Anthropology 501:
History of Anthropological Thought
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:25-7:25
Room: Science 2, 143

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**Course Description:**
Anthropology 501 (History of Anthropological Thought) will introduce graduate students to the history of anthropology as a four-field discipline, and to the historical trends that have fashioned contemporary methods, theory and teaching in anthropology. Since the end of the 19th century, anthropology in the United States has been loosely unified as a holistic, four-field discipline. The four fields include: sociocultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, and linguistic anthropology. At the beginning of the 21st century, American anthropology has lost some of its cohesion, but it still retains a spirit of integration. The current debates resurrect some of the basic questions in anthropology and help to define and revitalize the discipline in some ways and instances, and to fragment it in others. In this seminar we seek to provide a historical context to the forces of integration and disintegration, fission and fusion, which make anthropology so dynamic and volatile as an academic discipline, intellectual approach, and body and practice of knowledge.

Course content will focus on the development of anthropological ideas within a holistic anthropology in the United States, with some reference to ideas and influences that have arisen in Europe and beyond. While the historical framework will focus on the period between the mid-19th century and the penultimate decade of the 20th, lectures and discussions will also engage both older influences and more recent trends, innovations, and complementary and discordant approaches, both in the subdisciplines and in the overall field of anthropology, broadly conceived.

We have divided the course into seven units of approximately two weeks each.

**Learning Objectives:**
At the end of this course, you should have knowledge of the history of anthropological thought. The course will aid you in developing a professional level proficiency in critical and constructive thought and to communicate complex ideas in writing. This course will help you to understand anthropological concepts at a professional level, and to be able to apply those in your own research. Students who complete this course will be able to:

- Identify historical theoretical positions and explain how they developed over time
- Compare and contrast different theoretical approaches to anthropology
- Define key anthropological concepts and apply them between and within cultures
- Use basic anthropological concepts to frame discussions and solve problems
- Discuss and critically assess the history of anthropology as a discipline
- Communicate anthropological concepts in their writing
- Define and understand the development and problems facing a four fields anthropology

The class meets for two, 2-hour sessions per week. Each class will consist of an hour lecture followed by an hour of discussion. Requirements for the course are the following:

**NB.** It is absolutely mandatory to complete the assigned reading in preparation for the class for which it is assigned. Failure to do the readings will seriously compromise your ability to follow classes, much less participate in them. Moreover, it will deprive you of the pleasure of mastery that being a well-informed, thoughtful member of the seminar can generate.
Course Texts
There are 13 books used as regular texts for this course. Each of these required texts is available through course reserves at the reading room. All other readings will be posted on Blackboard as pdf files. See the Course Readings section below. A ✡ denotes texts that are available online through the Binghamton University Library.

Required Texts
Anderson, B.

Douglas, M.

Erikson, P. and L. Murphy

Foucault, M.

Freud, S.

Martin, E.

Mauss, M.

Ortiz, F.

Schneider, D.

Spector, J.

Trouillot, M.

Weber, M.
Assessment:

Requirements for the course are the following:

1. **Annotations (30%)**: Over the semester you need to write annotations (see below) for 7 of the assigned readings, one from each unit. We will only count 6 toward the final grade, eliminating the lowest grade. Each annotation (minus the eliminated 7th) will contribute 5% for a total of 30% toward the final grade. Each annotation must be submitted at the class for which the reading is assigned. The very short excerpts (anything less than 10 pages) cannot be used for these annotations. The Erikson & Murphy text also cannot be used.

[We will workshop a trial annotation in our second meeting. In preparation, you must do a trial annotation of the Boas article available on Blackboard under Course Documents. This annotation will not be graded, but we will go over it in detail in class.]

2. **Group Work (30%)**: Each class will be an hour of lecture and an hour of group discussion. Each group will discuss a series of questions related to the lecture. In the last 20 to 30 minutes of class, we will ask the groups to report on their answers to the questions. Readings must be read in preparation for the day in which they are discussed in lecture. Your preparation for class is essential, as is your active engagement in the class. Your informed participation in the groups will be assessed on the extent to which your participation gives evidence of your having completed the readings and taken the time to think about them with care, generating insightful questions and observations.

3. **Exams (30%)**: You will write three 4 to 5 page essay exams. An exam will be given at the end of Unit 3 (covering Units 1-3), Unit 5 (covering Units 4 & 5) and Unit 7 (covering Units 6 & 7). Each will be worth 10% of your grade.

4. **Professional Development Projects (10%)**: Throughout the semester, the Anthropology Graduate Organization (AGO) will host a series of professional development seminars. You are required to attend 2 of these seminars and develop an academic curriculum vitae or resume as appropriate to your field.

