About the course
This course is about the construction of realities. It explores many of the social issues of our times. Why do we think the way we do? How do people’s concepts of reality influence the ways they behave? Portions of this course may be disturbing or sad. Sometimes, you will see yourselves and may not like what you see. You may find that you leave the course less sure about concepts you have not previously questioned.

All of the films have been chosen to be interesting as well as provocative. Wherever possible, feature films have been used. The readings have been carefully chosen to complement the films. Since the course meets once a week to view and discuss the films, it is critical that you read the assigned material before class.

Each week, we will identify what is anthropologically interesting about the films.

Requirements
You must attend class each week. The films are on reserve at the circulation desk in the library. Since the course is more than watching a film, when you miss class, you miss the discussion that develops a sometimes different understanding of the topic. Be careful.

You are required to prepare a two page, double-spaced paper each week on an assigned topic. The paper topics are listed at the end of this syllabus. The papers are due in class. If your paper is late, you will lose twenty percentage points and the rewrite option. Late papers may be turned into my mailbox in McGuinn 426 within one week of the due date.

You have a rewrite option if you hand the paper in on time and if you attend the relevant class. If you rewrite, you will receive the higher grade. You are limited to three rewrites.

Cell phones are to be turned off. No texting.

Computers are for note taking. No internet or games.

Grading
There are thirteen papers. The paper assignment sheet is included at the end of the syllabus.
Attendance
Attendance is required. There is a bonus for attendance. If you miss one class, your lowest paper grade will be dropped. If you miss no classes, your lowest two paper grades will be dropped. This is a substantial bonus: don’t miss it. There are no excuses for missing a class. This is a bonus, not a penalty. With two paper drops and three rewrites, you have a reasonable degree of control over your course grade.

If you have more than three unexcused absences, you will receive an F. No senior Fall.

Attendance will be taken after the break. You do not get credit for attendance if you do not stay for the discussion.

Study guides
There is a study guide for each week of the course included in the reader. The weekly study guide is part of the assigned reading.

Readings
The readings have been gathered into a course pack. A copy is on reserve in the library. Read the assignment each week before the film. The readings will be part of the discussion.

Lesson Plan

Week 1 (9-2-15) Truth and Reality
Film: Rashomon (1959: 87 minutes) PL801. K8 R382
Reader: Heider 73-81
Paper #1 - Rashomon - due 9-9-15

Week 2 (9-9-15) Justice
Film: Meat Fight (1974: 8 minutes) DT1058.K86 M43
The Cows of Dolo Pave (1970: 32 minutes) GN655. L5 C6
Stranger with a Camera (2000: 58 minutes) HN79. K4 S77
Reader: Marcus 137-141, Metcalf 83-87
Paper #2 - Justice - due 9-16-15
**Week 3 (9-16-15) Race and the Cultural Construction of Difference**

*Skin Deep* (1996: 53 minutes) LA229. S65

Reader: McIntosh 163-168, Divakaruni 35-56, Santiago 3-5

**Paper #3 – Race  due 9-23-15**

**Week 4 (9-23-15) Gender**

Film: *One True Thing* (1999: 128 minutes) PS3567. U336 O54

Reader: Hochschild 11-32

**Paper #4– Gender – due 9-30-15**

**Week 5 (9-30-15) Sexual Orientation**

Film: *Two Spirit People* (1995: 16 minutes) SC388.P2  
*The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984: 87 minutes) HQ76.8. U5 T56

Reader: Lang 202-217

**Paper #5 - Sexual Orientation – due 10-7-15**

**Week 6 (10-7-15) What Does It Mean To Be A Man?**


*Kinky Boots* raises questions about male gender roles and sexuality. Watch what happens to Don and Charlie as they come full face with who they are.

