

University of Utah
Anthropology 4165: History of Anthropology
Fall 2012
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:20
Stewart 216

Instructor: Thomas Flamson
Email: thomas.flamson@anthro.utah.edu
Office: Stewart 101B
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30 – 4:30; Thursdays, 11:00 – 12:00; or by appointment

SYLLABUS

Description: This course will survey the history of anthropology, both as a scientific enterprise and as the product of historical circumstances. We will explore the various theories developed over the history of the discipline to explain human behavior and ideas. We will also investigate the personalities behind these developments, the social factors influencing them, and the ways in which anthropology has impacted the culture at large. Although this class is focused primarily on social and cultural anthropology (and the British and American traditions in particular), the inherent holism of anthropological research will inevitably bring linguistic, biological, and archaeological theories and data to bear, as well. The aim of this course is to foster an appreciation of how the diversity of theoretical and methodological approaches, both past and present, enable anthropology to hold its unique place in Western thought.

Lectures: We will be covering a lot of material every class meeting, and attendance is essential. The PowerPoint slides used in each lecture will be available on the class website the following day as Adobe Acrobat pdfs (if you do not already have it, google “Acrobat Reader” to download the free program that will let you view these files). Viewing these slides is not a substitute for attending lecture – they will contain illustrations and topic headings, but the substance of each lecture will be delivered in class.

The professor will be responsible for providing additional, contextual material to frame our discussion and to provide more depth. But it is important that students come to class prepared to participate in class discussion, having read the texts and thought about them deeply beforehand.

We may also watch some films over the course of the semester, and as they may not be available outside of class, either online or on reserve at the library, lecture may be your only opportunity to see them. I will make announcements both in lecture and via email the week before we watch them.

Texts: Thomas Eriksen & Finn Nielsen, *A History of Anthropology*, Pluto Press, 2001
R. Jon McGee & Richard Warms, *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*,
5th edition, McGraw Hill, 2012
Additional readings posted on the course website

You are expected to have completed the readings listed for each week *prior* to the Tuesday session. Please check the weekly reading assignment in the syllabus carefully, and be sure to allow plenty of time to complete them, as there are usually about 100 pages assigned each week.

The lecture and discussion will largely follow the chronology of the textbook, so students are recommended to begin with that before moving on to the readings. In addition, the readings are

listed in the approximate order they will be addressed, even if this puts them out of sequence with the page numbers in the reader.

The online readings are noted on the syllabus; any changes will be announced in lecture. Copies of the books will also be on reserve at the Marriott library, for 3-hour check-out. You will need your student ID to check them out.

Grading:	Reading Presentations (10):	15%
	Response Essays (4):	40%
	Research Project (Paper & Presentation):	25%
	Final Project (Paper & Presentation):	20%

Reading Presentations: On weeks without presentations of research projects (see below), each student will be expected to provide a brief, 5-10 minute presentation on one of the readings assigned for that week. The presentation will consist of a summary of the reading itself, answering a few questions from other students, and presenting a broad discussion question to the class. These will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Readings will be assigned at the beginning of each section, and student preferences will be weighed heavily, but cannot always be guaranteed.

Response Essays: At the conclusion of each section, the professor will present a prompt for a brief essay assignment of 2-3 pages, due three days after the class meeting, and submitted on the course website. Each of these will be worth 10% of your course grade, and will be graded on a letter basis. Students who were responsible for a research project for a particular section (see below), will *not* have to complete the response essay.

Research Project: Each student will prepare a research project for one of the sections. This project will consist of original research into a significant controversy stemming from that period in the history of anthropology. Students will meet with the professor to discuss potential cases to research, and to avoid duplication with other students.

The project will consist of both a paper (6-8 pages long) and an oral presentation during the final class meeting of the section. The exact length and requirements of the presentation will depend in part on class enrollment, so the details will be discussed in class. Part of the presentation will include fielding questions from the class, and it is expected that this feedback will be incorporated into the paper, where appropriate. The paper will then be due three days after the section ends.

The paper (worth 20% of the course grade) will be graded on a letter basis; the presentation (worth 5% of the course grade) will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

Final Project: The final project will consist of an exploration of the current state of a particular branch of anthropology. Using the abstracts from the 2012 AAA Conference as a starting point, each student will choose one section, describe the state of current research in that field, and compare and contrast that with key moments in the history of that intellectual tradition. The exact details will be discussed in class after sections have been selected.

