Spring 2018

ANTH 490: History of Anthropology

Meets: Monday and Wednesday from 12:30-1:45 in Miller Hall 2
Instructor: Dr. Eirik Saethre
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Office: Saunders 306
Office Phone: 956-3995
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:30-4:30

Course Description
This is a historical survey of watershed ideas, intellectual genealogies, and personalities that form the modern discipline of anthropology. This includes an understanding of the historical and discursive contexts for the advent and spread of these ideas and the personalities whose published writings received the most notoriety. Although our emphasis is on the modern discourses, we also take up the postmodern challenges and intellectual currents in interpretive ethnography and other critical theories that have redefined anthropology and challenged the concept of culture.

Course Objectives
- Students will explore the changing ways in which the diversity of human behavior, knowledge and experience has been understood throughout the history of anthropology.
- We will review the main schools of anthropological thought, including evolutionism, functionalism, structural functionalism, structuralism, interpretivism, political economy, and postmodernism.
- To illustrate national and international trends in the discipline, this course will review American, British, and South African anthropology.
- Through this course, students will develop the ability to think analytically and anthropologically.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:
- Formulate a scholarly argument within the historical context of anthropology.
- Think critically about the role of kinship, religion, economics, power, health, and gender within human society.
- Recognize the value of anthropological understandings as a tool for advocacy and social change.

Course Readings:
All readings for this class are posted as pdf documents on Laulima. If you choose to print the readings, be aware that (1) students enrolled in an anthropology course receive $40 of free printing in the computer lab on the third floor of Saunders and (2) there is free printing at Campus Center if you bring your own paper.
Grading and Student Evaluation

Exegesis Exercises (20% x 3 = 60%)
An exegesis is a critical explanation or interpretation of a text. Each assignment should contain two parts: First, choose one reading from the assigned week and write a two page analysis that concisely reviews the author’s main points and theories. What other writers or theories has the author incorporated into the article? What intellectual traditions does it draw from or reject? Look for both implicit and explicit influences. Use details from the reading to illustrate your assertions. Second, write a two page assessment that makes reference to all readings from the week. How do these authors’ works reflect the theme for the week? For instance, if we are discussing structuralism, explain how these articles reflect a structuralist paradigm. Finally, critique the week’s theme: what are the pros and cons of each approach? For this exercise, you do not need to provide in text citations or a bibliography.

The first exercise will be turned in on Monday Week 4, 5, or 6.
The first exercise will be turned in on Monday Week 8, 9, or 10.
The first exercise will be turned in on Monday Week 13, 14, or 15.

Quizzes (5% x 4 = 20%)
Brief pop quizzes will be randomly given at the beginning of some classes. The quizzes will be short answer and relate to the assigned readings for that day. Please keep up with the readings to ensure that you do well on the quizzes.

Final Exam (20%) – Friday May 11 from 12:00 to 2:00 pm
The final exam will consist of six to eight essay questions. Students may choose any two of the questions to answer. The exam will cover all material in the course, including readings and lectures. It will be held in our usual classroom.

Grading Scale

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Style and Formatting Guidelines
All student assignments for this course must follow the standards outlined in the document ‘Guidelines for Papers’, which is available on Laulima. Any paper not conforming to ALL of these guidelines will be penalized.

Late Papers
Unless otherwise stated, papers are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments (including first drafts) will lose ten percent for every day that elapses and on the sixth day, the student will receive a zero.

Classroom Policies
- Be on time. Turn off cell phones. No computers are allowed in class.
- All course handouts, readings, and assignments can be found on Laulima.
• Students are responsible for all course content, whether or not they are in class.
• You are also responsible for knowing about, and avoiding, academic dishonesty.
• For more information about writing resources on campus and online, go to http://www.mwp.hawaii.edu/writer_help.htm.
Class Schedule

Week 1: Introducing Anthropology
1/8 Introduction to the class
Optional: Introducing Anthropology – Merryl Wyn Davies (selected pages)
1/10 The Organic Analogy Reconsidered – Herbert Spencer
The Science of Culture – Sir Edward Burnet Tylor
Ethnical Periods – Lewis Henry Morgan

