Disordered States
(CHDV 33502; ANTH 35120)

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Comparative Human Development
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TIME AND LOCATION
Wednesdays 10:30 AM – 1:20 PM, Harper Memorial Library 105

OFFICE HOURS
Time may vary from week to week. For current office hours and to sign up, please visit: https://wiki.uchicago.edu/display/~eraikhel/Office+hours
Office hours are held in 5736 S. Woodlawn, #203

SUMMARY
This course examines the intersection between two areas of research that have recently experienced a resurgence in anthropology: (1) new ethnographic work on states and state-like institutions and (2) the literature on subjective experiences of remembering, trauma and suffering. In other words, this course covers different ways in which the relationships between persons and states in crisis have been conceptualized in recent anthropological work. We begin by examining the literature on social memory and history, then move to discuss trauma and political violence, and conclude with several weeks focusing on issues of sovereignty, citizenship and suffering.

While we will read material drawn from a number of settings, a substantial portion of the readings will focus on Russia and post-Soviet Eurasia. This course may be counted towards the social sciences requirement of the Russian Studies major.

PREREQUISITES AND FORMAT
This course is intended for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. The course will be run in a seminar format, with a minimum of lecturing on the part of the instructor. We will spend the majority of the time closely examining the texts for each week and discussing the problems they address. Please come to each class with two or
three questions regarding the reading (whether or not you are giving a presentation that week).

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION
Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following requirements and assignments:

1) **Participation** in weekly discussions.
2) **One in-class presentation** of the readings for a particular week. Working with one or two classmates, students will give one short (10-15 minute) presentation of the readings for a particular week. This should be a presentation of the themes, issues or problems that run through all of the readings, not a summary of the texts. Your presentation will serve to open our discussion, so please prepare some discussion questions for the class.
3) **Two short papers** (5,000 words each) analyzing a number of course readings. You will be expected to analyze a particular problem and establish your own position in relation to a number of the assigned texts. This can take the form of a conceptual analysis of an issue or problem discussed in the course, or an interpretation or analysis of fieldwork data which you have already carried out. The papers are due on April 27 and June 1 respectively.

A number of books will be available for purchase at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore and on reserve at Regenstein:

**Required:**


All other texts will be available in the “Course Documents” folder on Chalk.
SCHEDULE OF COURSE SESSIONS AND READINGS

March 30 – Course introduction

April 6 – History, memory and forgetting

Maurice Halbwachs, *The Collective Memory*. (Harper and Row: 1980[1950]). Focus on pp. 44-49 (Chapter 1), 80-87 (Chapter 2) and 1-4, 12-15 (Chapter 4).


Paul Connerton, *How Societies Remember* (Cambridge UP, 1989). Focus on Chapters 2 and 3 (pp. 41-104).


April 13 – Memory after colonialism


April 20 – Memory after state socialism


April 27 – No class

*** First paper due ***

May 4 – Loss, nostalgia and post-Soviet transformation


May 11 – Violence and trauma


May 18 – Sovereignty


May 25 – Biological citizenship


June 1 – Illness sodalities

*** Second paper due ***


June 8 – Disordered states and political subjectivities

*** As this session takes place during reading week, attendance is optional for undergraduates ***

Byron J. Good, Subandi, and Mary-Jo Delvecchio Good. 2007 The subject of


Clara Han, 2011. “Symptoms of Another Life: Time, Possibility, and Domestic Relations in Chile's Credit Economy,” Cultural Anthropology, 26(1): 7-52