The project will consist of both a paper (4-6 pages long) and an oral presentation during the final exam period, Tuesday, Dec. 11th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. The exact length and requirements of the presentation will depend in part on class enrollment, so the details will be discussed in class. The paper will be due at the final exam.

The paper (worth 15% of the course grade) will be graded on a letter basis; the presentation (worth 5% of the course grade) will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

SCHEDULE

Subject to change

“Textbook” refers to Eriksen & Nielsen 2001; “Reader” refers to McGee & Warms 2012;

“Online” refers to articles posted on the course website

SECTION 1: THE ROOTS OF ANTHROPOLOGY (Pre-1920)

Week 1: Introduction to Anthropology / Ancient & Colonial Origins (8/21 & 8/23)

READINGS: *Textbook*, Ch. 1: Beginnings, pp. 1-15;

Online, Montaigne: “Of Cannibals”

Week 2: The Origins of Modern Anthropology (8/28 & 8/30)

READINGS: *Textbook*, Ch. 2: Victorians, Germans, and a Frenchman, pp. 16-35;

Reader, “Introduction,” pp. 1-4;

“Nineteenth Century Evolutionism,” pp. 6-13;

Spencer: “The Social Organism,” pp. 13-30;

Morgan: “Ethnical Periods,” pp. 45-57;

Tylor: “The Science of Culture,” pp. 30-45;

“The Foundations of Sociological Thought,” pp. 74-77;

Marx & Engels: “Feuerbach. Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook,” pp. 57-73;

Durkheim: “What is a Social Fact?” pp. 78-85;

Weber: “Class, Status, Party,” pp. 97-110

RESPONSE ESSAY 1 due on 9/2

SECTION 2: THE BIRTH OF ANTHROPOLOGY (1920-1945)

Week 3: Functionalism / Historical Particularism (9/4 & 9/6)

READINGS: *Textbook*, Ch. 3: Four Founding Fathers, pp. 36-53;

Reader, “Functionalism,” pp. 150-154;

Malinowski: “The Essentials of the Kula,” pp. 154-170;

Radcliffe-Brown: “On Joking Relationships,” pp. 170-181;

Mauss: Excerpts from *The Gift*, pp. 85-97;

“Historical Particularism,” pp. 112-117;

Boas: “The Methods of Ethnology,” pp. 117-124

Week 4: Culture and Personality / Cultural History (9/11 & 9/13)

READINGS: *Textbook*, Ch. 4: Expansion and Institutionalism, pp. 54-75;

Reader, “Culture and Personality,” pp. 195-200;

Benedict: “Psychological Types in the Cultures of the Southwest,” pp. 200-210;

Mead: Introduction to *Coming of Age in Samoa*, pp. 211-217;

Kroeber: “Eighteen Professions,” pp. 125-131

Week 5: Ethnolinguistics / Structural-Functionalism (9/18 & 9/20)

READINGS: *Reader*, Whorf: "The Relation of Habitual Thought and Behavior to Language," pp. 131-149;

Online, Redfield: excerpts from *Tepoztlan: A Mexican Village*;

Firth: excerpts from *We, The Tikopia*;

Fortes & Evans-Pritchard: excerpts from *African Political Systems*

PRESENTATIONS on 9/25

RESPONSE ESSAY 2 due on 9/28

SECTION 3: THE RISE OF ANTHROPOLOGY (1945-1970)

Week 6: Neoevolutionism (9/27)

READINGS: *Textbook*, Ch. 5: Forms of Change, pp. 76-95;

Reader, "The Reemergence of Evolutionary Thought," pp. 220-223;

White: "Energy and the Evolution of Culture," pp. 223-242;

Steward: "The Patrilineal Band," pp. 243-258

Week 7: Manchester & Cambridge / Role Analysis / Systems Theory (10/2 & 10/4)

READINGS: *Reader*, Gluckman: "The Licence in Ritual," pp. 181-194;

Online, Polanyi: excerpts from *The Great Transformation*;

Barnes: "Class and Committees in a Norwegian Island Parish";

Barth: *Models of Social Organization*;

Goffman: "On Face-Work: An Analysis of Ritual Elements in Social Interaction";

Bateson: "A Theory of Play and Fantasy"

FALL BREAK – NO CLASS on 10/9 & 10/11

Week 8: Symbolic Anthropology / Interpretive Anthropology / Ethnoscience (10/16 & 10/18)

READINGS: *Textbook*, Ch. 6: The Power of Symbols, pp. 96-110;

Reader, "Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology," pp. 438-440;

