

Anthropology 202
Fall 2007

Roy Richard Grinker
2112 G St. 2nd Floor
Office hours to be announced
Tel: 994-6984; e-mail: rgrink@gwu.edu

PROSEMINAR

One of the main tasks of anthropology is the description, and analysis and representation of culture. How do we justify anthropology as an academic discipline? How do we conceptualize social and cultural differences and similarities? And how do we “write culture” from data? This course examines the history of anthropology by examining theoretical and methodological foundations, and innovative methods of representation and writing.

Books for purchase:

Henrietta Moore and Todd Sanders, eds. *Anthropology in Theory*.

George Marcus and Michael Fischer. *Anthropology as Cultural Critique*

Terry Eagleton. *After Theory*.

Michel Foucault. *Madness and Civilization*.

Grading:

Mid-Term Exam 30%
Final Paper 50%
Class Participation 20%

The mid-term exam will be an hour-long examination covering the readings and seminar meetings from the first half of the course.

The final paper should be 15-20 pages long and is due on Monday, December 10 no later than 5:00 pm. The topic is open but it must relate to the general themes of the course. You may expand on a specific topic from the course or develop your own topic in consultation with the instructor. In any event, the topic must be approved by the instructor.

For each class at least two students will make oral presentations that present a critical evaluation (not a summary) of the readings for that class and show the relationship between those readings and a student’s area of interest (e.g., state formation, gender, ritual, hominid evolution, language change). Both presenters are required to distribute a

list of discussion questions to the students and instructor at least 24 hours prior to the class.

Week 1: Historical Frameworks

September 5: Introductory remarks. Overview of historical trends.

Week 2: Concepts of Society and Culture

September 12: MR: Boas (Chapter 5), Durkheim, Sapir.

Week 3: Functionalism

September 19: MR: Malinowski, Steward, Radcliffe-Brown.

Week 4: Structuralism and Exchange

September 26: MR: Leach, Levi-Strauss (Chapters 13 and 24).

Week 5: Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology

October 3: MR: Geertz, Asad, and Keesing.

Week 6: Anthropology of Knowledge

October 10: Read Foucault (entire book). MR: Comaroff and Comaroff (recommended).

Week 7: Sex, Gender and the Body

October 17: MR: Jackson, Martin, Ortner (Chapter 40), and Oyěwùmí (Chapter 49). MR: Foucault (recommended).

Week 8: Practice Theory

October 24: Ortner, "Theory in Anthropology Since the Sixties" (PDF); MR: Bourdieu.

Week 9: Reflexive Anthropology and Representation

October 31: Marcus and Fischer, pp. 1-76.

Week 10: Political Economy and History

November 7: Marcus and Fischer, pp. 77-168.

Week 11: Anthropology and Concepts of Truth

November 14: MR: Weber, Scheper-Hughes, D'Andrade, and Spiro.

Week 12: Multi-Sited Ethnography

November 21: MR: Gupta and Ferguson, Marcus, and Appadurai.

Week 13: Epistemology, Objectivity and Social Reality

November 28: MR: Holy and Stuchlik, Bourdieu

Week 14 What's next?

December 5 Eagleton (entire book).