

Anthropology 390

HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY

Fall 2001-2002

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Tu/Th 11-12:20

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Office Hours: M 4:30-5:30 or
by appointment

Course description: The course traces prominent conversations in anthropology and their roots in classical social theory. To do this, the syllabus moves between contemporary and historical theoretical writings, as well as between theoretical and ethnographically oriented texts. Throughout the course we return to certain pivotal questions concerning the practice of anthropology and the conceptualization of culture: What is the relationship of the individual to the social world? How do power and conflict affect the way individuals conceive of their social world and the way anthropologists conceive of the worlds they study? Finally, what *is* culture and where should anthropologists look to find it?

Course requirements:

- 1) Seminar facilitation: Throughout the quarter, 2 students will introduce the assigned readings and help facilitate the discussions. Sign-up sheets will be passed out at the first meeting of class. Presentations and class participation account for 20% of the course grade.
- 2) Reading notes: Reading notes (of approximately one page) are required for a minimum of 15 discussion sections. Reading notes are reflections on the day's readings: statements of the argument(s), critical commentary, and discussion questions. Notes will be circulated among students at the beginning of class to help focus class discussions. Reading notes account for 10% of the course grade.
- 3) Writing: Two 7-10 page papers are required on topics related to the readings and to the central questions which weave the readings together. Suggested topics are included in the syllabus; students may also choose their own topics in consultation with the instructor. Papers must be double-spaced and in 12-point font. Each paper accounts for 35% of the course grade.

Due Dates:

Paper I: Monday, November 6th in class

Paper II: due December 13th in class*

*Note: this paper is due on the last day of class (not on Dean's Date). If this deadline poses undue hardship for any student, please contact me *at least one month ahead of time* to make alternative arrangements. Last minute extensions will not be granted except in the case of medical emergencies.

Course materials: A course reader is on sale at Pequod Copy. The following texts are required and are available for purchase at the Princeton U-Store. They are also on reserve at Firestone Library. (Please note that some texts may not be in stock at the beginning of the term but will be available shortly.)

Tucker, ed. Marx-Engels Reader

Renato Rosaldo, Culture and Truth

Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality, vol. I

Clifford Geertz, The Interpretation of Cultures

Jane Collier, From Duty to Desire

Dorinne Kondo, Crafting Selves

Recommended: Jerry D. Moore, Visions of Culture (includes an overview of the major theorists we will be discussing)

All course materials including the reader are on reserve at Firestone Library.

Schedule

September 13 Introduction

September 18 19th Century Evolutionism and Its Legacies

Erickson and Murphy, "Introduction to Nineteenth Century Foundations and Forerunners"

E.B. Tylor, "The Science of Culture" (skim)

Morgan, "Ethnical Periods"

Spencer, "The Organic Analogy Reconsidered"

Recommended:

Jerry D. Moore, "Edward Tylor: The Evolution of Culture" and "Lewis Henry Morgan: The Evolution of Society"

September 20 Durkheim and His Concept of Social Integrity

Durkheim, Elementary Forms of Religious Life (selections)

Durkheim, The Division of Labor in Society (selections)

September 25&27 Structural Functionalism and Its Extensions

Radcliffe Brown: "On the Concept of Function in Social Science"; "On Social Structure"

Malinowski, (from) "A Scientific Theory of Culture and Other Essays"

Malinowski, "Magic, Science, and Religion" (pp.)

Mary Douglas, Introduction" and "The Abominations of Leviticus" (from Purity and Danger)

E.R. Leach, Political Systems of Highland Burma (Intro&Conc)

October 2&4 The Emergence of American Anthropology and the Critique of the Comparative Method

Boas, "The Aim of Ethnology"

Boas, "The Limitations of the Comparative Method"

Boas, "Modern Populations of America"

Benedict, "The Integration of Culture" (from Patterns of Culture)

Benedict, "Self-Discipline" (from The Chrysanthemum and the Sword)

October 9&11 French Structuralism

Levi-Strauss: "The Effectiveness of Symbols"

Levi-Strauss, Tristes Tropiques ("Looking Back," "The Making of an Anthropologist," and "Pantanal")

October 16&18 Interpretivism and the Problem of Meaning

Giddens, Introduction to The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

Geertz, "Thick Description"

Geertz, "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight"

October 23&25 Marx and His Legacy

“The Communist Manifesto”

“Wage Labor and Capital,” pp. 203-217

Capital, vol. I: “The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof,” pp. 319-329

“The German Ideology” (focus on pp. 146-178)

Susan Willis: “Learning from the Banana” pp. 49-54; “Unwrapping Use Value”;

“Working Out” (from A Primer for Everyday Life)

FALL BREAK

November 6&8 Cultural Studies and Its Mandate

Rosaldo, Culture and Truth: The Remaking of Social

Analysis (Parts I, II)

“What is Cultural Studies (Becoming)?” UCSC Center for Cultural Studies Spring 1990
Newsletter

Paper I due *in class* on Nov. 6th

November 13&15 Practice, Resistance, and Neo-Marxism

Dirks, Eley, and Ortner, “Introduction” (from Culture/Power/History)

Williams, “Base and Superstructure” and “Hegemony” (from Marxism and Literature)

Willis, Learning to Labor (chapter 1, 2, 4, and pp. 119-126)

November 20 Post-structuralism in Ethnography and Constructions of Self

Kondo, Crafting Selves (chapters 1, 3, 6, 8)

THANKSGIVING

**November 27&29 Foucault’s Concept of Discourse: Rethinking Structuralism,
Marxism**

Foucault, The History of Sexuality (Parts I-III, Part IV Ch. 2 only)

Foucault for Beginners (selections)

Bell Hooks, “Postmodern Blackness” (a critique of postmodernism)

**December 4&6 Epistemological Questions: The Ethnographic Encounter,
Difference, and The Culture Concept**

Clifford, “Power and Dialogue in Ethnography: Marcel Griaule’s Initiation”

Griaule, “Conversations with Ogotemmêli” (skim for flavor)

Gupta and Ferguson, “Beyond Culture: Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference”

Film: *First Contact*

December 11&13 The Anthropology of Modernity

Collier, From Duty to Desire

Paper II due in class Dec. 13th