



[source](#) *Guernica*. Pablo Picasso. 1937

There is a famous rumor that a Nazi officer looking at a reproduction of El Guernica asked Pablo Picasso, "Did you do this?" The artist replied: "No. You did." [The Guardian](#), Jan. 8, 2005.

Instructor Information

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Anthropology of Violence and War ANTH 3719 WDE 2020

Course Description

What insights can anthropology contribute to understanding violence and war? How do people come to understand, participate in, ignore, or justify violence and war even though they result in trauma, injury, death, genocide, ecocide and other harms, which may be catastrophic, long-lasting and transgenerational? In this class, we develop a critical anthropology of social, cultural, political and historical formations of violence and war by examining stories, representations, and concepts that are created about them. Our critical examinations include decoding media and cultural representations of violence and war in visual media such as film, looking at artists' representations, and thinking through journalists' accounts. What stories emerge when we move beyond mainstream representations? We will seek to decode ideologies and myths that provide dominant ways of thinking about violence and war. Areas of focus include Canada, Indigenous nations, Palestine, Israel, Arab nations, and the United States. What power relations are at work in creating the social and cultural contexts of war and violence and the resulting unequal effects? This class is especially interested in deconstructing visual

representations and narratives and challenging the normalization of militarism and settler colonialism. This class does not take a neutral stance nor defend power; rather, violence and war are situated as harmful.

Note: Because the content centers on violence and war, including Canadian settler colonialism, some students may find the content emotionally challenging, upsetting, disturbing, offensive, or traumatizing. This class acknowledges that each of us, myself as the instructor and students in their diversities, is located in multiple and different ways in the relations of power that structure violence and war.

Course Material

- *Our Women on the Ground: Essays by Arab Women Reporting From The Arab World*. Edited by Zahra Hankir. 2019. Penguin Books.
- online reading and visual content

Note: The book *Our Women on the Ground* is mandatory as you will need it to complete the Book Review assignment. Buy it from the LU Bookstore or online.

Structure and Methods

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- This course has 11 modules.
- You write 8 Posts (8 x 5% = 40%), 1 Book Review (20%) and 1 Research Essay (30%).
- There is one quiz. 10%
- Each student is part of a group of approximately 10 - 13 students (numbers may change). You post your Posts on your group's discussion forum for each module. To find your group, go to the page Groups. You have to post first to see other students' posts.
- Upload the Book Review and the Research Essay to me through the Assignments Tool.
- The quiz is accessed through the Quizzes tool.
- I regularly post content to help you think through course material.

Note: This course relies heavily on students writing responses to various modules. As is standard for full-time students (5 courses = 40 hours work per week), the minimum time spent on this course should be 8 hours/week. Writing assignments may add more time.

Assignments and Evaluation

- 8 Posts. You summarize, interpret, analyze, and comment on the material on a module. For some of the modules, you bring in related content that you are familiar with. Post on your group's discussion board. Each is a minimum of 400 words and 1 visual text (and hyperlinks where needed for academic integrity). You can write more than 400 words; your effort and depth of engagement is up to you. Illegible and unsupported writing (i.e., writing that is not edited and shows that little attention has been paid to clarity of communication, editing out typos, or supporting one's discussion) results in a diminished grade. Each Post is worth 5%. 8 Posts x 5% each = 40%
- 1 Book Review. 1500-1750 words (6-7 pages). The book has 5 sections (Remembrances, Crossfire, Resilience, Exile, Transition) of various reports by female Arab journalists. Using a set-out structure, students summarize (by paraphrasing) the book's content, comment on specific events, experiences, places, reflections, etc., and then provide an evaluation in relation to what they have learned. Upload through the Assignments Tool. 20%
- The quiz (10%) tests your understanding of course content; it is written on March 23.
- 1 Research Essay. 1750 - 2500 words (7 - 10 pages). Upload through the Assignments Tool. 30%
- Find the instructions on the particular module.
- See the Lateness policy below.

Due Dates and Lateness policy

Post Mod1	Jan. 13
Post Mod2	Jan. 20
Post Mod3	Jan. 27
Post Mod4	Feb. 3
Post Mod5	Feb. 10
Book Review	Feb. 24
Post Mod7	March 2
Post Mod8	March 9
Post Mod9	March 16
Mod10: Quiz	March 23
Mod11: Research Essay	April 3

- **Posts** are due 11:59 p.m. on their due date (with a one hour grace period). Late posts are penalized 2% per day up to 5 days, for a maximum 10% penalty.

