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ANTH 400.01: History of Anthropological Thought

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ANTHROPOLOGY 400: HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL THOUGHT
T/R * 9:40am-11:00pm * Fine Arts 302
FALL 2008

INSTRUCTOR: Richard A. Sattler
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OFFICE: SS 222
OFFICE HOURS: T/R 1:00-2:00pm
W 11:00-12:00n
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of theoretical and intellectual developments in anthropology. We will begin with an overview of theoretical approaches in anthropology and then focus on a series of controversies in anthropology, many of which begin early in the history of the discipline and which continue into the late 20th century. These case studies will highlight major issues in the field and the course of intellectual development within it. The course will employ a case study and discussion, as well as lecture.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Students will gain knowledge of the history of anthropological theory and key concepts.
2. Students will acquire an understanding of critical issues in anthropology.
3. Students will increase their insights into the intellectual development of anthropology.
4. Students will improve their ability to analyze and resolve critical issues encountered in anthropological theory.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Evaluation:

Exams: There will be two (2) take-home essay exams comprising 3 questions each. None of the exams is comprehensive. Each exam is worth 20% of your grade.

Presentations (Thu): All students will be divided into groups the first week of class. Beginning the fifth week of class, each group will give a series of presentations on particular controversies in anthropology and be prepared to lead a discussion on that controversy. The group giving the presentation will turn in a 3-5 page written analysis of the controversy highlighting key points at the time of the presentation (**do not turn in your presentation notes!**). Presentations are worth 20% of your grade.

Case Analyses: Each student will prepare a 1-2 page summary of the controversy covered each week beginning with week 5, which is due on the following Tuesday. Case analyses are worth 20% of your grade.

Discussion: This course is designed for students to engage and discuss theoretical issues in order to develop analytical and critical skills. Active participation by all students is required to achieve this goal. All students are expected to read all assigned materials and to be ready to discuss them in class. All students are also expected to contribute to the growth and development of other students through the fair and constructive discussion of their presentations. Discussion counts for 20% of your grade.

Attendance: Because this class is geared to discussion and participation, attendance at all classes is required. All absences, except those which are truly unavoidable, will result in the loss of points. If you are ill, have a work conflict, or experience a personal or family emergency, you must contact me **before class** to let me know that you will not be there.

Academic Honesty: The University of Montana expects its students to be academically honest, particularly in regard to plagiarism. "Plagiarism is the representing of another's work as one's own." Both copyright laws and University policies are rigid as concerns plagiarism. Consult the "Academic Policies and Procedures" section of the current University catalog for details regarding penalties for plagiarism.

Access: This syllabus, along with reading assignments, all guides, announcements, etc., will be available on-line through the university library's Blackboard system. You will receive information about accessing Blackboard by an email to your official university email address.

Group Projects

Group projects are designed to help you develop skills in teamwork, dispute resolution, and persuasion. Each group will need to meet outside of class to research, discuss, and analyze each controversy. The group will need to research the topic, using at least six (6) sources other than those assigned in class, and may require the other students to read up to two additional articles (no more than 60 pages). Additional readings must be provided to the instructor in *electronic* format **at least a week in advance**. At the end of the semester, each student will submit an evaluation of the contributions of every member of their group. You cannot gain points by this, but points will be deducted if there are problems, such as members who consistently do not participate. See *Guide to Presentations* on Blackboard for more information.

Guide to Written Work

All written work must be typed, in a 10-12 point font, with 1" margins all around. All pages must be stapled together, the report must contain the group number, a bibliography of sources used, the name of the person who prepared the report, and the signatures of everyone who participated in the discussions leading to the report.

Required Readings:

Sidky, H. (2004) *Perspectives on Culture: A Critical Introduction to Theory in Cultural Anthropology*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Ou-Line Rradiugs (On Blackboard)

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1 OVERVIEW: 19TH CENTURY

READINGS: Sidky, Ch. 1-5

WEEK 2 OVERVIEW: 20TH CENTURY TO W II

READINGS: Sidky, Ch. 6-9

WEEK 3 OVERVIEW: 20TH CENTURY SINCE WW II

READINGS: Sidky, Ch. 10-14

WEEK 4 THEORY IN ARCHAEOLOGY, LINGUISTICS, & BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

READINGS: W W Taylor, "An Analysis of Americanist Archeology in the United States;" J Lyons, "Linguistics: The Scientific Study of Language;" Huss-Ashmore, "Theory in Human Biology: "Evolution, Ecology, and Variation."