**Annotation Template**: Each annotation should be 3-4 double-spaced pages in length.

1. What three quotes capture the critical import of the text?
2. What is the main argument of the text?
3. What evidence does the author employ to support his or her argument and how does the kind of evidence shape the argument?
4. Describe at least three ways that the main argument is supported.
5. Describe the main literatures that the text draws on and contributes to.
6. Describe at least three of the text’s themes or topics that are of significance to our understanding of the history of anthropology.
7. Explain how the book or essay could inform your research (as you imagine it), and/or how it shifts your understanding of the analytic possibilities of the discipline.
Academic Honesty and Professional Expectations

**Academic Honesty**: All students are expected to comply with the Binghamton University Academic Honesty Code. (http://www2.binghamton.edu/grad-school/faculty-and-staff/policy/academic-honesty-policy.html). If you violate this code you will receive an F in the course and be subject to disciplinary actions as provided in the code and implemented in the Graduate School. We expect all students to comport themselves in a professional manner in this class and exhibit respect for both the instructors and their fellow students at all times.

**Technology in the classroom**: During class, students are not allowed to use cell phones or other personal electronic devices in any way. In class, students may take notes on a portable computer but no other use of a portable computer is allowed.

**Workload**: The expectation at SUNY Binghamton is that for each credit hour of a course, students spend 3 hours in preparation during the week. For a 4-credit course, this means that students should be spending about 12 hours per week preparing for class. We assume that graduate students can read 1 page of academic writing in ~3 minutes; 200 pages of reading should require about 600 minutes, or 10 hours. Students should expect to be reading about 200-250 pages per week in addition to other course requirements.

**Style Matters**: All submitted work should follow the guidelines set forth in the American Anthropological Association’s style guide (available at http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). All papers should be double-spaced, 12 point font, in Times New Roman, with 1 inch margins on all sides, and page numbers. Citation should look like this: (Author Year: Page), e.g. (Wolf-Meyer 2009: 408). Failure to meet these standards will result in a reduced grade.
Unit 1: History & Crisis

August 25th – The Birth of Four Field Anthropology (McGuire)
Erikson, P. and L. Murphy

August 30th – The History of Anthropology (McGuire)
Erikson, P. and L. Murphy

Little, M.A.
2010 Franz Boas’s place in American Physical Anthropology and its Institutions.

Little, M.A. and R.W. Sussman.

Assignment:
Boas, F.

September 1st – The History of Anthropology (Wolf-Meyer)
de Saussure, F.

DuBois, W. E. B.

Freud, S.

Levi-Strauss, C.

Levi-Strauss, C.
September 6th – Crisis in Anthropological Knowledge Production (Wolf-Meyer)
Clifford, J., and G. Marcus, eds.
1986 Writing culture: The poetics and politics of ethnography. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Introduction, Chapters by Pratt & Asad]

Derrida, J.

Favret-Saada, J.
1981 Deadly words: Witchcraft in the bocage. New York: Cambridge University Press. [selections]

Geertz, C.

Trouillot, M.R.

September 8th – Crisis in Anthropological Knowledge Production (McGuire)

Harding, S.

Hodder, I.

Spector, J.

Zihlman, A.
Unit 2: Function

September 13th – Evolution, natural selection & Darwin (Merriwether)
TBD

September 15th – Social & Cultural Evolution (McGuire)
Adams, R.
Earle, T.
Sahlins, M.
Steward, J.
White, L.
**September 20th – Adaptation & cultural ecology (McGuire)**

Harris, M.

Netting, R.

Leslie, P.W. and M.A. Little

Rappaport, R.

Steward, J.

Thomas, D.H.

**September 22nd – The Culture Concept (Wolf-Meyer)**

Evans-Pritchard, E. E.
1976 Witchcraft, oracles and magic among the Azande. Norfolk, UK: Oxford University Press. [Chapters 1-3, 7, & 11]

Gupta, A., and J. Ferguson

Kroeber, A.

Sahlins, M.
1976 Culture and practical reason. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [Chapter 4]

Weber, M.
Unit 3: Materiality & Materialism

September 27th – Marx & Marxian Perspectives (McGuire)
Engels, F.
   1876   The Part Played by Labour in the Transition from Ape to Man.
   http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1876/part-played-labour/index.htm
Eldrige, N. and S.J. Gould
      Paleobiology 3, pp. 115-151
Leacock, E.
   1983   Interpreting the Origins of Gender Inequality: Conceptual and Historical
      Problems. Dialectical Anthropology 7:263-284
Patterson, T.
   2004   Social Archaeology and Marxist Social Thought. In A Companion to Social
Roseberry, W.

