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Spring 1-2016

### ANTY 500.01: Contemporary Anthropological Thought

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**Contemporary Anthropological Thought**  
**Anthropology 500**, Spring 2016  
Meeting time: T 12:10-3:00pm  
Meeting location: SS 252

Instructor: Gilbert Quintero, Ph.D.  
Phone: 243-5825  
Office: SS 225  
Office hours: R 11:00am-2:00pm  
Email: gilbert.quintero@umontana.edu

### Course Description

This course examines contemporary contributions to sociocultural anthropology. We will study a range of theories, concepts and approaches as we investigate the application of anthropological frameworks to current issues and consider what they add to our understandings of various aspects of society and culture. The scope of this class is broad and will include consideration of some of the main sources of contention in the field as well as critical assessments of major intellectual trends.

### Course Goals

The main goals for this course are:

1. To increase students' ability to identify, describe, and evaluate contemporary social and cultural theories, frameworks and issues;
2. To extend students' skills in academic reading, writing, and discussion.

### Course Requirements

In general, successful performance in this course will require that the student:

1. Synthesize, discuss, and elaborate upon a variety of concepts, issues and frameworks;
2. Effectively express her/himself in verbal and written academic formats; and
3. Be an effective reader, writer, and discussant.

Grades for the course will be based on performance in the following areas:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Possible points</b>
Discussion leadership	20
Discussion participation	20
Take home exam 1	20
Take home exam 2	20
Book review	20

Plus/minus grades may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Discussion leadership: Students will be assigned class meetings where they will assume seminar leadership. As discussion leader you will:

- Provide an oral summary of the reading(s)
- Provide discussion questions
- Direct and organize class discussion, including implementing effective time management

In general, discussion leaders will be expected to have a command of the assigned reading and organize and facilitate the class discussion. This will include providing productive, academic discussion questions, presenting key concepts, and co-leading discussion with the instructor and any other assigned student leaders.

Discussion participation: Each student is required to read the materials assigned for each particular class period and to attend class prepared to engage in critical discussion. Your ability to articulate and analyze the readings and the ideas of your classmates in an in-depth fashion will be crucial to your success in this course. A portion of this grade will be determined by the instructor's subjective assessment of the student's performance.

Here are some points that you should use to organize the discussion:

- What question(s) do the authors examine?
- What key concepts do they utilize? How are these similar/different from other concepts we have examined?
- What theoretical approach or framework do the authors utilize?
- What methods do the authors use?
- What evidence do the authors provide to support their arguments? Did you find this argument and support convincing? Why or why not?
- What themes or issues do these readings address that have been covered in other class materials (e.g., readings, discussions)? How are these texts similar or different?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments presented?
- What does the reading say about current anthropological thought?

Attendance will count towards a portion of the discussion participation grade. Students who miss more than one class meeting will have points deducted from their final course grade.

Take home exams: There will be two take home essay exams based on assigned course readings. The essay questions will be distributed in class a week before they are due. These exams are to be developed and completed by each student individually.

Book review: Each student will produce a critical book review. Details regarding this assignment will be provided.

## **Policies**

Disabilities: University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors during the first week of the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor will meet with the student and the staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to make accommodations. Please contact DSS (243.2373, Lommasson Center 154) for more information.

Email: Please conduct all class related email communications with me through your University of Montana email account.

Late assignments: Late assignments are generally not accepted.

Code of conduct: All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code (available through the UM webpage).

Hard copies and paper formats: Unless explicitly noted, all written assignments must be turned in as hard copies – electronic submissions will not be accepted. All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced in 12-point Arial or Times font with 1 inch margins.

Return of course materials: Written assignments will not be returned. If you want copies of these materials please make yourself duplicates before turning them in.

### Course Supplement

A web-based supplement for this class is available on Moodle: <http://umonline.umt.edu/>  
Technical support is provided at: <http://umonline.umt.edu/techsupport/helpdesk.aspx>

### Course Text

Goffman, Alice. *On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City*. Macmillan, 2015.

<b>Schedule</b>		
1/Jan 26	Introduction	
2/Feb 2	Theory	
3/Feb 9	Engagement	
4/Feb 16	Culture	
5/Feb 23	Race	
6/Mar 1	Gender	
7/Mar 8	Ethnography	
8/Mar 15	<b>Writing lab</b>	Take home exam due
9/Mar 22	Body	
10/Mar 29	Subjectivity	
11/Apr 5	<b>Spring break</b>	
12/Apr 12	Neoliberalism	
13/Apr 9	Globalization	
14/Apr 26	Anthropocene	
15/May 3	On the Run	Review due
16/May 9	Catch up? (8-10am)	Take home exam due

Reading assignments for each week should be completed by the date outlined in this schedule.

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary and will be announced in class.