

SOSANT2570 – Anthropology of Infrastructure

Assignments for regular take home exam Fall semester 2023

Assessment guidelines

The overarching aim of this course was to present a comprehensive picture of anthropological research on infrastructure, and to discuss a wide range of case studies, theoretical, as well as methodological approaches. Throughout the lectures and texts, we approached infrastructure from a holistic perspective, addressing both historical legacies and current trends that have shaped and continue to impact how infrastructure spaces are planned and experienced, but also dreamed up, promised, and resisted. We have also explored some of the key theories and analytical approaches that inform this growing field of studies, as well as some of their methodological and ethical implications. The exam question is intended to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate both their understanding of some of the case studies discussed in the assigned texts, as well as the ability to mobilize key theoretical and methodological frameworks to address a particular infrastructure of their choosing.

In what follows, we provide both general and specific guidelines for the take home exam. These grading guidelines are intended to point examiners towards the themes and issues that should be covered and the nature of the material that needs to be engaged with in relation to particular grades.

A: Shows an excellent understanding of relevant literature, selects it and combines it in an excellent manner that shows the capacity for an independent analysis of the problem. Shows an excellent ability to account for both theoretical arguments and ethnographic details in the texts. The presentation is clear, logical and structured.

B: Shows a very good and comprehensive understanding of the key points raised in the literature, and combines the literature in a very good manner that shows some capacity for an independent analysis of the problem. Shows a very good ability to account for both theoretical arguments and ethnographic details in the texts. The presentation is clear, logical and structured.

C: Shows adequate understanding of the main themes of the question as addressed in the readings. Combines the literature in an adequate manner that shows some capacity for an independent analysis of the problem. Shows ability to account for both theoretical arguments and ethnographic details in the texts. The presentation is clear, logical and structured with some mistakes or problems.

D: Shows some or moderate understanding of some of the major themes but many important aspects are left out. Little or no independent argument separate from that

in the texts or lecture notes. There is little combination of arguments or own analysis. The presentation has some consistent problems.

E: Rudimentary understanding of some of the key issues but more gaps in the key knowledge than demonstration of key knowledge. Presentation is not adequate. Displays misunderstanding of key points or texts.

F: Total, or almost total, lack of understanding of the key issues and inadequate use of relevant literature.

In addition to these general criteria, please note that:

- we are not looking for one particular answer, but rather encourage students to draw connections and show the ability to critically link case studies with theories and methodological approaches.
- While we encourage students to reflect on the question drawing on their own experience and independent research, this is by no means necessary, nor it will automatically be considered an addition to the grade.
- In general, we prefer that students engage in-depth with fewer sources, rather than superficially with many texts, and thus show ability to think critically and independently.
- Students can add pictures, if those are helpful to the text, as long as they clarify where those are taken from and why.