Turner: "Symbols in Ndembu Ritual," pp. 449-467;

Douglas: "External Boundaries," pp. 440-449;

Geertz: "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight," pp. 467-487;

"Ethnoscience and Cognitive Anthropology," pp. 344-347;

Conklin: "Hanunóo Color Categories," pp. 348-352;

Tyler: "Introduction to Cognitive Anthropology," pp. 352-367

Week 9: Structuralism (10/23)

READINGS: *Reader*, "Structuralism," pp. 320-322;

Lévi-Strauss: "Four Winnebago Myths: A Structural Sketch," pp. 322-330

PRESENTATIONS on 10/25

RESPONSE ESSAY 3 due on 10/28

SECTION 4: THE DILEMMA OF ANTHROPOLOGY (1970-1990)

Week 10: Neomaterialism / Political Economy (10/30 & 11/1)

READINGS: *Textbook*, Ch. 7: Questioning Authority, pp. 111-134;
Reader, “Neomaterialism: Evolutionary, Functionalist, Ecological, and Marxist,” pp. 259-262;
 Fried: “On the Evolution of Social Stratification and the State,” pp. 263-277;
 Harris: “The Cultural Ecology of India's Sacred Cattle,” 277-292;
 Rappaport: “Ritual Regulation of Environmental Relations among a New Guinea People,” pp. 293-306;
 Wolf: “Peasantry and Its Problems,” pp. 306-319;
Online, Mintz: “From Plantations to Peasantries in the Caribbean”

Week 11: Gender / Ethnicity / Sociobiology (11/6 & 11/8)

READINGS: *Reader*, “Anthropology and Gender,” pp. 396-398;
 Ortner: “Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?” pp. 330-343;
 Slocum: “Woman the Gatherer: Male Bias in Anthropology,” pp. 399-408;
 Leacock: “Interpreting the Origins of Gender Inequality: Conceptual and Historical Problems,” pp. 408-423;
 “Sociobiology, Evolutionary Psychology, and Behavioral Ecology,” pp. 370-372;
 Wilson: “The Morality of the Gene,” pp. 373-378;
Online, Said: excerpt from *Orientalism*

Week 12: Postmodernism (11/13)

READINGS: *Textbook*, Ch. 8: The End of Modernism, pp. 135-156;
Reader, “Background to Postmodernism,” pp. 488-492;
 Bourdieu: “Structures, Habitus, Practices,” pp. 492-508;
 Foucault: “The Incitement to Discourse,” pp. 508-519

AAAs – FINAL PROJECT PREP on 11/15

Week 13: Postmodernism, cont. (11/20)

READINGS: *Reader*, “Post Modernism and Its Critics,” pp. 520-524;
 Abu-Lughod: “A Tale of Two Pregnancies,” pp. 539-549;
 Rosaldo: “Grief and a Headhunter's Rage,” pp. 524-539;
 Hanson: “The Making of the Maori: Cultural Invention and Its Logic,” pp. 549-564;
Online, Sokal: “What the Social Text affair does and does not prove”

THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS on 11/22

PRESENTATIONS on 11/27

RESPONSE ESSAY 4 due on 11/30

SECTION 5: CONTEMPORARY ANTHROPOLOGY (1990-Present)

Week 14: Globalization / Power (11/29)

READINGS: *Textbook*, Ch. 9: Reconstructions, pp. 157-178;
Reader, “Globalization, Power, and Agency,” pp. 565-567;
Appadurai: “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy,”
pp. 567-587;
Bourgois: “From Jíbaro to Crack Dealer: Confronting the Restructuring of
Capitalism in El Barrio,” pp. 587-602

**Week 15: Cognitive Anthropology / Evolutionary Anthropology / Biocultural Anthropology
(12/4 & 12/6)**

READINGS: *Online*, D'Andrade: “A Folk Model of the Mind”;
Sperber: “Mental Modularity and Cultural Diversity”;
Strauss & Quinn: “Schema Theory and Connectionism”;
Lakoff & Johnson: excerpts from *Metaphors We Live By*;
Tooby & Cosmides: “Evolutionary psychology and the generation of culture:
I. Theoretical considerations”;
Boyd, Richerson & Henrich: “The cultural niche: Why social learning is
essential for human adaptation”
Reader, Bliege Bird, Smith, & Bird: “The Hunting Handicap: Costly Signaling in
Human Foraging Strategies,” pp. 379-395;

RESPONSE ESSAY 5 due on 12/9

FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS on Tuesday, 12/11, 1:00 – 3:00