F	49.8% and below

INSTRUCTOR’S OFFICE HOURS: by appointment.

EMAILING TO INSTRUCTOR: Students are welcome to forward their questions and comments to the instructor or TA’s email indicated at the top of this document.

COMMUNICATION ETIQUETTE VIA EMAIL:

- ✚ Please use your university account when possible. Otherwise, use an account with an appropriate name (example of an unacceptable_email: sexymama@gmail.com).
- ✚ Use a clear subject line that includes the course name and the topic of the email, such as: “ANTH 203. Question about my schedule.”
- ✚ Please be respectful (i.e., not too casual) when addressing either myself or your TA in an email. Use an appropriate greeting (acceptable: “Dear Dr. Yessenova;” unacceptable: “Hey there”).
- ✚ Keep in mind that answers to the questions concerning the matters clearly stated on the course outline will not be provided.
- ✚ Keep question(s) short and to the point. Show that you have made an effort to find the answer first in the text and lecture material (or even an outside source). State what you know in relation to what you are having a difficult time understanding.
- ✚ Include your full name and student ID in the signature of your email.
- ✚ Allow 48 hours for a response, excluding weekends and holidays.

Please note: we may choose not to respond to emails that do not follow the format outlined above.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor of this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student’s individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Non-academic integrity also constitutes an important component of this program.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic and non-academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behavior or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Where there is a criminal act involved in plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct, e.g., theft (taking another student's paper from their possession, or from the possession of a faculty member without permission), breaking and entering (forcibly entering an office to gain access to papers, grades or records), forgery, personation and conspiracy (impersonating another student by agreement and writing their paper) and other such offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the University may take legal advice on the appropriate response and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the police, in addition to or in substitution for any action taken under these regulations by the University

TEACHING EVALUATIONS / USRI (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>
The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

Safewalk Information: Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources: Have a question, but not sure where to start? Arts Students' Centre

The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy
- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403.220.3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

arts2@su.ucalgary.ca

arts3@su.ucalgary.ca

arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Ombudsman's office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>

SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS, FILMS & REQUIRED READINGS

Date	Topics/film titles/exams	Readings
12 Sept	Introduction to the course. Political anthropology. Cold War and the Manhattan Project. Film: <i>The Cold War</i> , 28 min. Available at the library. Andrew Schlessinger, Schlessinger Media, 2003.	
14 Sept	Cold War and nuclear arms race in anthropological research. <i>The Enlightened Earth</i> : Introduction to <i>Nuclear Borderlands</i> .	Masco, Introduction, 1 – 40
19 Sept	Narratives of the bomb. Film: <i>Los Alamos Documentary - The Town That Never Was</i> , Bradbury Science Museum, 20 min, year unknown < http://www.historyvshollywood.com/video/los-alamos-documentary/ >	Masco, Introduction, 1 – 40

21 Sept	Film: <i>The Bomb</i> . Rushmore DeNooyer, PBS, 2015 (120 min, TBC next class). Recommended TV series: <i>Manhattan</i> < http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3231564/ >	
26 Sept	Plutonium economy and <i>nuclear technoaesthetics</i> .	Masco, Chapter 2, 41 – 99
28 Sept	Film: <i>The Bomb</i> . Nuclear trajectory: from creation to stewardship	Masco, Chapter 2, 41 – 99
3 Oct	De-centering Cold War narrative: nuclear colonialism Scherer, J., G. Duquette, & D. Mason. "The Cold War and the (re) articulation of Canadian national identity." <i>East Plays West: Sport and the Cold War</i> (2012): 163-186.	Hecht, Gabrielle. "Rupture-talk in the nuclear age: conjugating colonial power in Africa." <i>Social Studies of Science</i> 32.5-6 (2002): 691-727.
5 Oct	Film: <i>Radio Bikini: The Most Terrifying and Unbelievable Story of the Nuclear Age</i> , 55 min.	Sherif, Ann. 2012. "Thermonuclear Weapons and Tuna: Testing, Protest, and Knowledge in Japan." In <i>De-Centering Cold War History: Local and Global Change</i> , eds. Pieper Mooney & Fabio Lanza, 15-30. Routledge. Available online through the library.
10 Oct	In-class test	
12 Oct	<i>A Time-Lapse Map of Every Nuclear Explosion Since 1945</i> , 15 min. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLCF7vPanrY http://www.ctbto.org/specials/1945-1998-by-isao-hashimoto/ Film: Edward Said on Orientalism, 40 min (fragment screening).	Hecht, Gabrielle. Introduction to: <i>Entangled geographies: Empire and technopolitics in the global Cold War</i> . MIT Press, 2011, pp. 1-12. Available online through the library. <i>Edward Said on Orientalism</i> interview transcript, posted at D2L.
17 Oct	Nuclear orientalism	Gusterson, Hugh. "Nuclear weapons and the other in the Western imagination." <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> (1999): 111-143.
19 Oct	<i>Econationalisms: First Nations in the Plutonium Economy</i>	Masco, Chapter 3, 99 – 159
24 Oct	Film: <i>Line in the Sand: a Glimpse into the Context and Consequences of the Northern Gateway Pipeline</i> by Tomas Borsa & Jean-Philippe Marquis, 2015 (80 min).	Masco, Chapter 3, 99 – 159
26 Oct	<i>Radioactive nation building: a Nuclear Maquiladora?</i> Guest lecture by Ana Karen Ramé	Masco, Chapter 4, 160 – 214
31 Oct	<i>Nuclear Colonization?</i> Guest lecture by Kristina Alda, University of Toronto.	Schmid, Sonja D. "Nuclear Colonization? Soviet

		Technopolitics in the Second World." <i>Entangled Geographies: Empire and Technopolitics in the Global Cold War</i> (2011): 125-154.
2 Nov	<i>The Rise of anti-nuclear activism</i>	Masco, Chapter 5, 215 – 260
7 Nov	The Soviet nuclear program and bomb testing.	Masco, Chapter 5, 215 – 260
9 Nov	Shutting down the Semipalatinsk Nuclear test site. The end of the USSR. Film: TBA. Mid-term is due today	
14 Nov	Secrets and security.	Masco, Chapter 6, 261 – 288
16 Nov	<i>Mutant ecologies</i>	Masco, Chapter 7, 289 – 327
21 Nov	Stawkowski, Magdalena E. "“I am a radioactive mutant”": Emergent biological subjectivities at Kazakhstan's Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site." <i>American Ethnologist</i> 43.1 (2016): 144-157.	Kosek, Jake. "Ecologies of empire: on the new uses of the honeybee." <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 25.4 (2010): 650-678.
23 Nov	Book review. Nuclear futures: field notes from the Astana EXPO-2017 Future Energy.	Masco, Chapter 8, 328 – 338
28 Nov	Film: <i>Pandora's Promise</i> by Robert Stone, 2013 (87 min).	
30 Nov	No Class: Consultation with TA.	
5 Dec	Course overview.	