

Advocacy/Activism in the Academy

ANT 3930

Syllabus

Spring, 2008

Instructor: Edward González-Tennant

Classroom: LIT 117

Office: TUR 1350A

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Class time: T R 6-7

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description:

Where do academics, educators, students, and other members of the scholarly elite fit into the complex landscape of social change? Do members of these groups have an ethical obligation to uncover perceived wrongs in the modern world? What is the nature of objectivity; and does it grant distance to parties interested in understanding how social wrongs are created and perpetuated? What is the difference between advocacy and activism? This course – where students and educators meet as socially-aware equals – is designed to look at these questions and critically examine the scholar's role as activist.

The course is divided roughly into three sections of equal duration. The first third of the course centers on various theoretical foundations suggesting that scholars can engage in the process of social commentary and change. The second portion of the course will highlight the role of academics as educators in raising the public's awareness of social wrongs. The final section is split between texts that demonstrate actions taken by scholars to address perceived wrongs; as well as time for each student to engage in their own forms of advocacy/activism. The final project centers on each student engaging with local (Alachua county) advocacy/activist groups. A global perspective drawing on applied anthropology will be developed throughout the course as readings from around the world are examined. General topics explored include environmental mismanagement by colonial powers, queer rights, immigration, international war, and others.

Required Texts:

Bourgeois, P. I.

2003 *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*, 2nd edition. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. [\$20.99]

Meeropol, Rachel, editor

2005 *America's Disappeared: Secret Imprisonment, Detainees, and the "War on Terror"*. New York, NY: Seven Stories Press. [\$12.95]

Nagengast, Carole and Carlos G. Velez-Ivanez

2004 *Human Rights: The Scholar as Activist*. Oklahoma City, OK: Society for Applied Anthropology. [\$30.00]

Roy, Arundhati

2004 *Public Power in the Age of Empire*. New York, NY: Seven Stories Press. [\$7.95]

Sanford, V., and A. Angel-Ajani

2006 *Engaged Observer: Anthropology, Advocacy, and Activism*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press. [\$44.95]

Striffler, Steve

2005 *Chicken: The Dangerous Transformation of America's Favorite Food*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. [\$25.00]

Total Price New: \$142.00

Recommended Texts:

The following list of resources should be utilized by students in preparation for their individual projects. Several of the recommended texts include one or several chapters assigned as part of the course. Individual chapters required for the course will be made available to students via course reserve (online).

Dow, Mark

2004 *American Gulag: Inside U.S. Immigration Prisons*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press.

hooks, bell

1994 *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*. New York: Routledge.

2000 *Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press.

Human Rights Watch

2000 *Owed Justice: Thai Women Trafficked into Debt Bondage in Japan*. New York, NY: Human Rights Watch.

Incite! Women of Color Against Violence.

2006 *Color of Violence: the Incite! Anthology*. Cambridge, Mass.: South End Press. [\$20.00]

Inda, J. X., and R. Rosaldo

2002 *The Anthropology of Globalization: A Reader*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers.

Johnston, Barbara, editor

2007 *Half-Lives and Half-Truths: Confronting the Radioactive Legacies of the Cold War*. Santa Fe, NM: School for Advanced Research Press.

Nash, June

1993 *We Eat the Mines and the Mines Eat Us: Dependency and Exploitation in Bolivian Tin Mines*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

Said, Edward W.

2003 *Culture and Resistance: Conversations with Edward W. Said*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press.

Smith, Paul J., editor

1997 *Human Smuggling: Chinese Migrant Trafficking and the Challenge to America's Immigration Tradition*. Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Society for Applied Anthropology

Human Organization – Journal for the SfAA. (available online or from the instructor)

Terms

Class participation is a must and students missing large amounts of class without an appropriate excuse (doctors appointment, family activity such as marriages or funerals, participation in other sanctioned school activity, etc.) will endanger their semester grade. Each class will be split between lectures by the instructor and class discussion of the readings. The movie responses will center on five documentaries shown during regular class time. The mid-term exam is a take-home essay. Annotated bibliographies informing the final project must include at least 15 sources (written or visual). The final project can be either written (essay) or visual (photo essay, short film, etc.). The grading procedure is as follows:

- 1) Class Participation and Attendance – 15% of final grade
- 2) Mid-term Exam – 25% of final grade
- 3) Final Project Annotated Bibliography – 10% of final grade
- 4) Movie Response Papers – 15% of final grade
- 5) Final Project – 35% of final grade

Disability Accommodations:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Course Schedule:

Section One: Theoretical Foundations for Academic Advocacy/Activism

Week 01 – What can individuals accomplish?