WEEK 5 EVOLUTION: BIOLOGICAL, CULTURAL, & LINGUISITIC

READINGS: Campbell, "Conceptual Progress in Physical Anthropology: Fossil Man;" Spencer, "The Evolution of Society;" White, "Energy and the Evolution of Culture;" Steward, "Cultural Causality and Law;" Thieme, "The Comparative Method for Reconstruction in Linguistics."

Presentation (Thu): Biological vs. Cultural Evolution"

WEEK 6 THE CULTURE CONCEPT

READINGS: Keesing, "Theories of Culture;" Geertz, "The Impact of the Concept of Culture;" Roseberry, "Marxism and Culture;" Fox, "The Cultural Animal."

Presentation (Thu): Culture as Behavior vs. Culture as Ideas

WEEK 7 APPROACHES TO KINSHIP

READINGS: Holy, "Kinship Groups;" Fox, "Primate Kin and Human Kinship;" Wallace & Atckins, "The Meaning of Kinship Terms;" Schneider and Homans, "Kinship Terminology and the American Kinship System;" Levi-Strauss, "The Future of Kinship Studies;" Keesing, "Evolution and Adaptation in Social Structure."

Presentation (Thu): Descent Theory vs. alliance Theory

WEEK 8 RELIGION

ANTH 400: HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

READINGS: Geertz, "Religion as a Cultural System;" Harris, "Why We Became Religious and the Evolution of the Spirit World;" Malefijt, "The Science of Religion;" Malefijt, "Twentieth Century Theories of Religion."

Presentation (Thu): Function vs. Meaning in Religion

Oct 25

First Test Due

WEEK 9 POLITICS

READINGS: (67+)

Kurtz, "The Structural-Functional Paradigm;" Kurtz, "The Processual Paradigm;" Kurtz, "The Paradigm" of Political Economy;" Kurtz, "The Paradigm" of Political Evolution: The Evolution of Politics."

Presentation (Thu): Functionalism vs. Conflict Theory

WEEK 10 ECONOMICS & SUBSISTENCE

READINGS: Hatch "The Growth of Economic, Subsistence, and Ecological Studies in American Anthropology;" Roseberry, "Political Economy;" Smith, "The Archaeology of Ancient State Economies;" Plattner, "Introduction."

Presentation (Thu): Substantivists vs. Formalists

WEEK 11 GENDER

READINGS: Evans-Pritchard, "The Position of Women in Primitive Societies and Our Own;" Rosaldo, "Woman, Culture, and Society;" Di Leonardo, "Introduction;" Schlegel, "Gender Meanings."

Nov 4 (Tue)

ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY

WEEK 12 GENDER

Presentation (Thu): Is Gender Inequality Universal?

Nov 11 (Tue)

VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY

WEEK 13 RACE, ETHNICITY, & HUMAN VARIATION

READINGS: Roberts and Bear, "Studies of Modern Man;" Wade, "Defining Race;" Wade, "Existing Approaches to Race;" Spencer, "Theories of Race and Ethnicity."

Presentation (Tue): Race: Bioanthropological Approaches to Human Diversity

WEEK 14 RACE, ETHNICITY, & HUMAN VARIATION (cont.)

Presentations (Tue): Ethnicity: Cultural Anthropological Approaches to Human Diversity

Nov 26-30

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEEK 15 APPLYING ANTHROPOLOGY

READINGS: Little, "Anthropology and Development;" Whiteford and Bennett, "Applied Anthropology and Health and Medicine;" Baba, "Anthropological Practice in Business and Industry;" Greenman, "Anthropology Applied to Education."

Presentations (Thu): Ethical Considerations of Applied Work

FINALS WEEK

Dec 10 (Wed 10:10 am)

Second Test Due