

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 Course Details

Host Institution Campus

London School of Economics

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Anthropology

Course Last Reviewed

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