ANTH 3559  Anthropology of Dissent
Spring 2010
Tuesdays 3:30 – 6:00pm
Cocke Hall 115

Professor: Yarimar Bonilla vb6m@virginia.edu
Office hours: Wed 3-5pm
Office Location: Brooks Hall Rm 207

Note: this syllabus is subject to radical change over the course of the semester.
Revisions will be posted on Collab

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will investigate various processes of opposition, resistance, collective struggle, and revolution. The first half of the course will survey foundational works of revolutionary theory, while the second half will examine political practice from an ethnographic perspective, with an eye towards the lived experience of political participation and the formation (and transformation) of resisting subjects. We will consider these themes across a wide spectrum of movements and moments: from early Marxist, nationalist, and anti-colonial models of struggle to the more recent uprisings against global capitalism and neo-liberal policies in the US, Latin America, and Europe. The geographic focus will be global, emphasizing connections and influences across borders and epochs, while highlighting the connections between cultural politics in “the margins” and “the center”.

REQUIRED TEXTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

• Fanon, Frantz. 1965. The Wretched of the Earth. New York: Grove Press.

NOVEL SELECTIONS (PICK 1)


(All other class materials will be posted on Collab)
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

(1) Attendance/ Participation/ Communication

- You are expected to attend ALL SESSIONS. Any absences must be excused in writing. Unexcused absences will impact your class participation grade.
- You must turn off cell phones, stop texting, ignore your email, close your facebook page, pay attention, and be an active, contributing member of our class!!!!!!! There are no spectators here, only participants!!!!!!
- You are expected to complete all the reading before class and to come prepared for discussion. All students are expected to participate in discussion.
- In addition, you are expected to communicate with the instructor in a timely manner about any difficulties regarding the class, the assignments, or your individual projects. It is your responsibility to communicate any problems or challenges you are facing.

(2) Weekly Posts to Collab

- You are required to post a short reflection to the Collab Discussion Board by 8am on the morning before each class. (With the exception of 03/16 & 23) *If you are the first to post any given week, just create a new rubric. Don’t wait for me to do it.
- The point of this assignment is to explore your “response” or “reaction” to the reading. You should focus on the elements that struck you or confused you, pose questions for either clarification or discussion, and make connections to previous class discussions. You are not expected to have completely mastered the reading, but you are expected to have some thoughts or questions about it. You should also read your classmates’ comments be prepared to engage with them.
- FREE PASS: You get to choose one week in which you do not have to submit a response. CHOOSE WISELY. *On the week that you choose to use your free pass, please post “free pass” in the discussion board – otherwise I will think you have simply failed to post.

(3) Literary Analysis

- You are required to read one of the novels below and submit a short commentary about it (4pgs). (Consult with me if there is another novel you would like write about) Novels available for purchase at the bookstore and on reserve at the library. Do not simply summarize the plot: focus on how the content is relevant to themes of the course, pick out important passages for analysis and discussion, etc
  - Djebar, Assia (2205) Children of the New World: a novel of the Algerian War.
(4) **Midterm Project**

• You will complete a group midterm assignment to be presented in class on March 23. (Details will be discussed in class)

(5) **Final Project**

• Over the course of the quarter, you will carry out independent research about a social movement, political organization, or other group, event, process etc… … (*I suggest you consult the Encyclopedia of Protest and Revolution to explore topics.*)

• On the final day of class you will give a short 5 minute presentation (A/V encouraged) about your movement and turn in a 6-8 pg report.

• Your paper/presentation should address the socio-historical context, political agenda, organizational strategies and political practices of this movement. Your paper should not only research the movement but MAKE AN ARGUMENT about that movement.

• For this project over the course of the quarter you will be required to submit:
  - **paper topic** (2-3 paragraphs) proposing a topic of research
  - **paper proposal** (1-2 pages) stating the proposed research question or argument and listing proposed sources.
  - **final paper with a finalized outline** at the end of the quarter (8-10 pages).

**CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS**

• Reading Responses due each week (2-3 paragraphs)
• 02/26 Literary Analysis
• 03/23 Mid-Term Presentations
• 04/02 Paper Topic
• 04/16 Paper Proposal
• 05/04 Final Papers and Presentation

**GRADING DISTRIBUTION**

• Weekly Responses/Class Participation 30%
• Literary Analysis 15%
• Mid Term 25 %
• Final Paper/Project 30%

***LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION, AND EVEN IF ACCEPTED THEY WILL BE SEVERELY PENALIZED***

If you are having problem with an assignment, get in touch with me IMMEDIATELY!!
CALENDAR OF TOPICS AND READINGS

PART I.
REVOLUTIONARY THEORY

01/26
Introduction to the Course

02/02
Education as Political Praxis
  • Freire, Paulo Pedagogy of the Oppressed

02/09
Class Struggle
  • The Communist manifesto
  • The Principles of Communism
  VIDEO: MODERN TIMES

02/16
Armed Struggle
  • Fanon, F. Wretched of the Earth “Concerning Violence” pg 27-75
  • Fanon, F. Wretched of the Earth “Spontaneity: Its Strength and Weakness” pg 85-117

02/23
National Liberation
  • Selections by Che
  • Selections by Fidel
  • Program for the 26th of July movement

** 02/26 Literary Analysis Due by 5pm (in my box or under my door)

03/02
Guerilla Warfare
  • Guevara, Ernesto “Guerilla warfare: a method” (selections on Collab)
  • Tse-tung, Mao “On Guerilla Warfare” (selections on Collab)

----------SPRING BREAK----------

03/16
Battle of Algiers
No reading assignment this week, use the time to work on your group projects.

03/23
MID TERM PRESENTATIONS
PART II.
REVOLUTIONARY PRAXIS

03/30
The Aesthetics of Black Power
• Doss, E. 1999. “Revolutionary art is a tool for liberation”: Emory Douglas and Protest Aesthetics at The Black Panther

** 04/02 Paper Topic DUE BY 5PM (on Collab)

04/06
The Political Body
• Feldman, Allen. 1991. Formations of violence: the narrative of the body and political terror in Northern Ireland. (chapter selections TBA)

04/13
Postmodernist Insurrection
• Selections by/about EZLN on Collab

VIDEO: The Sixth Sun

** 04/16 Paper Proposal DUE BY 5PM (in my box or under my door)

04/20
The Movement of Movements
• Graeber, David “The New Anarchists” New Left Review 13, January-February 2002
• Graeber, David “On the Phenomenology of Giant Puppets: Broken Windows, Imaginary Jars of Urine, and the Cosmological role of the Police in American Culture”

04/27
Terrorism
• Asad, Talal On Suicide Bombing (chapter selections TBA)

05/04
Final Presentations and Final Papers due