Readings:

Roy, Arundhati

2004 *Public Power in the Age of Empire*. New York, NY: Seven Stories Press.

Incite! Women of Color Against Violence.

2006 *Color of Violence: the Incite! Anthology*. Cambridge, Mass.: South End Press.

Chapter 22 – *Unite and Rebel! Challenges and Strategies in Building Alliances*

Chapter 25 – *Gender Violence and the Prison-Industrial Complex*

Chapter 29 – *Taking Risks: Implementing Grassroots Community Accountability*

Week 02 – The power of education

Readings:

hooks, bell

- 1994 *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*. New York: Routledge.
 Introduction
 Chapter 1 – *Engaged Pedagogy*
 Goldschmidt, Walter
 2001 2001 Malinowski Award Lecture: Notes Toward a Theory of Applied Anthropology.
Human Organization 60(4):423-429.

Week 03 – Developing a theory of practice, part I

Readings:

Nagengast, Carole and Carlos G. Velez-Ivanez

- 2004 *Human Rights: The Scholar as Activist*. Oklahoma City, OK: Society for Applied Anthropology.
 Chapter 1 – *Introduction*
 Chapter 2 – *Human Rights and Wrongs: A Place for Anthropologists?*
 Chapter 3 – *Hunger and Human Rights: Old and New Roles for Anthropologists*

Week 04 – Developing a theory of practice, part II

Readings:

Sanford, V., and A. Angel-Ajani

- 2006 *Engaged Observer: Anthropology, Advocacy, and Activism*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.
 Chapter 1 - Excavations of the heart : reflections on truth, memory, and structures of understanding
 Chapter 9 – Indigenous women and gendered resistance in the wake of acteal : a feminist activist research perspective
 Chapter 11 – Perils and promises of engaged anthropology : historical transitions and ethnographic dilemmas

Section Two: Educating Each Other – Opening Doorways of Knowledge

Week 05 – Immigrant Issues, part I

Readings:

Incite! Women of Color Against Violence.

- 2006 *Color of Violence: the Incite! Anthology*. Cambridge, Mass.: South End Press.
 Chapter 14 – “National Security” and the Violation of Women: Militarized Border Rape at the US-Mexico Border

Human Rights Watch

- 2000 *Owed Justice: Thai Women Trafficked into Debt Bondage in Japan*. New York, NY: Human Rights Watch.
 Chapter

Nagengast, Carole and Carlos G. Velez-Ivanez

- 2004 *Human Rights: The Scholar as Activist*. Oklahoma City, OK: Society for Applied Anthropology.
 Chapter 8 – *Human Rights Issues in the Commodification of the Mexican Population of the Southwest United States*.

Week 06 – Immigrant Issues, part II

Readings:

Smith, Paul J., editor

- 1997 *Human Smuggling: Chinese Migrant Trafficking and the Challenge to America's Immigration Tradition*. Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies.
Chapter 6 – *Immigrant Smuggling through Central America and the Caribbean*
Chapter 8 – *Safe House or Hell House? Experiences of Newly Arrived Undocumented Chinese*

Meeropol, Rachel, editor

- 2005 *America's Disappeared: Secret Imprisonment, Detainees, and the "War on Terror"*. New York, NY: Seven Stories Press.
Chapter 7 – *Looking for Hope: Life as an Immigration Detainee*
Chapter 9 – *The Post 9/11 Terrorism Investigation and Immigration Detention*

Week 07 – Effects of Environmental Mismanagement

Readings:

Johnston, Barbara, editor

- 2007 *Half-Lives and Half-Truths: Confronting the Radioactive Legacies of the Cold War*. Santa Fe, NM: School for Advanced Research Press.
Chapter 2 – *"more like us than mice": Radiation Experiments with Indigenous Peoples*
Chapter 10 - *From Analysis to Action: Efforts to Address the Nuclear Legacy in the Marshall Islands*

Boutte, Marie I.