Week 2: Political Economy
1/15 No class: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/17 Feuerbach – Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
Bourgeoisie and Proletarians – Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
Optional: Introducing Marxism – Rupert Woodfin and Oscar Zarate (selected pages)

Week 3: Society and Power
1/22 What Is a Social Fact? – Emile Durkheim
Elementary Forms of Social Life – Emile Durkheim (Introduction)
Excerpts from The Gift – Marcel Mauss
1/24 Class, Status, Party – Max Weber
The Sociology of Charismatic Authority – Max Weber

Week 4: American Cultural Anthropology
1/29 The Methods of Ethnology – Franz Boas
On the Principle of Order in Civilization as Exemplified by Changes of Fashion – A. L. Kroeber
Franz Boas and the Culture Concept in Historical Perspective – George Stocking
1/31 Introduction to Coming of Age in Samoa – Margaret Mead
The Science of Custom – Ruth Benedict

Week 5: British Social Anthropology
2/5 The Essentials of the Kula – Bronislaw Malinowski
Mother’s Brother in South Africa – A.R. Radcliffe-Brown
2/7 The Notion of Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events – E. E. Evans-Pritchard
Betwixt and Between – Victor Turner

Week 6: Structuralism
2/12 Course in General Linguistics – Ferdinand de Saussure (Part 1)
Structural Analysis in Linguistics and Anthropology – Claude Levi-Strauss
Optional: Saussure for Beginners – W. Terrence Gordon & Abbe Lubell (selected pages)
2/14 Is Male to Female as Nature is to Culture? – Sherry Ortner
Outline of a Theory of Practice – Phillipe Bourdieu (Chapter 2)
Week 7: Evolutionary Thought and Neomaterialism
2/19 No class: President’s Day
2/21 Energy and the Evolution of Culture – Leslie White
The Cultural Ecology of India’s Sacred Cattle – Marvin Harris

Week 8: Symbolic and Interpretive Approaches
2/26 Purity and Danger – Mary Douglas (Chapters 2 & 3)
2/28 The Interpretation of Culture – Clifford Geertz (Chapters 1 & 15)

Week 9: Creating Ethnicity in South Africa
3/5 Analysis of a Social Situation in Modern Zululand – Max Gluckman
Max Gluckman and the Critique of Segregation in South African Anthropology – Paul Cocks
3/7 The Roots and Development of Volkekunde in South Africa – John Sharp
Apartheid’s Anthropologists – Robert Gordon

Week 10: The Culture Concept in South Africa
3/12 Today We Have a Naming of Parts – Adam Kuper
Culture – Robert Thornton
3/14 Abafazi baThonga Bafihlakala – David Webster
A Tale of Two Cultures – Eirik Saethre and Jonathan Stadler

Week 11: Film
3/19 District 9 (Part 1)
3/21 District 9 (Part 2)

Spring Break 3/26-3/30

Week 12: Power and Agency
4/2 Discipline and Punish – Michel Foucault (selected pages)
Optional: Foucault for Beginners – L. A. Fillingham (selected pages)
4/4 Weapons of the Weak – James Scott (Chapter 2 & Pp. 239-278)

Week 13: Representations
4/9 Orientalism – Edward Said (Chapter 1)
4/11 Time and the Other – Johannes Fabian (Chapter 3)
Postmodern Ethnography – Stephen Tyler
Optional: Introducing Postmodernism – Richard Appignanesi and Chris Garratt (selected pages)

Week 14: Advocacy, Ethics, and Public Anthropology
4/16 The Primacy of the Ethical – Nancy Scheper-Hughes
Infections and Inequalities – Paul Farmer (Chapter 7)
4/18 Thinking Sex – Gayle Rubin
Re-Orienting Desire – Joseph Massad
Week 15: Changing and Globalizing Economies
4/23   Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy – Arjun Appadurai
       In Search of Respect – Philippe Bourgois (Chapter 4)
       Debt – David Graeber (Chapters 1 & 2)

Week 16: Conclusions
4/30   Vita – Joao Biehl (Pp. 35-53 & Part 2)
5/2    Class Review
       FINAL DRAFT DUE

Week 17: Final Exam
Friday May 11 from 12:00-2:00 pm