Anthropology is generally defined as the study of human diversity. A more radical definition of anthropology is how the West encountered the world through a system of political, economic and cultural domination. This course takes the latter definition as the point of departure. Historically, anthropology as a discipline emerged as a mode of understanding the subjects of European colonialism and its goal was to “scientifically” understand what factors (biological, environmental, sociological, etc.) produced human “difference.” Indirectly, anthropology through its study of non-western societies became a “reluctant” aid in the governance of colonized people. Fifty years since the end of WWII and the beginning of decolonization, much has been debated about the state of anthropology. Scholars from the formerly colonized countries, and scholars in the West have radically questioned the colonial power relations that informed the discipline of anthropology. This course analyzes the formations of anthropological knowledge through an interdisciplinary approach that draws on a variety of philosophical, anthropological, historical, literary, and visual texts. In this course, we do not analyze colonialism as a political and military project that stopped after WWII, but as a process that has transformed into neo-colonial and postcolonial forms into the present. The objectives of this course are two-fold: First, what is the relationship between anthropology and colonialism/neocolonialism/postcolonialism? Second, how do we move toward an anthropology that seeks non-hierarchical forms of knowledge?

Students are expected to analyze contemporary events in light of the readings. Students are advised to read the international section of the New York Times and keep up to date with how the world gets represented in the national paper of record in the US. The library also subscribes to the paper.

The course will be conducted in a seminar format. Students are expected to do the readings prior to class and come prepared to engage in discussion originating from the readings.

**Required Texts (additional articles will be available as PDFs on Blackboard).** The books will also be put on reserve at the Knight Library.

Orwell, George. *Burmese Days*, Harvest Books

Graduate Students:
The following book is on reserve at the library:
Ania, Loomba. *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*

**Undergraduates**
Participation 10%
Midterm Exam  30%  
Final Research Paper  60%  
Total  100%  

**Graduates**  
Class Presentation  20%  
Paper (20 pages)  80%  

**ASSIGNMENTS:**  
1) BLACKBOARD will be used to communicate with students. The day before class, the presenters will post two questions from the readings on blackboard for the class to collectively think about.

2) CLASS PRESENTATION  20 Points  
Graduate students are expected to do a class presentation for 15 minutes. Since we will all do the readings, do not summarize the reading. Instead, raise two to three questions that address the text. On the day of your presentation, you will turn in a two-page summary of your presentation.

The following is a guide of the kinds of questions your are expected to raise.  
a) How does knowledge of the other operate in the text?  
b) What is the role of the anthropologist/observer in the text?  
c) What is the object of analysis? Who is speaking? Who is being represented?  
d) What forms of evidence do we need to be convinced of the arguments that are being made?  
e) How do power hierarchies operate in the text? What is the relationship between the former colonialists/and former colonized in the text?  
f) How do colonial fantasies operate in the text?  
g) How do we analyze representations of self/others?

3) CRITERIA FOR JUDGING:  
a) What are the author’s key arguments? Select one or two arguments and develop them. Support your arguments with illustrations from the readings.  
b) Relevance of your questions to class objectives.  
c) Relevance of questions to contemporary issues.  
d) Coherent presentation of your arguments (feel free to not like the reading but you have to defend your position).  
e) Overall quality of the presentation (clarity of thought, questions, analysis, illustrations).

5) FINAL PAPER  60 Points (between 12-15 pages)  
**The final paper is due on the last day of Spring classes.**  
You will write a research paper on a topic that interests you. The topic must be specific and doable. You will discuss it with me during week six of classes to discuss it more detail. Please bring in a short one-paragraph outline of what you aim to do in the paper. Here are some suggested topics:  
Native Americans and the Repatriation of Native Remains  
Museum Representations of Native People  
Native Americans and the Mascot Controversy  
The Struggle for Land and Native Americans  
Relationship between Politics and Representations (especially in contemporary western media)  
Representations of Minorities in the Media  
Colonialism and Native Sexuality  
Adoption of non-western children in the US  
US laws and Interracial Marriages
Week One
3/31 Introduction to course, assignments
4/2 Film: Said on Orientalism
Start reading the Wretched of the Earth

Graduate Students:

Week Two Colonialism and the Third World
4/7 James, Wendy. “The Anthropologist as Reluctant Imperialist,” in Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter, pp. 41-70


Graduate Students:
Cesaire, Aimee. Discourse on Colonialism

Week Three Colonial Constructions of Race
4/14 Kincaid, Jamaica. A Small Place,
Film: Life and Debt
4/16 Gilman, Sander. In Race, Writing and Difference
Film: The Life and Times of Sara Baartman: the Hottentot Venus

Graduate Students:
Alloula, Malik. The Colonial Harem

Week Four Colonialism in Africa
4/23 Film: White King, red rubber, black death or Blood Diamond

Week Five
4/28 Mid-term Exam for Undergraduates

4/30 After the mid-term exam, students will start focusing on researching a final topic for the paper.

Week Six Race and Colonialism in the Americas
5/7 De la Casa, Bartolome. “Synopsis/Prologue” (pp.3-14) and “New Spain,” and “The Kingdom of Guatemala,” pp. 45-65, in a Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies, Penguin Classic (1999)
Film: Ishi, the Last Yahi

Week Seven Knowledge and Anthropology
5/14 AAA Report on Tierney’s Book
Week Eight  British Colonialism in South Asia
5/19  Orwell, George. *Burmese Days*, Harvest Books (Latest)
5/21  Sinha, Mrinalini. *Mother India* (*Introduction*)

Week Nine  Colonialism and Ecology
5/28  Biersac, Aletta. On Ecology
      Film: *Darwin's Nightmare*

Week Ten  Student Presentations
5/2  Student Presentations
5/4  Student Presentations and Final Papers Due