Seminar Description

The seminar explores the difference ethnographic methods and engagements brings to evidence-making and to social theorizing. We will probe the various theoretical frameworks that inform the ways anthropologists engage, think and write about social experience, subjectivity, and politics today. Which concepts do anthropologists use to approach lives caught in embattled geopolitics and in novel economic, technoscientific and legal constellations? Through which means can we highlight both larger social processes and human singularities? How theoretically generative is ethnographic fieldwork and what is the public role of anthropology today?

Requirements/Grading

The success of the seminar depends on your commitment to complete all required readings for each session, write and post weekly responses, and to participate actively in discussions.

Grading will be based on:
1. Attendance, participation and class presentation (20 %).
2. Weekly reading reports (20 %).
   Reports shall be posted on blackboard every Wednesday by 6:00 pm.
3. A mid-term book review (20 %).
   The 3-5 double-spaced review is due November 4, by 5:00 pm.
4. A final research paper or book review essay (40%).
   The 10-12 double-spaced page paper is due January 11, 2011, by 5:00 pm.

See Princeton University’s general standards for grading:
http://www.princeton.edu/~odoc/grading_policies.html
Books

The following books will be on reserve at Firestone Library. These books will also be available for purchase at Labyrinth Books (122 Nassau Street). Additional articles and book chapters can be downloaded from Blackboard’s electronic reserve.

**Required**

**Optional**

**Office Hours**
- João Biehl (jbiehl@princeton.edu): Thursdays 12:30-1:30 pm, 128 Aaron Burr Hall
- Didier Fassin (dfassin@princeton.edu): By appointment
- Ramah Mckay (rmckay@princeton.edu): Tuesdays 3:00-4:00 pm, 125 Corwin
September 16

INTRODUCTION

Didier Fassin: On Critique

João Biehl: On Having an Idea in Anthropology


September 23

ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDWORK AND ANTHROPOLOGY TODAY


Suggested

September 30

VIOLENCE


Suggested

October 7

INTERVENTIONS


Suggested

October 14

A LIFE

Suggested


October 21

**WRITING/BECOMING**

- Film: *Santiago* by João Moreira Salles

Suggested


October 28

**ADDICTION**


Suggested


FALL BREAK

November 11
EMBODIMENT


*Suggested*

November 18

POLITICS


*Suggested*

November 25

THANKSGIVING
December 2

ECONOMICS


Suggested

December 9

JUSTICE


Suggested

December 16

FINAL DISCUSSION