- For the first Post, for Module 1, if you registered late or you registered on time but did not enter the online space of the class until after the first week, email me. Note: it is visible to me if someone has not entered the digital class space.
- The **Book Review** and **Research Essay** are due 11:59 p.m. on their due date (with a one hour grace period). Upload onto the Assignments Tool. Lateness policy: 2% a day up to 5 days (maximum 10%). After 5 days late, the Assignment Tool closes.
- Put the word count at the end of the last sentence of the last paragraph of all your writing. Failure to do so: Posts: minus .2; Book Review and Essay: minus .4

I will be posting the content for the Modules over the first weeks of class.

If you have any questions, please email me. Email me through the course D2L. If you email me at my @lakeheadu.ca email, be sure to put ANTH 3719 in the subject otherwise your email may get lost in the deluge.

Course Procedures and Policies

- Class schedule may change slightly; changes will be noted on Announcements.
- To access the online class readings and visual materials, click on the links on the specific Module.
- If you require special consideration to fulfill class requirements, please contact me early in the term.
- If you require accommodations to fulfill class requirements, please contact Student Accessibility Services.
- If you unexpectedly experience mental health problems during the term, you may request interim accommodations but must then provide official documentation to me from Student Accessibility Services, Student Health and Wellness, or a doctor or other health practitioner to show that you are proactive in getting help.
- No email submission of any assignment.
- Assignments are due on the due date and time. Late assignments are penalized accordingly and do not get comments.
- Include word count at the end of the last sentence of the last paragraph of all of your writing.
- Use APA style and format for the Book Review and the Research Essay. Follow the APA guidelines in a writing manual or a reputable online site, such as the [OWL Purdue APA pages](#).
- Use digital writing format for online posts. Read the page [Tech Instructions for Digital Posts](#). All ideas from online writers or photos from websites must be credited and acknowledged through hyperlinks. Edit writing for grammar, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, format, etc. Writing that does not meet digital standards receives a diminished grade.

- Read the page Writing Standards. Writing that does not meet academic standards of communication receives a diminished grade.
- Generally, I answer emails or messages within 48 hours. I do not read emails or messages on Friday night, Saturday or Sunday. Emails or messages sent on the weekend will be read on Monday.
- Plagiarism is an offence. When I discover plagiarism, whether in a post or an essay or book review, I stop reading and give the assignment a zero. Each class, each term, I have to deal with students plagiarizing as well as cheating on quizzes, tests, or exams. Plagiarism includes using ideas, phrases, sentences, quotations, photos, or other materials as your own without crediting the original author. This includes taking ideas or analyses from online writers but not making a hyperlink to their page or crediting them, borrowing exact words from other writers but not using quotation marks, paraphrasing without citing the author or making a hyperlink to their online page, changing some words from someone else's writing, using photos from the web without noting the source, taking bits and pieces of text from various websites and mashing them together without noting the sources, getting other people to write your assignments or parts of them, handing in writing that you wrote for other classes for this class, and other methods of presenting other people's work as your own. Posts, book reviews, and essays with plagiarized content are not marked. I contact you, then contact the Chair of Anthropology and forward your name to the Dean. For more information, see the Sections STUDENTS and SECTION III in the [Student Code of Conduct--Academic Integrity](#) pages 6 to 9.

Marking Standards

Assignments are evaluated in relation to both form and content. This includes attention to APA style and format (such as use of signal phrases or statements for cited passages, and for the Book Review and Research Essay, correct essay format and References page, and so on), grammar and composition (sentence structure, organization, coherence, spelling, diction) and content, which includes comprehension of material, accuracy of interpretation and analysis, sophistication of analysis, development of ideas, support through evidence, synthesis of ideas, diction, critical reflexivity, and following the assignment instructions. Unsupported opinion is not acceptable for evaluation. All ideas must be supported through evidence, reasons, credible sources, valid interpretations, and so on.

Writing that is full of typos, spelling mistakes, lack of punctuation or capitalization, fragments, run-on sentences, incomprehensible statements, and other structural flaws that make the writing difficult to read will result in a diminished grade.

University Policies

- Students in this course are expected to conform to the [Code of Student Behaviour](#).
- **Accommodations:** Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) and register as early as possible.
- Accommodations are in accordance with the terms of the [Ontario Human Rights Code](#). This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the course.