

**DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY**  
**ANTHROPOLOGY 371 - POLITICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**Winter 2016**

**AD 142**

**TuTh**

**12:30 – 13:45 PM**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Saulesh Yessenova

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**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Kent Spiers

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Political anthropology is an important sub-discipline within socio-cultural anthropology. It is dedicated to the study of political structures and processes. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a major focus in political anthropology was on political systems in non-Western societies. However, more recently, the focus in this sub-discipline shifted following major political developments of the late-20<sup>th</sup> century and in the new millennium (e.g., nationalism, terrorism, democracy, First World). In this course, we examine one of the defining political phenomena of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, namely the Cold War and the nuclear arms race it produced, based on ethnographic research conducted in this area of studies.

**COURSE FORMAT:** The course will include lectures, class discussions, films, assigned readings, and other activities on which students will be tested. 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.

**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 will be posted on D2L unless they are available online.

**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 <b>11 February</b>	<b>25%</b>
Take-home mid-term assignment is due <b>24 March</b>	<b>35%</b>
Final take-home assignment is due after classes end	<b>40%</b>

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:

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

**COMMUNICATION:**

**INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 14:30 – 15:30 ES 602C or 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: sexy mama@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.

**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, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

**Student Accessibility Services Accommodations**

Student Accommodations. Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at

[http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-foraccommodations-for-students-with-disabilities\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-foraccommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf).

It is the responsibility of the student to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at (403)220-8237.

Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students are also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

**Academic Misconduct**

Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are strongly advised to read the Student Misconduct section of the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are:

- 1) Presenting another student's work as your own

- 2) Presenting an author's work or ideas as you own without proper referencing
- 3) Using work completed for another course

This activity will not be tolerated and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

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

### **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>

### **USRI**

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/>

### **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/secretariat/system/files/foip%20overview.pdf>

***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 alternate arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.***

### **Safe walk 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.

## SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS, FILMS & REQUIRED READINGS

	Date	Topics/film titles/exams	Readings
1	12 Jan	Introduction to the course. Political anthropology. Manhattan Project and Cold War.	
	14 Jan	Cold War and nuclear arms race in social science research. Film: <i>Race for the World's First Atomic Bomb: A Thousand Days of Fear</i> , 58 min. < <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Svmk-OiAovo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Svmk-OiAovo</a> >	Gusterson, Hugh. "Nuclear weapons and the other in the Western imagination." <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> (1999): 111-143.
2	19 Jan	<i>The Enlightened Earth: Introduction to Nuclear Borderlands</i> . Film: <i>A Deterrent Weapon</i> , 38 min. Available for streaming through the library.	Masco, Introduction, 1 – 40.
	21 Jan	<i>Nuclear Borderlands</i> . Film: <i>The Cold War</i> , 28 min. Available at the library.	
3	26 Jan	<i>Nuclear Technoaesthetics</i> . Film: <i>Los Alamos Documentary - The Town That Never Was</i> , 20 min < <a href="http://www.historyvshollywood.com/video/los-alamos-documentary/">http://www.historyvshollywood.com/video/los-alamos-documentary/</a> >	Masco, Chapter 2, 41 – 99
	28 Jan	Nuclear testing in Alaska during the Cold War: guest lecture by Kent Spiers.	
4	2 Feb	Film: <i>Nuclear testing at Bikini Atoll</i> . Introduction by Kent Spiers.	Masco, Chapter 3, 99 – 159.
	4 Feb	Nationalism, econationalism, & eco-internationalism	
5	9 Feb	Course material review	
	11 Feb	<b>In-class test</b>	
6	16 Feb	<b>Reading week, no class</b>	
	18 Feb	<b>Reading week, no class</b>	
7	23 Feb	<i>Radioactive nation-building</i>	Masco, Chapter 4, 160 – 214.
	25 Feb	Nevada-Semey Anti-Nuclear Movement in Kazakhstan	
8	1 March	Anti-nuclear activism. Film: <i>TBA</i> .	Masco, Chapter 5, 215 – 260.
	3 March	<b>Take-home assignment is announced.</b> <i>A Time-Lapse Map of Every Nuclear Explosion Since 1945</i> , 15 min. < <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLCF7vPanrY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLCF7vPanrY</a> >	
9	8 March	Secrets and security.	Masco, Chapter 6, 261 – 288.
	10 March	Arms race and exploration of cosmos. Film: <i>TBA</i>	
10	15 March	Mutant Ecologies.	Masco, Chapter 7, 289 – 327.
	17 March	Course material review.	
11	22 March	The Nuclear Borderlands.	Masco, Chapter 8, 328 – 338.
	24 March	<b>Take home assignment is due.</b> Energy transition. Film: <i>Germany's Renewable Energy Revolution</i> , 12 min. < <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvceQ0T80Zc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvceQ0T80Zc</a> >. Reading is available online, open access.	Scheer, Hermann. <i>The Solar Economy</i> . London: Earthscan, 2002 <i>Scenario</i> , 1 – 36.

12	29 March	Nuclear arms race and energy transition. Film: <i>Asteroid mining</i> .	Fukuyama, Francis. "The End of History?" <i>The National Interest</i> (1989): 3-18.
	31 March	Film: <i>Pandora's Promise</i> , 87 min, to be continued next class.	
13	5 April	<b><i>Pandora's Promise</i>. Final take-home assignment is announced</b> and discussed in class.	Fukuyama, Francis. "Reflections on the end of history, five years later." <i>History and theory</i> (1995): 27-43.
	7 April	Afterlife of technology and a 'new' Cold War.	
14	12 April	Course overview	