

Proseminar in Sociocultural Anthropology  
ANTH 6102  
CRN: 82048  
Time: Th 10-12.30  
Location: HAH 202  
Instructor: Joel Kuipers

This seminar is designed as a core course for graduate students in anthropology, graduate students in other fields, and advanced undergraduates who have an interest in social theory and anthropology. We consider modern anthropological responses to two questions of intellectual and social importance: How are societies ordered? How are groups different from one another (e.g. in their knowledge, values, practices)? Though no course could possibly cover comprehensively all approaches to these questions, we will consider a selection of historically and thematically organized approaches by reading and discussing them intensively. Because social theory consists not only of a body of facts and propositions, but also debates and controversies, we will need to come to class prepared to participate in lively discussion and dialogue. To do this, starting with week 2, each Tuesday by 2 PM, each student will have framed and written a well thought out question or comments for discussion related to the week's readings and posted this question on the course Blackboard site under Discussion. Then, by Wednesday at 2 pm, each student will have posted a response to at least one of the questions posted the day earlier. In addition, pairs of students will lead class discussion in each session, and their joint posting will contain a more extensive list of questions and points for discussion.

You will each write two short "response essays," of 3-4 (typed, double-spaced) pages. For each of two weeks of your choosing, write an essay about some of the ideas, claims, arguments, and findings found in the readings. You might explore methods, take issue with claims, or relate the readings to other work with which you are familiar. You should not undertake outside reading or research in order to write these essays. The first must be posted on Blackboard by September 25<sup>th</sup>, the second by October 20<sup>th</sup>. The third and final paper must be a 10 page double spaced AAA style paper that brings together some aspect of theory that we have discussed in class and some body of data, either original data that you have collected or data repurposed for this analysis. You will post the paper on Blackboard and present it as a 10 minute, approximately 4 slide PowerPoint on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

1. 8/28 Introductory perspectives
  
2. 9/4 Durkheim – Mauss - Levi-Strauss. Guest: Professor Richard Grinker, Chair of Anthropology.  
Read:
  - a. "Emile Durkheim" (including Selections from Division of Labor, Suicide, Rules of Sociological Method, and Elementary Forms of Religious Life)
  - b. Marcel Mauss "The Gift"
  - c. Radcliffe-Brown "On Joking Relationships"

- d. Levi-Strauss “The Problem of Incest” “Universe of Rules” “Endogamy and Exogamy” “the Principle of Reciprocity” “Dual Organizations” from The Elementary Structures of Kinship
  - e. Grinker Houses in the Rainforest [chapter 3]
3. 9/11 Social and Historical Contexts of Early Anthropological Theory: Evolution and “Culture” vs. “cultures” Guest: Andrew Zimmerman, Professor of History, GWU.
- a. E. B. Tylor, “Man, ancient and modern,” in *Anthropology*, 1881.
  - b. E. B. Tylor, *Primitive Culture* (selections), 1871.
  - c. Franz Boas, “The limitations of the comparative method in anthropology” (1896), in Boas, *Race, Language, and Culture*, pp. 270-280.
  - d. Franz Boas, “The instability of human types” and “Race, language, and culture,” in Boas, *The Mind of Primitive Man*, 1911 pp. 74-98; 145-159
  - e. Geertz “The Impact of the Concept of Culture on the Concept of Man”
  - f. Zimmerman “Primitive Art, Primitive Accumulation, and the Origin of the Work of Art in German New Guinea” in *History of the Present: A Journal of Critical History*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Summer 2011.
4. 9/18 Race and Anthropology. Guest: Professor Jennifer Nash, Department of American Studies  
Read:
- a. Lee Baker [various chapters] in From Savage to Negro
  - b. Michel Rolph Trouillot “On the Savage Slot”
  - c. Jennifer Nash “Re-Thinking intersectionality”
5. 9/25 Material Practices - Marx – Bourdieu.
- a. Marx “the Eighteenth Brumaire”
  - b. Marx “theses on Feuerbach”
  - c. Bourdieu excerpts from Outline of a Theory of Practice
  - d. Dent “Piracy Circulatory Legitimacy, and Neoliberal Subjectivity in Brazil”
6. 10/2 *Verstehen* and Culture as a System of Meaning. Weber – Geertz. Kuipers
- a. Max Weber, sections from *Economy and Society*, 1980 (1910s)
  - b. Max Weber, “Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism”
  - c. Geertz “Thick Description”
  - d. Kuipers “Evidence and Authority in Ethnographic and Linguistic Perspective”
7. 10/9 – Conflict, Ideology and the Construction of Interested actors - Gluckman, Gramsci, Goffman – Guest: Steve Lubkemann
- a. Gluckman “Kingdom of the Zulu in South Africa” in African Political Systems
  - b. Gramsci “Selection from the Prison Notebooks”
  - c. Goffman “[selections TBA]”
  - d. Lubkemann [selections TBA]

8. 10/16 – The Emergence and Autonomy of Discourses as Objects of Study: Foucault.  
Guest: Professor Ilana Feldman
  - a. Foucault “Governmentality”
  - b. Foucault “Discipline” in Discipline and Punish
  - c. Feldman “Governing Gaza” [excerpts]
  
9. 10/23 – Language, Linguistics, and the Ethnography of Language
  - a. Sapir “The status of linguistics as a science”
  - b. Conklin “Hanuno’o Color Categories”
  - c. Bauman “Performance”
  - d. Hymes “Ethnography of Communication”
  - e. Woolard “Code Switching”
  - f. Kuipers “Medical Discourse”
  
10. 10/30 – Globalization – Guest: Joshua Bell Curator of Globalization, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution
  - a. Marcus, G. 1995 "Ethnography in/of the World System: the Emergence of Multi-sited Ethnography." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24:95-117.
  - b. Tsing, A. 2000 "The Global Situation." *Cultural Anthropology* 15(3): 327-360.
  - c. Mazzarella, W. 2004. "Culture, Globalization, Mediation." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 33: 345-367
  - d. Cooper, Frederick 2009. “Space, Time, and History: The Conceptual Limits of Globalization.” In *Empirical futures : anthropologists and historians engage the work of Sidney W. Mintz*. G. Baca, A. Khan, and S. Palmié, eds. University of North Carolina Press. Pp. 31-57
  - e. Tsing, A. 2009. “Supply Chains and the Human Condition.” *Rethinking Marxism* 21(2): 148-176.
  - f. Bell, J. A. 2006. ‘Marijuana, Guns, Crocodiles and Radios: Economies of Desire in the Purari Delta.’. *Oceania* 76:220-234.
  
11. 11/6 Film – watch the film *35 Up* and respond to prompts on BB
  
12. 11/13 – Subjectivity
  - a. Ortner, Sherry “Subjectivity and Cultural Critique”
  - b. Luhrman, Tanya “Subjectivity”
  - c. Beneveniste, Emile “Subjectivity in Language”
  - d. Marcus Gary “The Riddle of Consciousness”
  - e. Satel and Lilienfeld Brainwashed [excerpts]
  
13. 11/20 – Gender and Post coloniality – Guest: Professor Attiya Ahmad
  - a. Engels “On the Origin of the Family”
  - b. Ortner “Nature and Culture”

- c. Nancy Chodorow “Family Structure and Feminine Personality”
- d. Lila Abu Lughod “Do Muslim Women Need Saving?” [excerpts]
- e. Saba Mahmood [excerpts TBA]
- f. Ahmad Attiya [excerpt TBA]

#### 14. 12/4 Presentations

Participation	10%
Blackboard discussion	10%
Week joint presentation	10%
Paper 1	20%
Paper 2	20%
Final paper	30%