

Advanced Anthropological Theory

Sociology and Anthropology 870

Section: E100

Term: 1998 Fall

Instructor:
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Discussion Topics: Mondays 16:30 - 20:20 p.m. AQ 5067

Advanced Anthropological Theory

This course will approach the subject of anthropological theory from the perspective that the thinking, writing, and reading of social theory in general, and anthropological theory in particular, is itself a social practice. Theorizing is carried out by real individuals in particular historical and political contexts; in definite times, places, and spaces; for specific purposes; with multiple outcomes. And, since the practice of social theory has consequences that matter in the real lives of real people, questions of social responsibility and political power are always implicated in the doing of social theory.

The course readings have been chosen to reflect the interests of this year's incoming graduate class in the M.A. program in Anthropology. However, they reflect contemporary research--mostly, but not exclusively, ethnographic--on questions that may be of interest to students in other disciplines as well.

The readings address subject matter in contemporary anthropology in areas of theory and methodology; research ethics; feminist anthropology; visual anthropology; medical anthropology; First Nations studies; postcolonial studies; urban anthropology; immigration and transnational studies.

The course will be organized as an interactive seminar shaped by the interests of the participants.

ANTHROPOLOGY 870/98-3

ADVANCED ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY

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Course Outline

WEEK 2: September 14th:

Please read the following before class:

(1) Taylor, Charles

1985 Social Theory as Practice. In PHILOSOPHY AND THE HUMAN SCIENCES. Pp. . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

(2) Lutz, Catherine

1995 The Gender of Theory. In WOMEN WRITING CULTURE. Ruth Behar and Linda Gordon, eds. Pp. 249-266. Berkeley: University of California Press.

(3) Gordon, Linda

1995 Border Work: Feminist Ethnography and the Dissemination of Literacy. In WOMEN WRITING CULTURE. Ruth Behar and Linda Gordon, eds. Pp. 373-389. Berkeley: University of California Press.

WEEK 3: September 21st:

Please read the following before class:

(1) Introduction to each of the four required texts (SITUATED LIVES; CULTURES OF SCHOLARSHIP; BORDER THEORY; CULTURE, POWER, PLACE.)

(2) Tanaka, Stefan "Childhood: Naturalization of development into a Japanese Space" in CULTURES OF SCHOLARSHIP

(3) Limon, Jose E. "Carne, Carnales, and the Carnavalesque" in SITUATED LIVES.

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(4) Malkki, Liisa "National Geographic" in CULTURE, POWER, PLACE

(5) Lugo, Alejandro "Reflections on Border Theory, Culture, and the Nation," in BORDER THEORY

Assignment # 1: Book Review (10%)

Due on date of presentation.

This is a "warm-up" assignment/exercise. The goal is to complete and present an analytic review of one book. The assignment consists in preparing a 10 page written review that describes the author(s)' theoretical framework(s) and methodologies, and critically assesses the books' contribution to contemporary anthropological theory. This review will be presented orally to the class (approximately 15 minutes), and the presentation will be followed by a discussion of approximately 15 minutes. No additional sources will be required.

Use bibliography and citation style in AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST.

All written submissions should be carefully proofread for spelling and grammatical accuracy.

All students should read the introduction to each of these books and the supplementary reading assigned.

Students should submit 2 copies of assignments.

Instructor and a student will mark each assignment.

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WEEK 4: September 28th:

Please read the following before class:

- (1) 5 intro chapters to accompany presentations
- (2) 5 supplementary readings to accompany presentations.

(a) Presentation by Kelly-Rae Norlen. Book: INDIANS AND ANTHROPOLOGISTS

supplementary reading: Michaelsen, Scott "Resketching Anglo-Amerindian Identity Politics" in BORDER THEORY

(b) Presentation by Judith Banks. Book: THE SOCIAL LIFE OF STORIES

supplementary reading: Gupta, Akhil and James Ferguson "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference", in CULTURE, POWER, PLACE

(c) Presentation by Meaghan Byers. Book: BEAUTY QUEENS ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

supplementary reading: Comaroff, Jean "The Empire's Old Clothes", in SITUATED LIVES.

