

## COURSE DETAIL

### ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO QUESTIONS OF BEING

**Country**

United Kingdom - England

**Host Institution**

London School of Economics

**Program(s)**

London School of Economics

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Anthropology

**UCEAP Course Number**

111

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO QUESTIONS OF BEING

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

QUESTIONS OF BEING

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

4.00

## Course Description

In Western thought, the study of the nature of being itself (Greek ontos), including theories about how things come into being and how they are related to one another, is known as ontology. Building on, but broadening the scope of this Western tradition, the growing anthropological literature on questions of being seeks to convey ethnographically and conceptualize theoretically the many different ontologies, or lived realities, that shape social practices in diverse historical, geographic, and cultural contexts. This literature also urges us to reconsider reflexively what anthropology is, does, and might become. Twenty-first century anthropology has seen an "ontological turn" or "turns," or more broadly, the emergence of anthropologies of ontology. Increasingly, a variety of anthropological discourses invoking the concept of ontology have come into dialogue, yet ontology-oriented approaches remain diverse. Over the past decade, these discourses have been sites of divisive debate, strong contestation, pointed polemic, and at times personal critique. While this has generated a lot of interest, arguably these debates have created more heat than light. This course explores three works - Morten Axel Pedersen's NOT QUITE SHAMANS, Marisol de la Cadena's EARTH BEINGS, and Stuart McLean's FICTIONALIZING ANTHROPOLOGY - to introduce students to the central questions, dynamics, and debates that constitute anthropological approaches to questions of being.

## Language(s) of Instruction

English

## Host Institution Course Number

AN247

## Host Institution Course Title

ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO QUESTIONS OF BEING

## Host Institution Campus

London School of Economics

## Host Institution Faculty

**Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**

Anthropology

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