601 Ethnology Fall 2015

Informations

- M 0130-0400p SAUND 329 08/24-12/18
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Description

This course provides an overview of the development of anthropological theory from 1887 to the present. A major part of the course will be a close reading of non-anthropological 'theorists' who have influenced the discipline. This semester in addition to anthropologists we will be reading Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Bourdieu, Foucault, and Latour. For this reason I hope it will appeal to non-anthropologists. However, I will emphasize that this is the graduate core course for cultural anthropologists and thus does not pull its punches.

Given the depth and breadth of the subject, this course is not exhaustive. Rather, the goal is to:

Give you the cultural capital necessary to pursue an academic career by sharing with you the shared conceptual references of our discipline.

Give you a starting place for your own use of these thinkers, and to give you a chance to decide which of them most suits you.

Provide you a set of resources so that you will come to your next, fuller encounter with these thinkers equipped with the resources to truly engage them.

We will be using the Melbourne Method to organize our discussion seminar. This method emphasizes constant focus and attention on small assignments and deemphasizes large end of semester projects like final papers. The average load will be about 4 articles, or 100-200 pages of reading. Please realize this is a lot to get through, since many of the readings will be poorly written, conceptually difficult, and full of specialized vocabulary.

Who Should Take This Course

- Anthropology graduate students
- Honors students majoring in anthropology (or, perhaps, adjacent disciplines)
- Graduate students in fields adjacent to anthropology such as ethnobotany, linguistics, geography, and sociology who seek a grounding in either 1)
After you finish this course you will be able to:

- Analyze the claims, reasons, and evidence of major thinkers and compare them to one another
- Use the primary sources we read in class to construct a workable intellectual genealogy for yourself and your project, especially in the context of dissertation proposals and other academic genres
- Take a personal position on the fundamental epistemological and metaphysical issues of our discipline
- Make a twenty-minute long academic oral presentation
- Develop interpretive questions about a text through small group discussion
- Explain the empirical and theoretical shortcomings of Western views of language as reference and predication to an undergraduate class
- Respectfully critique student presentations in a seminar context
- Teach ANTH 490, the undergraduate history of anthropology course

Schedule

1 24 Aug Introduction
- Boas, Study of Geography

2 31 Aug Boasians
- Lowie, Culture and Ethnology
- Benedict, Culture Configurations in North America
- Windelband, History and Natural Science

== 7 Sep Labor day no class ==

3 14 Sep Bohemians
- Deloria
- de Angulo
- Hurston
- Dunham?

4 14 Sep Weber
- Objectivity essay

5 21 Sep Durkheim
- Mauss, The Gift
- Durkheim, Elementary Forms of the Religious Life

6 28 Sep Social Anthropology
- Radcliffe-Brown
- Malinowski
  - Argonauts
  - Coral Gardens and Their Magic
- Gluckman

7 5 Oct Lévi-Strauss
- Early
- Pensée Sauvage/Mythologiques

8 12 Oct Interpretive Anthropology
- Geertz, Thick Description
- Turner
- Douglas

9 19 Oct Marx
- Selections TBA

10 26 Oct Columbia Materialism
- Steward
- Wolf
• Mintz

11 2 Nov Structure and Agency
• Sahlins
• Bourdieu

12 9 Nov Foucault
• Discipline and Punish
• Late Foucault on ethics

13 16 Nov Anti-Anthro
• Trouillot, Savage Slot
• Abu-Lughod, Writing Against Culture
• Appadarui, Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Economy

14 23 Nov Rice Circle and Native Studies
• Clifford
• Diaz and Kauanui, Native Pacific Cultural Studies On The Edge

15 30 Nov Latour and Deleuze
• Latour
• Deleuze
• Stengers?

16 7 Dec Recent developments
• Anthropology of Ethics
  • Robbins
  • The ethics edited volume
• Ontology
  • Viveiros de Castro
• Indigeneity
- Tallbear, Simpson