

COURSE DETAIL

VIOLENCE AND TERROR

Country

Australia

Host Institution

Australian National University

Program(s)

International Security

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Anthropology

UCEAP Course Number

117

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

VIOLENCE AND TERROR

UCEAP Transcript Title

VIOLENCE AND TERROR

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course weighs up the kinds of insights that anthropology has to offer in understanding violence, and therefore emphasizes ethnographic accounts that explore the manner in which social life is shaped through different forms of engagement with violence. Considering violence from an anthropological perspective foregrounds concerns of meaning, representation and symbolism—understanding violence as expression as much as instrument. We approach violence as usually meaningful and always culturally mediated, a phenomenon that is not outside the realm of human society. A key theme to be explored is the contention that violence, rather than necessarily signifying a breakdown in social existence, often plays a part—perhaps even a fundamental one—in the maintenance or creation of particular forms of social order. To this end, we are concerned with analyzing not only the explicit acts of bodily harm that occur in violent conflict but more subtle forms of violence perpetrated by the nation-state and global institutions. In this sense, a vital aspect of the course involves engaging with the 'anthropology of state practices' through considering the relation of state and society as this shapes occurrences and expressions of violence. Finally, the course considers the relation of anthropology and anthropologists to debates about universal human rights and reflect on the position of the anthropologist in witnessing, theorizing and writing about violence, as well as the methodological challenges, ethical dilemmas, dangers and responsibilities involved.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

ANTH2130

Host Institution Course Title

VIOLENCE AND TERROR

Host Institution Campus

Canberra

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Anthropology

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