

Syllabus

AN377--Living in the Material World: Economic Anthropology

Dr. Sarah Hautzinger

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Class: 9:30-12:00 and as scheduled

Office Hours: T-Th 1:30-3:00

Tuesday: PCE office, 1018 N. Weber St.

Thursday: Barnes 304

Economic anthropologists study notions of value, wealth, material culture, and human biological embodiedness. We investigate such economic behaviors as reciprocity, redistribution and exchange; and such phases of economic processes as production, distribution and consumption. Beyond this, however, and as with all areas anthropologists study, our approach is comparative, across cultures and through time. The holism of anthropology means we view humans living in the material world as substantively linked to power, politics, legality and governance; to in/equality as shaped by national identities, ethnic and racial locations, gender and sexuality, education, and of course, socioeconomic class. We attend to materialist questions, such as ways people organize human effort to resolve problems of survival or competition for resources, as well as to idealist concerns, such as the creation of meaningful systems of value, and interpreting symbolic expressions of the significance we assign our experiences.

Required Texts

Richard R Wilk, Lisa Cliggett. 2007. Economies and Cultures: Foundations of Economic Anthropology. Boulder: Westview.

Hoskins, Janet. 1998. Biographical Objects: How Things Tell the Stories of Peoples' Lives. NY, NY: Routledge.

Mintz, Sidney. 1985. Sweetness and Power: The Role of Sugar in World History. NY: Viking.

Nordstrom, Carolyn. 2007. Global Outlaws: Crime, Money and Power in the Contemporary World. Berkeley: U. California Press.

Additional Readings:

Photocopied articles (listed on syllabus) are available on e-res (AN377, password AN377).

Course Requirements:

Class format consists primarily of small group discussions, punctuated by short lectures and occasional films. The course has two fieldwork-based assignments portion consists of diverse activities tailored to individual or group projects. Scrupulous attendance is assumed; prepare yourself for active participation – including helping to lead -- discussion on course readings.

Participation (attendance, contribution to in-class activity, discussion leadership)	25%
Gift-giving and NVIVO analysis	25%
Biographical Objects Write-up and poster	25%
<u>Exam (includes take-home essays):</u>	<u>25%</u>
	100%

Course Notebook: Please keep a course notebook. Its purpose is to help you enter class prepared, and to get you involved in creating your own system of organization. It should include:

- The complete author name and title of each reading (or chapter, in the books), and something to help you remember/think about it, i.e. summary of subject, argument, writing style, your own critical reaction, and so on.
- Your notebook will also compile all course handouts.
- Each of you should keep a list of key, unfamiliar and/or useful terms and concepts. Raise them to discuss in class; we will use them to compile the study guide for the final.
- Your “daily question”: class will often involve structured go-arounds. Each day plan to have a discussion question you would be willing to put before the class, written in your notebook.
- “Place in the text” to go and read and discuss.
- I may collect the notebooks during the block.

Course Schedule

Week One

Monday 9/1/2008	<p>Introduction to the course.</p> <p>Film: “Economic Anthropology”</p> <p>Class starts after Convocation</p>
Tuesday 9/2	<p>Reciprocity and Redistribution in Small-Scale Societies & Beyond</p> <p>Malinowski, Bronislaw. “The Essentials of the Kula,” 161-176.</p> <p>Mauss, Marcel. 1967. <u>The Gift</u>, selections, 104-116.</p> <p>Wilk & Cliggett, Ch. 6 “Gifts and Exchange,” 153-175.</p> <p>Cronk, Lee. 1989. “Strings Attached.” <i>The Sciences</i> (3):2-4.</p> <p>MEET in Barnes Lab for NVIVO training, 9:30</p>
Wednesday 9/3	<p>Economic Anthropology: Subfield of a Subfield</p> <p>Wilk & Cliggett, <u>Economies and Cultures</u>, Ch. 1 & 2, 1-46.</p> <p>Film Excerpts: “Ongka’s Big Moka”</p> <p>Barnes Lab reserved for NVIVO work 2-3 pm</p>
Thursday 9/4	<p>Traditional Societies: Production and Exchange</p> <p>Cashdan, Elizabeth. “Hunters and Gatherers: Economic Behavior in Bands,” 21-48. In <u>Economic Anthropology</u>, S. Plattner ed.</p> <p>Johnson, Allen. “Horticulturalists: Economic Behavior in Tribes,” 49-77. In <u>Economic Anthropology</u>, S. Plattner ed.</p> <p>Harris, Marvin. “The Cultural Ecology of India’s Sacred Cattle,” 287-301.</p> <p>Barnes Lab reserved for for NVIVO work 1-2 pm</p>
Friday 9/5	<p>People and Their Things</p> <p>Arana, Marie. 2007. “The Stones She Carries,” 18-21. <i>Washington Post Magazine</i>.</p> <p>Hoskins, Janet. 1998. <u>Biographical Objects: How Things Tell the Stories of Peoples’ Lives</u>, Ch.s 1 & 2, 1-58.</p>

