

Anthropology 604
CULTURAL METHOD AND THEORY
Tuesdays, 2:20 - 5:10 pm
Anthropology Building 214
Fall 2005

Office: Anthropology Building, Room 224

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 3:00-4:00 pm; Tues., 11:00-12:00 pm; and by appt.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad overview of the major developments in the subfield of cultural anthropology. This course should enable students able to identify and critically understand the major theories and methods that have shaped the discipline since the 19th century. As a general survey course, this course covers a variety of anthropological theories, ranging from the material to the post-modern. The course will also explore the methodological implications of different theoretical models.

For each theoretical approach, we will ask the following questions:

- What intellectual trends influenced the emergence of this theory? What is the social and historical context of this theory?
- What concepts and methods emerged with this approach?
- What are the underlying assumptions of this approach?
- What are the strengths and limits of this approach?
- What debates and controversies are associated with this approach?

This is a required course for all incoming graduate students in Cultural Anthropology, and all Ph.D. students in other subfields of anthropology. This course also serves as an introduction to the field for graduate students in other fields who are interested in anthropological method and/or theory.

The format of the course will include lectures by the instructor, student-led discussions of course readings, and student presentation of final research papers. Throughout the semester, there will also be several guest lectures by other faculty in the Cultural Anthropology Program.

REQUIRED READINGS

* J. McGee & R. Warms, *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. 3rd Edition.

* Philip Salzman, *Understanding Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theory*.

* *Anth 604 Course Reader*. Available at Notes & Quotes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Final grades are based on two exams, two critical summary papers (presented in class), and one longer research paper (presented in class)

Critical Summary Papers (20%)

During the semester, you will be responsible for preparing two short papers that will be presented in class. Each paper will provide a critical summary of one of the assigned articles for that day and serve as the basis for a mini-discussion that you will lead on that reading. In the paper, you should briefly outline the main arguments in the reading. Your writing should be critical in that you should point out the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments, and/or what you like and dislike about the reading. You should also try to relate the reading to other material that has been presented in class: How was the author influenced by intellectual trends of the time? How do the ideas in this article relate to some of the other readings in this class? Does the reading offer a different approach, or a modification of earlier works? Does it explicitly or implicitly challenge previous readings? Finally, you should prepare 2-3 questions for discussion based on this reading. To do this assignment well, you will probably need to do a small amount of additional research on the author and the impact of his/her work in anthropology. Each paper should be 3-4 double-spaced pages. You should list any sources you consulted in a "references consulted" section, even if they are not cited in your paper. You will be assigned one short paper before the midterm, and one short paper after the midterm. Papers are due on the MONDAY before the class meets on Tuesday. Each paper is worth 10% of the final grade.

Research Papers (30%). You will also be expected to write one 15-20 page, double-spaced, research paper. For this paper, you should write a critical "literature review" of a specific body of literature in cultural anthropology. (Your literature may include sources outside of cultural anthropology, but the majority of sources should be written by cultural anthropologists.) Ideally, you will select a body of literature that would be relevant for your M.A. or Ph.D. thesis. For example, if you are writing a thesis on household networks in Kazakhstan, the focus of your paper might be "literature on household economies" or "literature on social networks." Your literature review should be framed primarily as a topic; as necessary, a geographical area may be used to limit the scope further. (For example, "Anthropological Studies of Big Men in Melanesia," not "Anthropological Studies of Melanesia.") While your literature review might focus on a particular topic, your job is to provide a critical summary of the theoretical and methodological contributions of the literature. For advice on writing literature reviews, read the chapter by Morley Glicken, as well as other guides for preparing a dissertation. For examples of literature reviews, you might want to consult the *Annual Reviews in Anthropology*. A good literature reviews can be very challenging to write. You should work on this paper throughout the semester. You should have a minimum of 15 sources in your bibliography. A paper proposal is due on September 27. You will present your paper in class at the end of the semester. Final papers are due on the last day of class (November 29th).

Exams (40%). There will be two take-home exams for this class – a midterm and a final. Each exam will contain several essay questions. Each essay will require you to think critically about the materials discussed in class. You are welcome to use your notes and reading materials to prepare questions, and you are encouraged to discuss exam questions with other students in the class. However, the final product that you turn in must be in your own words and must represent your own ideas (i.e. no group papers).

Class Participation and Attendance (10%). Attendance is required, and participation in class discussions is an important component of this class. There is a lot of reading for this course. You should complete the assigned readings before each class meeting.

COURSE POLICIES

Late Papers. Late papers will be penalized two points for each weekday late. If the paper is extremely late, you may receive up to half the total points for the assignment. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Academic Dishonesty. All cases of plagiarism and cheating will be handled according to university policies. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you may will automatically receive a zero for the assignment (no makeups) and you may receive an F for the class.

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of the person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section "Scholastic Dishonesty."

