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
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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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