- 2002 Compensating for Health: The Acts and Outcome of Atomic Testing. *Human Organization*. 61(1):41-50.

Week 08 – Queer Rights

Week 09 – Abuses of the Impoverished

Readings:

Inda, J. X., and R. Rosaldo

- 2002 *The Anthropology of Globalization: A Reader*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers.
Chapter 12 – *The Global Traffic in Human Organs*

McDonald, James H.

- 2001 Reconfiguring the Countryside: Power, Control, and the (Re)organization of Farmers in West Mexico. *Human Organization*. 60(3):247-258.

Nagengast, Carole and Carlos G. Velez-Ivanez

- 2004 *Human Rights: The Scholar as Activist*. Oklahoma City, OK: Society for Applied Anthropology.
Chapter 4 – *Refugee Voices: The Missing Piece in Refugee Policies and Practices*

Sanford, V., and A. Angel-Ajani

- 2006 *Engaged Observer: Anthropology, Advocacy, and Activism*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.
Chapter 5 – *Moral Chronologies: Generation and Popular Memory in a Palestinian Refugee Camp*

Week 10 – Violent Social Contexts

Readings:

Meeropol, Rachel, editor

2005 *America's Disappeared: Secret Imprisonment, Detainees, and the "War on Terror"*. New York, NY: Seven Stories Press.

Chapter 1 – *Open Letter to President George W. Bush from Two Former Detainees*

Chapter 5 – *The Road to Abu Ghraib*

Sanford, V., and A. Angel-Ajani

2006 *Engaged Observer: Anthropology, Advocacy, and Activism*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.

Chapter 2 – *Scholarship, advocacy, and the politics of engagement in Burma*

Section Three: Taking Action – Scholars as Participants

Week 11 – Immigrants Issues

Readings:

Striffler, Steve

2005 *Chicken: The Dangerous Transformation of America's Favorite Food*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Week 12 – Drug Use

Readings:

Bourgois, P. I.

2003 *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*, 2nd edition. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Week 13 – Effects of Environmental Mismanagement & General Activism

Readings:

Johnston, Barabara, editor

2007 *Half-Lives and Half-Truths: Confronting the Radioactive Legacies of the Cold War*. Santa Fe, NM: School for Advanced Research Press.

Chapter 13 – *Nuclear Legacies: Arrogance, Secrecy, Ignorance, Lies, Silence, Suffering, Action*

Nagengast, Carole and Carlos G. Velez-Ivanez

2004 *Human Rights: The Scholar as Activist*. Oklahoma City, OK: Society for Applied Anthropology.

Chapter 7 – *Scholar-Activists in Puerto Rico: The Struggle for Human Rights and Decolonization*

Week 14 – Violent Social Contexts & General Activism

Readings:

Sluka, Jeffrey A.

1990 Participant Observation in Violent Social Contexts. *Human Organization*. 49(2):114-126.

Sanford, V., and A. Angel-Ajani

2006 *Engaged Observer: Anthropology, Advocacy, and Activism*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.

Chapter 7 – *Portrait of a Paramilitary: Putting a Human Face on the Colombian Conflict*

Chapter 8 -- *Fratricidal War or Ethnocidal Strategy?: Women's Experience with Political Violence in Chiapas*

Nagengast, Carole and Carlos G. Velez-Ivanez

2004 *Human Rights: The Scholar as Activist*. Oklahoma City, OK: Society for Applied Anthropology.

Chapter 10 – *Anthropological Activism, Indigenous Peoples, and Globalization*

Chapter 11 – *Conclusion: First Steps*

Student Project Reports

Weeks 15 & 16