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities are guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Special accommodations can be made for students with disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities (Room 126, Student Services Building, 845-1637).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Weekly Topics	Reading Assignments
8/30	Introduction to the Course Key Concepts in Cultural Anthropology	Salzman, Ch. 1
9/6	Nineteenth Century Evolutionism Historical Particularism	Stocking reading M/W – Spencer, Tylor, Morgan Marx reading M/W – Boas
9/13	Film: <i>Anthropology on Trial</i>	
9/20	<i>Library Research Methods</i> (Meet in Library, 2:20-3:30) The Foundations of Sociological Thought Structure and Function	M/W – Durkheim 1, Mauss M/W – Malinowski, Evans-Pritchard Stocking reading Salzman, Ch. 2-3
9/27	Culture and Personality French Structuralism <i>Paper Proposal Due</i>	M/W – Mead Salzman, Ch. 5 Benedict reading Freeman reading M/W – Levi-Strauss 1
10/4	Cultural Ecology and Neo-evolutionary Thought Neo-Materialism <i>Guest Lecture: Sylvia Grider</i> <i>Midterm Take-Home Exam Distributed</i>	M/W – Steward, White M/W - Harris, Rappaport Salzman, Ch. 4
10/11	Sociobiology, Evolutionary Psychology, & Behavioral Ecology <i>Guest Lecture: Mike Alvard (2:20 – 3:30 pm)</i> <i>Midterm Take-Home Exam Due</i>	M/W – Barkow, Bird et al. Salzman, Ch. 6 Mesoudi et al. reading Wilson reading
10/18	Ethnoscience and Cognitive Anthropology Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology	M/W – Conklin, Tyler, Strauss M/W - Douglas, Turner, Geertz
10/25	Anthropology and Gender: The Feminist Critique	M/W – Slocum, Leacock, Stoler Salzman, Ch. 7, pp.113-121 Rosaldo reading

11/1	Reflexivity and Post-Modernism	M/W – Rosaldo, Crapanzano, D'Andrade Salzman, Ch. 7, pp 121-125 Abu-Lughod reading Geertz reading Lett reading
11/8	Post-Structuralism Neo-Marxist Approaches in Anthropology	Foucault reading Bourdieu reading Giddens reading Mintz reading Taussig reading
11/15	Modernity, Identity, and Globalization in Anthropological Perspective Development Anthropology <i>Guest Lecture: Norbert Dannhaeuser</i>	Appadurai reading Said reading Anderson reading Wolf reading
11/22	<i>Student Paper Presentations</i>	
11/29	<i>Student Paper Presentations</i> <i>Research Paper Due</i> <i>Final Take-Home Exam Distributed</i>	
12/14	<i>Final Take-Home Exam Due No Later than 5:00 pm</i>	

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Course Reader

- (1) George W. Stocking, Jr. 1987. *Victorian Anthropology*. The Free Press/MacMillan. pp. 1-77.
- (2) Karl Marx. 1978. "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon" In Robert Tucker's *The Marx-Engels Reader*. Second Edition. New York: W.W. Norton. Pp. 594-617.
- (3) George W. Stocking, Jr. 1983. "The Ethnographers' Magic" in Stocking's *Observers Observed: Essays on Ethnographic Fieldwork*. Madison: University of Wisconsin. pp. 70-120.
- (4) Ruth Benedict. 2001. "The Individual and the Pattern of Culture." In Paul Erickson and Liam Murphy's *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory*. Broadview Press. Pp. 163-180.
- (5) Derek Freeman. 2001. "Mead's Misconstruing of Samoa." In *Paul Erickson and Liam Murphy's Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory*. Broadview Press. Pp. 454-465.
- (6) Alex Mesoudi, Andrew Whiten, and Kevin Laland. 2004. "Perspective: Is Human Cultural Evolution Darwinian? Evidence Reviewed from the Perspective of The Origin of Species." *Evolution* 58(1):1-11.
- (7) Edward Wilson. 1998. "Resuming the Enlightenment Quest" *The Wilson Quarterly* (Winter).
- (8) Michelle Rosaldo. 1974. "Women, Culture and Society: A Theoretical Overview" In Michelle Rosaldo and Louise Lamphere's *Women, Culture and Society*. Stanford.
- (9) Lila Abu-Lughod. 1991. "Writing Against Culture" In Richard Fox (ed.), *Recapturing Anthropology*. School of American Research.
- (10) Clifford Geertz. 1988. "Being Here: Whose Life is it Anyways?" *Works and Lives: The Anthropologist as Author*. Stanford University Press. Pp. 129-149.
- (11) James Lett. 1997. "Introduction - Art, Science and the Discipline of Anthropology" *Science, Reason and Anthropology*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- (12) Anthony Giddens. 1984. "Elements of the Theory of Structuration." In *The Constitution of Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 1-40.
- (13) Pierre Bourdieu. 1977. "Structures and the Habitus." In *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 72-95.

- (14) Michel Foucault. 2001. "Truth and Power." In Paul Erickson and Liam Murphy's *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory*. Broadview Press. Pp. 514-532.
- (15) Sidney Mintz. 1985. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. Introduction and Ch. 4.
- (16) Micheal Taussig. 1987. "Culture of Terror – Space of Death" in *Shamanism, Colonialism and the Wild Man: A Study in Terror and Healing*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pp. 3-36.
- (17) Eric Wolf. 1994. "Perilous Ideas: Race, Culture, People" *Current Anthropology* 35(1): 1-12.
- (18) Edward Said. 1995. "Orientalism, an Afterword" *Raritan* 14(3).
- (19) Arjun Appadurai. 1999. "Globalization and the Research Imagination" *International Social Science Journal* 51(Issue 160):229-238.
- (20) Benedict Anderson. 1983. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso. Introduction and Ch. 1. Pp. 11-40.
- (21) Morley Glick. 2003. "Literature Review," *Social Research: A Simple Guide*.