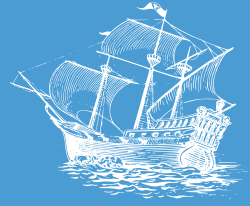


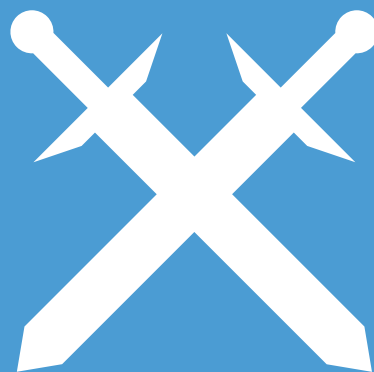
**ANTH 897**

# **Return to Empire: The Anthropology of War and Imperialism**



The conclusion of the Cold War coincided with a new period of globalization, leading many scholars, policy makers and commentators to anticipate a time of worldwide peace and prosperity. As the United States emerges from two decades of war in Iraq and Afghanistan with a global network of military bases and conflicting strategic objectives, it is only too clear that this possibility was not realized. Building on earlier critiques of colonialism and imperialism, anthropologists have turned their attention to understanding the contemporary experience of war and imperialism. This course explores these projects, with a focus on ethnographies of continual war, violent peace, and traumatic aftermaths. We will be particularly concerned with the everyday dimensions of conflict, exploring the ways in which bodies and spaces both shape and are shaped by the experience of war. How do ordinary people live with the material and remembered traces of violence? What about the anticipation and preparation for future conflict? We will be attentive to global flashpoints in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and the Caribbean, with a particular focus on the (re)militarization of East and Southeast Asia.

**Fall 2024**  
**Wednesdays**  
**3:30pm–6:00pm**



**with Professor Nelson**  
**[ctnelson@email.unc.edu](mailto:ctnelson@email.unc.edu)**