

# Anthropology 417: Cross-Cultural Law

## Syllabus - Winter 2006

See also: [Readings](#) | [Assignments](#)

**Dr. Kathleen Z. Young**

### **Course Objectives**

Students will be introduced to the anthropological study of cross-cultural law and current changes in international law. The course will explore the history of international criminal law based on ethnographic analyses. Do all cultures have a concept of the law? What is the relationship between law and punishment? What is the relationship between law and cultural norms and customs? What are the implications of law in constructions of gender, race, class, and cultural identity? These issues will be addressed through readings, films and class discussions in order to consider law as it relates to "the many ways of being human." We will investigate cross-cultural diversity with reference to the International Criminal Court, International Tribunals, and nascent international law.

### **Methodology**

The class will pursue specific themes, especially the laws of war, power, and ethno-religious identity. Class will include lectures, films, a field-trip or two, discussion, and class presentations. The class is run similarly to a seminar.

Students will prepare summaries and critiques of readings for discussion. The remaining meetings will consist of oral presentations and a poster of student research groups. Students will also critique class presentations.

### **Course Requirements**

The primary requirements for the class include two research projects resulting in class presentations. The group project may include an academic poster or a power point presentation. Informed participation in class discussions is also required.

### **Evaluation**

The course grade will be based on the presentation of the research project, essays and critiques. The final course grade may be adjusted upward or downward by one-half (+/-) to a full letter grade based on general class participation.