September 29th – Material Culture (McGuire)
Clifford, J.
      University of Harvard Press, Harvard. [Chapter 10]
Deetz, J.
   1977   In Small Things Forgotten. Anchor Books, New York. [Chapters 1 & 2]
Gathercole, P.
   1989   The Fetishism of Artifacts in Museum Studies in Material Culture, Susan Pearce,
Haury, E.W.
Jacknis, I.
   1985   Franz Boas and Exhibits: On the Limitations of the Museum Method of
      University of Wisconsin Press, Ed. by G.W. Stocking, pp.75-111, Madison.

October 4th (No classes – Rosh Hashanah)
October 6th – World Systems & Global Connections (Wolf-Meyer)
Abu-Lughod, J.
Mintz, S.
   1985 Sweetness and power. New York: Penguin. [Chapters 1 & 4]
Ortiz, F.
Wolf, E. R.

Assignment: Exam #1 Delivered. Due October 11th at 3:30 PM through Blackboard.
Unit 4: The Symbolic

October 11th – Meaning, Value, and Social Organization (Reno)
High, H.
Mauss, M.
Rijak, D.
Strathern, M.
Weiner, A.

October 13th – Origins of Language (Quam)
TBD

October 18th – Structuralism (Wolf-Meyer)
Douglas, M.
Levi-Strauss, C.
Ortner, S.
1972 Is female to male as nature is to culture? Feminist Studies 1(2):5-31.
Rubin, G.
Strathern, M.
October 20th – Language & Culture, 1950s-1970s (Perrino)

Duranti, A.

Gumperz, J.
1982  Contextualization Conventions In Discourse Strategies, ed. by Gumperz, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (pp. 130-152).

Gumperz, J.

Irvine, J.

Jakobson, Roman

Silverstein, M.
Unit 5: Power & Culture

October 25th – History (McGuire)
Kroeber, A.
Cobb, C.R.
Gould, S.J.
1989 *Wonderful Life*. WW Norton, New York. [Chapters 1 & 5]
Ortner, S.
Sahlins, M.

October 27th – Agency & Structure (Wolf-Meyer)
Bourdieu, P.
Foucault, M.

November 1st – Feminist Archaeology (Van Dyke)
Conkey, M.W. and J.M. Gero
1997 Programme to Practice: Gender and Feminism in Archaeology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 26: 411-437
Haraway, D.
Heitman, C.
Tringham, R.
Wylie, A.
November 3\textsuperscript{rd} – Feminist Ethnographic Approaches (Wolf-Meyer)

Ginsburg, F.


Lutz, C.


Martin, E.


Scheper-Hughes, N.


Assignment: Exam #2 Delivered. Due November 8th at 3:30 PM through Blackboard.
Unit 6: Race, Ethnicity, Nation

**November 8th – Nationalism & Ethnicity** (Wolf-Meyer)

Anderson, B.


Fanon, F.


Hobsbawm, E.


Sturm, C.


**November 10th – Archaeology: Race, Ethnicity and Nation** (McGuire)

Arnold, B.

1990 The Past as Propaganda: Totalitarian Archaeology in Nazi Germany. *Antiquity* 64:244-

Godsen, C.


Kohl, P.


McGuire, R.H.


Trigger, B.G.

November 15th – Race and Ethnicity as Analytic Concepts (Lipo)
Dunnell, R. C.
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1971 Systematics in Prehistory. Free Press, New York (Chapter 1)
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Mayr, E.
Shott, M. J.
Simberloff, Daniel
Sober, E.

November 17th – Race & Biology (Little)
AAPA Task Force
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Marks, J.
Provine, W.B.
Relethford, J.H.
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November 22nd – Biology as Ideology (Wolf-Meyer)
Leatherman, T., and A. Goodman
Schneider, D.
Yanagisako, S.
November 24th (No classes – Thanksgiving)

Unit 7: Practicing Anthropology

November 29th – Applied Anthropology (Ferradas)
TBD

December 1st – Politics and Ethics Surrounding Human Remains (Digangi)
Blakely, M and J Harrington

2007 Bones in the Basement: Postmortem Racism in 19th Century Medical Training. Smithsonian Institution Press. [selections]

Roach, M.


SWGANTH Guideline: Ethics. www.swganth.org

White, T.


December 6th – Politics & Anthropology; the Natives Talk Back (McGuire)
Deloria, V.


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Lewis, H.


Marks, J.


Zimmerman, L.


December 8th – Returning to Crisis Conditions (Wolf-Meyer)
Jones, D.


Nader, L.


Schepers-Hughes, N.


Trouillot, M.-R.

Assignment: Exam #3 Delivered. Due December 13th at 3:30 PM through Blackboard.