Reader: Kimmel 116-120

**Paper #6 - What Does It Mean To Be A Man? – due 10-14-15**
Week 7 (10-14-15) Indigenous Social Resistance

Film: Rabbit Proof Fence (2002: 94 minutes) PN1993.5. A8 R33

Reader: Manne 1-5, Johnston 1-2, Mills 6-22


Week 8 (10-21-15) Marriage


Reader: Nanda 196-204, Lahira 1-21

Paper #8 – Marriage – due 10-28-15

Week 9 (10-28-15) Orientalism: A View from the Other Side

Film: Edward Said on Orientalism (1999: 31 minutes) SC388.P1
Peace of Mind: Coexistence Through the Eyes of Palestinian and Israeli Youth (2002: 56 minutes) DS119.76. P43

Reader: Said 1-9, Barsamin 52-57, Reinhart 1-7, Meital 1-10

Paper #9 – Orientalism – due 11-4-15

Week 10 (11-4-15) Deconstructing the Hegemonic Discourse

Film: Merry Christmas (2005: 116 min) PN1993.5. F7 J69

Reader: Currie 48-52

Paper #10 – Deconstruction – due 11-11-15  This paper is required.
Week 11 (11-11-15) Identity – Real or Imagined

Film: The Other Son (2012: 105 min) PN1997.2 O844

Reader: Andersen 80-85, Nagel 6-7, 37-45

Paper #11 – Identity – due 11-18-15

Week 12 (11-18-15) Mental Retardation

Film: I Am Sam (2002: 134 minutes) HV1553. I3

Reader: Seagull 493-500, Wedding 137-144

Paper #12 - Retardation - due 12-2-15

Week 13 (12-2-15) Overdetermination

Film: The Butterfly Effect (2004: 120 minutes) PN1997.2. B88

Reader: Gleich 11-31, web – Chaos Theory 1-6, web - overdetermination 1-5, Hawkes 128

Paper #13 – Overdetermination – due ?????? (in my mail box in McGuinn 426D by 5 PM)
SC388 Paper Assignments  Fall 2015

Paper #1 - Rashomon  due 9-9-15
What is the Rashomon effect? How is it demonstrated in the film Rashomon? What does it say about reality?

Read the Heider article carefully. It is important to understand the implications of the Rashomon effect. It applies to what we will learn in this course and to you.

Paper #2 – Justice  due 9-16-15
Using Stranger With A Camera, develop the anthropological gaze. State the gaze. Turn the gaze to show that justice was served in The Meat Fight.

Paper #3 – Race  due 9-23-15
In Peggy McIntosh’s article about white privilege, what is white privilege? How does it appear in the film Skin Deep? How do the students react to their awareness of white privilege? Do they shift in this regard during their weekend encounter? Explain. Choose two students to illustrate.

Paper #4 – Gender  due 9-30-15
In One True Thing Kate gives Ellen very specific advice about how to be happy in her life. Does Ellen follow that advice? Make the case for both yes and no.

Paper #5 – Sexual Orientation  due 10-7-15
What does the director of the film The Times of Harvey Milk expect us (the audience) to experience? How is this evident in the film?

Paper #6 – What does it mean to be a man?  due 10-14-15
Which characters in Kinky Boots change their views about what it means to be a man? Explain

Paper #7 – Indigenous Rights  due 10-21-15
What is the difference between how you, the viewer, and mainstream white Australians from 1900 to 1970 view(ed) the Aborigine Program in Rabbit Proof Fence? As anthropologists, how can we understand the differences?

Paper #8 – Marriage  due 10-28-15
Why is the Dubey/Alice marriage in Monsoon Wedding?
Paper #9 – Orientalism  due 11-4-15
Seven Palestinian and Israeli youth join together to produce Peace of Mind. What do they want to
tell us? How do they get their message across? What do they expect us to experience?

Paper # 10 – Deconstruction  due 11-11-15  This paper is required.
In Merry Christmas, deconstruct the concept of enemy/friend. What is the point of the
deconstruction?

Paper # 11 – Identity – due 11-18-15
How do the concepts of identity change for the two families in The Other Son?

Paper #12 – Retardation  due 12-2-15
In I Am Sam, what happens to Rita after she kicks Sam’s door open and finds him behind a wall
of his paper constructions?

Paper #13 - Overdetermination  due 12-????-15
In The Butterfly Effect, what happens when Evan uses his journals to affect the lives of his
mother, friends and himself? What do we, the viewer, learn?