Week Two

Monday 9/8	People and Their Things, Cont'd. Hoskins, Janet. 1998. <u>Biographical Objects: How Things Tell the Stories of Peoples' Lives</u> , choose 2 additional chapters, jigsaw.
Tuesday 9/9	Money and Morality Bloch, M. and J. Perry. 1989. "Introduction: Money and the Morality of Exchange," 1-32. In <u>Money and the Morality of Exchange</u> , J. Perry and M. Bloch, ed. Guyer, Jane. 2004. "Conversions: Asymmetrical Transactions," 27-47. In <u>Marginal Gains: Monetary Transactions in Atlantic Africa</u> . Parry, Jonathan. "On the Moral Perils of Exchange," 64-93. In <u>Money and the Morality of Exchange</u> , J. Perry and M. Bloch, ed. Bloch, Maurice. "The Symbolism of Money in Imerina," 165-190. In <u>MME</u> , J. Perry and M. Bloch, ed. Afternoon: Biographical Objects interviews at the PEO, 2-4
Wednesday 9/10	Work Day —Projects, Reading Catch-Up or Read Ahead
Thursday 9/11	Morality and Money, Cont'd: Barter and Other Ways of Tweaking Monetization Wilk & Cliggett, <u>Economies and Cultures</u> , Ch. 5 "The Moral Human," 117-151. Cellarius, Barbara. 2000. "You Can Buy Almost Anything with Potatoes: An Examination of Barter during Economic Crisis in Bulgaria." <i>Ethnology</i> , Vol. 39, No. 1 (Winter, 2000), pp. 73-92. "Barter & Trade." Student Paper from UC Irvine Anthropology of Money course. ***Guest Speaker: Jim Botkin*** (from ITEX, a commercial barter company)
Friday 9/12	Explaining Unequal Development Diamond, Jared. 1999. "Yali's Question," 13-32 and "The Future of Human History as a Science," 405-425 White, Leslie. 2000 [1943]. "Energy and the Evolution of Culture," 243-262. Mintz, Sidney. 1985. "Introduction" xv-xxx, and Ch. 1, 1-18, in <u>Sweetness and Power: The Role of Sugar in World History</u> . Film: "Who's Counting?: Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies & Global Economics" Recommended: Wolf, E. 1983. "Introduction," (4-20). In <u>Europe and the People without History</u> . Jaschick, Scott. 2005. "Guns, Germs and Steel Revisited." www.insidehighered.com/news/2005/08/05/ggs

Week Three

Monday 9/15	Historical Political Economy Mintz, Sidney. 1985. "Production" 19-74, and "Consumption," 75-150 in <u>Sweetness and Power: The Role of Sugar in World History</u> . Robbins, Richard. 1999. "A Primer on the Economic Elements of Capitalism." 37-41. Visit: Dorothy Burge, ACE Urban Studies in Chicago Program
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Tuesday 9/16	Mintz, Sidney. 1985. <u>Sweetness and Power: The Role of Sugar in World History</u> , (151-186: Power; skim 187-214: Eating and Being). Wilk & Cliggett, <u>Economies and Cultures</u> , Ch. 7 “Conclusions,” 177-197. <u>Recommended:</u> Robbins, Richard. 1999. <u>Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism</u> , (368-402): Ch. 12 – Antisystemic Protest and Religion.)
Wednesday 9/17	Reading Day
Thursday 9/18	“Late” or “Flexible” Capitalism & Globalization Hautzinger, S. 2002 “Will the Real Commodity Please Stand Up? Skiing and ‘Touristic’ Real Estate in Eagle Valley, Colorado,” 343-366. In <i>Social Dimensions in the Economic Process</i> , V. 21: . N. Dannhaeuser and C. Werner, eds. Enloe, C. “The Globetrotting Sneaker,” 43-56. In <i>The Curious Feminist</i> . Di Leonardo, Micaela. 1993. What a Difference Political Economy Makes: Feminist Anthropology in the Postmodern Era,” 76-80. <i>Anthropological Quarterly</i> , 66(2).
Friday 9/19	Illicit Global Economies Nordstrom, C. 2007. <u>Global Outlaws</u> . “Preface,” “National,” and “International,” xv-100. Film: “Bought and Sold” Receive: Take-Home, Essay Portions of Final Exam

Week Four

Monday 9/22	Illicit Global Economies, Cont’d. Nordstrom, C. 2007. <u>Global Outlaws</u> . “Global,” and “Home,” 104-208.
Tuesday 9/23	Study Day
Wednesday 9/24	Final Exam – Take-Home Essays Due, Exam in Class and Block Break!