This class explores the culture and political-economy of the contemporary U.S. with a particular focus on race, class, and gender relations. Among the questions we will address are the following: How does anthropology contribute to understanding different social groups, communities, regions and social and political institution in the U.S.? How have anthropologists shed light on complex public policy issues such as poverty and economic insecurity, immigration, the changing labor force, environmental issues, and inequality? How can anthropological tools and frameworks give us a firmer grip on the complex questions facing us as a nation? How do anthropological perspectives on the contemporary U.S. help us grapple with complex and controversial social issues in ways informed by research, including research with social groups often marginalized in public policy discussions of pressing social issues?