

**ANTHROPOLOGY 198:
FOUNDATIONS OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL THOUGHT**
(Fall Semester 2006)

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 4-6 pm

This course will review major theories that underlie thought and research in anthropology. We will trace the historical development of anthropology as a discipline, reviewing "classic" works of major theorists as well as contemporary approaches to formulating and researching anthropological "problems". This course should prepare you to understand and evaluate anthropological research and writing and recognize the influence of anthropological concepts and theories in contemporary social science and public discourse. It should also provide you with a basis for critically assessing and using theoretical frameworks to interpret data.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists by J. D. Moore

Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History Eds. R. Jon McGee and R.L. Warmes

Culture and Public Action eds. V. Rao and M. Walton

Modernity at Large by Arjun Apaddurai

-or-

Anthropological Locations eds. Akhil Gupta and James Ferguson

The Nuer by E. Evans-Pritchard

Nuer Dilemmas: Coping With Money, War, and the State by Sharon Hutchinson

Additional reading assignments will be handed out in class or put on Reserve in Gelman Library . the Anthropology Department Office, or/and on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Attendance and participation are important responsibilities of each student. Students are expected to arrive on time.
- B. Critical Reading Synthesis Papers: This is a reading intensive class. Students are expected to keep up the readings and come prepared to discuss them. Throughout the course each student will be required to write four papers (of approximately 750-1250 words-3-5 pgs.- in length) in which they will critically review readings from the weeks since the previous

synthesis paper. The instructors will provide students with questions /themes with which to organize these papers. Students will critically compare and contrast different theoretical approaches and their implications and examine how anthropology's theoretical ideas may continue to inform contemporary thinking. **Each of the 4 Critical Reading Synthesis papers will be worth 15% of your grade.**

- C. "Ancestors Revisited" Paper: Each student will prepare a 750-1250 word (3-5 pages) critical discussion that compares The Nuer (E.Evans-Pritchard) and Nuer Dilemmas (Sharon Hutchinson) and that critically discusses how Hutchinson's "re-study" reflects important shifts as well as continuities in anthropological theory and method. **This paper will be worth 10% of your grade.**
- D. Outline and Oral Presentation: Each student will be required to participate at least once in leading a 10-15 minute critical discussion of a chapter to be assigned by the instructor. Each student will need to prepare a 1 page outline of major points. **The outline and the oral presentation together will count for 10% of your grade**
- E. Topical Literature Review: Each student will choose a topic that has been of longstanding interest to anthropology (e.g. kinship, race, human development, ethnographic method, evolution, ethnicity, subsistence, marriage, gender, conflict). Students will then choose two anthropological journals (such as Current Anthropology, Ethnos, Cultural Anthropology, American Anthropologist, Man/the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, American Ethnologist) in which they will conduct a historical review of articles written over the last 35 years on this topic. For each journal they will choose to read 2 articles from each of the following set of years 1970-1979, 1980-89, 1990-99, 2000-06—thus they will review a minimum of 16 articles on their chosen topic (8 from each journal). In order to complete this assignment students must do the following:
1-compile an annotated bibliography in which they provide a 200-300 word review of the major findings and the theoretical approach of each article
2-write a 1000-1500 (4-6 pages) word review essay in which they discuss changes and continuities over time in anthropological thinking on the topic of their choice. **This final assignment will be worth 20% of your final grade**

IMPORTANT GRADING NOTES:

ALL PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN HARD COPY FORM--NO PAPERS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED BY E-MAIL.

LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A WRITTEN MEDICAL EXCUSE THAT IS PROVIDED PRIOR TO THE DUE DATE. LATE PAPERS THAT DO NOT MEET THESE CONDITIONS WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

9/6 INTRODUCTION-The Point of Theory...

9/13 NINETEENTH CENTURY EVOLUTIONISM-Spencer, Morgan, Tylor
Visions of Culture, Intro., Chapters 1, 2;
Anthropological Theory, Chapters 2, 3, 4

9/20 THE NATURE OF CULTURE/S (The "American School"-Cultural Anthropology)
Boas
Visions of Culture, Chapter 3,
Anthropological Theory, Chapter 10

9/27 Personality, Language, Thought, & Culture--Benedict, Mead, Sapir, Whorf
Visions of Culture, Chapters 6, 7, 8
Anthropological Theory, Chapters 17, 18
CRITICAL READING SYNTHESIS PAPER 1 DUE

10/4 THE NATURE OF SOCIETY (The "British School"-Structure and Function)
Durkheim, Marcel Mauss, Visions of Culture Chapter 4,9
Anthropological Theory, Chapters 6, 7, 9
"The Notion of Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events" Evans-Pritchard

10/11 A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, Malinowski, E.E.Evans-Pritchard
Visions of Culture Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12
Anthropological Theory, Chapters 13, 14, 16
By today read The Nuer (E.Evans-Pritchard)

10/18 CULTURAL ECOLOGY AND CULTURAL MATERIALISM-Steward, White, Sahlins, Harris
Visions of Culture Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16
Anthropological Theory, Chapters 20, 23, 24
CRITICAL READING SYNTHESIS PAPER 2 DUE

10/25 "DEEP" STRUCTURE/"HARD WIRING"- Levi-Strauss; Socio-biology
Visions of Culture Chapter 17
Anthropological Theory, Chapters 26, 27, 32, 33

11/1 SYMBOLS, MEANING, AND INTERPRETATION-Turner, Douglas, Geertz, Fernandez
Visions of Culture Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21
Anthropological Theory, Chapters 38, 39, 40
CRITICAL READING SYNTHESIS PAPER 3 DUE

- 11/8 CONTEMPORARY CRITIQUE—Marxism, Practice, Feminism
Visions of Culture Chapters 16, 22, 23, 24
Anthropological Theory, Chapters 35, 36, 41, 42, 43
"Feminism and Anthropology: the Story of a Relationship" by H. Moore
- 11/15 ANTHROPOLOGY IN POST-MODERN TIMES
Redefining Field and Subject in a Globalizing and Post-Colonial World-
Arjun Appadurai Modernity at Large
- 11/22 REVISITING THE ANCESTORS (class will not meet on this day)
By now read Nuer Dilemmas (Sharon Hutchinson)
ANCESTORS REVISITED PAPER DUE by 9AM
- 11/29 WHITHER ANTHROPOLOGY AND ITS CONCEPTUAL TOOLS?
Assigned Chapters from Gupta and Ferguson Anthropological Locations
Oral Presentations
- 12/6 Anthropological Concepts in Contemporary Use
Assigned Chapters from Rao and Walton Culture and Public Action
Oral Presentations
CRITICAL READING SYNTHESIS PAPER 4 DUE
- 12/11 FINAL ASSIGNMENT (TOPICAL LITERATURE REVIEW) DUE BY 12 NOON in INSTRUCTOR's BOX AT 2110 G STREET.**