Week 4, continued

(d) Presentation by Angela Contreras-Chavez. Book: FEMINISM AND POSTMODERNISM by diLeonardo.

supplementary reading: Chang, Elaine "Run through the Borders: Feminism, Postmodernism, and Runaway Subjectivity" in BORDER THEORY

(e) Presentation by Cathy Chabot. Book: ENCOUNTERS WITH AGING.
supplementary reading: Ginsburg, Faye "The 'Word-Made' Flesh" in

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SITUATED LIVES

WEEK 5: October 5th:

Please read the following before class:

- (1) 5 intro chapters to accompany presentations
- (2) 5 supplementary readings to accompany presentations.
 - (a) Presentation by Amanda Camley. Book: GETTING JUSTICE AND GETTING EVEN
supplementary reading: Harrison, Faye V. "The Gendered Politics and Violence of Structural Adjustment," in SITUATED LIVES.
 - (b) Presentation by Elizabeth Rajnovich. Book: IN SEARCH OF RESPECT
supplementary reading: Guttman, M. C. "The Meanings of Macho: Changing Mexican Male Identities" in SITUATED LIVES.
 - (c) Presentation by Caroline Butler. Book: COLONIZING EGYPT
supplementary reading: Messick, B. "Genealogies of Reading and the Scholarly Cultures of Islam" in CULTURES OF SCHOLARSHIP
 - (d) Presentation by Krista Henriksen. Book: SHAMANISM, COLONIALISM AND THE WILD MAN
supplementary reading: Mignolo, W. "Gnosis, Colonialism and Cultures of Scholarship" in CULTURES OF SCHOLARSHIP
 - (e) Presentation by Magda Kazubowski-Houston. Book: DRAMAS, FIELDS AND METAPHORS
supplementary reading: Crain, Mary M. "The Remaking of an Andalusian Pilgrimage Tradition: Debates Regarding Visual

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(Re)Presentation and the Meanings of 'Locality' in a Global Era in CULTURE, POWER, PLACE.

WEEK 6: October 12th. Class canceled for Thanksgiving holiday.

Make-up class Wednesday October 14th. Time to be arranged. No assigned readings. We will take this time to discuss the class, readings and assignments to date and plan the remainder of the course.

1 page final paper proposal + 1 page bibliography due. Students are strongly advised to consult with their senior supervisors and committee members concerning the preparation of this paper.

Assignment # 2: Book Review (20%)

Due on date of presentation.

This assignment calls for a critical exploration and assessment of the theoretical framework(s) deployed by author(s). Working with a selected text, students should "follow" the author(s)' theoretical development through reading the central theoretical texts referenced by the author(s)', surveying academic reviews of the text, and referring to other readings in the area. While a very brief overview of the work in its entirety will be necessary in order to complete this assignment, the 15 page written submission should concentrate on analyzing the theoretical framework and assumptions.

Use bibliography and citation style in AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST.

All written submissions should be carefully proofread for spelling and grammatical accuracy.

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All students should read the introduction to the book being presented, one supplemental reading, and one reading assigned by the student responsible. This additional reading may consist of another chapter in the book, may consist of a particularly thorough and incisive review, or may consist of an article of particular relevance.

Students should submit 2 copies of assignments.

Instructor and a student will mark each assignment.

These reviews will be presented to the class during weeks 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11.

WEEK 7: October 19th

Please read the following before class:

- (1) 2 intro chapters to accompany presentations
- (2) 2 supplementary readings to accompany presentations.
- (3) 1 article assigned by presenters
 - (a) Presentation by Judith Banks. Book: JUSTICE AND IDENTITY
supplementary reading: Rudolph, L., and S. J. Rudolph
"Occidentalism and Orientalism: Perspectives on Legal Pluralism",
in CULTURES OF SCHOLARSHIP.
 - (b) Presentation by Kelly-Rae Norlen. Book: A PLACE ON THE SIDE
OF THE ROAD
supplementary reading: Maddox, R. "Bombs, Bikinis, and the Popes
of Rock n'Roll...etc." in CULTURE, POWER, PLACE

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WEEK 8: October 26th:

Please read the following before class:

- (1) 2 intro chapters to accompany presentations
- (2) 2 supplementary readings to accompany presentations.
- (3) 1 article assigned by presenters
 - (a) Presentation by Caroline Butler. Book: LABOUR'S LOT by E. Povenelli
supplementary reading: Stoler, Ann L. "Making Empire Respectable: The Politics of Race and Sexual Morality in 20th Century Colonial Cultures", in SITUATED LIVES
 - (b) Presentation by Amanda Camley. Book: RACE, NATION, CLASS by Balibar and Wallerstein:
supplementary reading: Linke, Uli "Colonizing the National Imaginary: Folklore, Anthropology and the Making of the Modern State", in CULTURES OF SCHOLARSHIP

WEEK 9: November 2nd:

Please read the following before class:

- (1) 2 intro chapters to accompany presentations
- (2) 2 supplementary readings to accompany presentations.
- (3) 1 article assigned by presenters

Week 9, continued

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(a) Presentation by Meaghan Byers. Book. VISUALIZING THEORY.
supplementary reading: Coombe, Rosemary "The Demonic Place of the
Not There" in CULTURE, POWER, PLACE

(b) Presentation by Elizabeth Rajnovich. Book: CINEMA AND THE
URBAN POOR
supplementary reading: Peters, J. D. "Seeing Bifocally: Media,
Place, Culture" in CULTURES OF SCHOLARSHIP

WEEK 10: November 7th

Please read the following before class:

- (1) 2 intro chapters to accompany presentations
- (2) 2 supplementary readings to accompany presentations.
- (3) 1 article assigned by presenters

(a) Presentation by Cathy Chabot. Book: IN OCEANIA
supplementary reading: Wolfe, Patrick "Should the
Subaltern Dream?" in CULTURES OF SCHOLARSHIP

(b) Presentation by Angela Contreras-Chavez. Book: SOCIAL
SUFFERING
supplementary reading: MacCormack, Sabine G. "History and Law in
16th Century Peru: The Impact of European Scholarly Traditions" in
CULTURES OF SCHOLARSHIP

WEEK 11: November 16

Please read the following before class:

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- (1) 2 intro chapters to accompany presentations
- (2) 2 supplementary readings to accompany presentations.
- (3) 1 article assigned by presenters

(a) Presentation by Krista Henriksen. Book: CULTURE/CONTEXTURE
supplementary reading: Florida, Nancy "Writing Traditions in
Colonial Java: The Question of Islam", in CULTURES OF SCHOLARSHIP

(b) Presentation by Magda Kazubowski-Houston. Book: THE TRAFFIC
IN CULTURE
supplementary reading: Siu, Helen F. "Recycling Tradition:
Culture, History, and Political Economy in the Chrysanthemum
Festivals of South China, in CULTURES OF SCHOLARSHIP

WEEK 12: November 23

Discussion of final papers.

WEEK 13: November 30

Discussion of final papers.

Summary of course.

Assignment # 3: Paper (70%)

DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 1998

This paper should constitute a first draft of the theoretical
framework that will shape students' theses. Students are urged to
consult with their senior supervisors when preparing this paper.

Use bibliography and citation style in AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST.

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All written submissions should be carefully proofread for spelling and grammatical accuracy.

Submit 1 copy of this assignment.

Grading: Course requirements:

(1) seminar presentations 2 @ 25%

(2) final paper 50%

(1) seminar presentations 2 @ 25%

Each student will be responsible for completing critical reviews of two books that will be presented to the class.

(a) Choose an excerpt for the whole class to read. Photocopy it and distribute it the week before your seminar.

(b) Prepare written book review of 10-12 pages. Focus on theoretical framework of the book: describe and explain the theoretical framework; what is the relationship between theoretical framework and methodology? what is your assessment of the book? The book review should address issues raised in other class readings and should make reference to these and other sources. (12.5%)

(c) Prepare 15-20 minute oral presentation based on book review.

(d) Lead 15-20 minute discussion following presentation. (12.5%)

(2) Final Paper (50%)

Final paper 20-25 pages on subject relevant to student's interests and program.

Required Texts: Required Readings:

(1) Lamphere, Louise, Helen Ragonne and Patricia Zavella (eds.), (1997), *Situated Lives: Gender and Culture in Everyday Life*, New York: Routledge

(2) Gupta, Akhil and James Ferguson (eds.), (1997) *Culture, Power, Plac*

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.