

Anthropology of Politics in the United States: Fractures, Truth, Lies and Conspiracies in a Divided America

**ANTH
397AV**

CRN 17134

Tuesday-Thursday
2PM to 3:15PM

210 Neff Hall



Why is America so bitterly divided these days? Why can't people talk to each other? We investigate this problematic, identified by many students in the classroom, from the unique perspective of *Political Anthropology*.

With the rise of Fake News, and the reinforcing echo chambers we all live inside on social media, is there anymore such a thing as reality, truth, and facts? What can individuals do to create a civil sphere of dialogue, disagreement, even consensus?

We will engage interdisciplinary materials including texts in anthropology, news articles, mainstream publications and other media, to examine and address these questions.

The course will begin by orienting students to the unique perspective of political anthropology as it pertains to the *friend-foe binary* and alternative political forms. *Political Form* refers here to social and cultural arrangements that organize individual and collective life in relation to the exercise of power and the construction of authority.

Let's talk about the Political, the State, the Media, and everyday lives of folks like us