

Stanford University
ANTHRO 366W/EDUC 366W
Semiotics for Ethnography
Winter 2019

Instructors:

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Course Meetings

Wednesdays, 9:30am-12:20pm, Building 20-21G

Course Description and Goals

This workshop-style seminar will introduce students to a range of semiotic and linguistic anthropological approaches and tools for ethnographic analysis. In addition to the instructors of record, a group of semiotic anthropologists from other universities will be invited to offer workshops, through which students will learn how to teach semiotics and how to use semiotic concepts for their own research projects. The goal is for students across the qualitative social sciences and humanities—including anthropology, linguistics, and education—to gain a theoretical and methodological toolkit for understanding the fundamental role of semiotic processes in structuring sociocultural life, as well as the range of analytical insights to be gained from investigating communicative ideologies and practices.

Guidelines and Requirements

The majority of your work for each meeting will consist of reading selected pieces written by our visiting scholars. Students who are taking the course for a letter grade will each work with a group of peers to prepare a set of discussion questions for one of our visitors based on their writings. Students who are not taking the course for a letter grade are expected to attend workshop meetings and participate in discussions.

Workshop Schedule

Meeting 1, Wednesday, January 9: Introductions

Meeting 2, Wednesday, January 16:

[Dr. Lily Chumley](#) (NYU; creativity, education, media, materiality, political economy, China)
[Dr. Angela Reyes](#) (CUNY Grad Center; race, register, discourse, US, Philippines)

Meeting 3, Friday, February 8:

[Dr. Joseph Hankins](#) (UCSD; labor, liberal multiculturalism, gender, capitalism, Japan)
[Dr. Rihan Yeh](#) (UCSD; publics, borders, subjectivity, mobility, violence, US, Mexico)

Meeting 4, Wednesday, March 13:

[Dr. Matthew Hull](#) (UMich; bureaucracy, corporations, materiality, South Asia)
[Dr. Michael Lempert](#) (UMich); performance, ritual, liberalism, Buddhism, South Asia)