

Issues in Anthropological Theory (A)

Sociology and Anthropology 451

Section: D100

Term: 2004 Fall

Instructor: Prof. S. Pigg

Email: pigg@sfu.ca

Office: AQ 5074

Discussion Topics: This seminar approaches key themes in anthropological theory by examining the practices of anthropology. We will look mainly at selected early-to-mid- twentieth century ethnographic research projects in order to explore ways that \204ethnography\211 was imagined, carried out, and presented in anthropological scholarship. At the same time, we will undertake an \204anthropology of anthropology\211 through a study of the larger social and political contexts of this work. This includes an examination of social relations of research (relations with research subjects, field assistants, colleagues, and mentors) as well as the social relations of dissemination of research findings (placement within governmental agendas, nationalisms, public opinion, and the means and basis for claims about the wider significance of the research findings). This project will thus involve us in a number of types of analysis: social history, textual analysis of representational strategies, critical examination of power relations, evaluation of empirical evidence, critique of theoretical propositions and conceptual models.

The course is structured around books; some are histories of anthropology and some are \204classics\211 in anthropology. Each student will conduct additional background research and prepare a presentation on a small selection of our collective reading list. The final research paper for the course will be based on this work. We end the course with a current example of activist ethnography.

Undergraduates who have taken SA 301, have 90 credit hours, and a GPA of 3.25 may enroll in this course as SA 451. (Work load requirements will be adjusted for undergraduates, in consultation with the instructor).

Grading: Assignments and percentages will be discussed at the first seminar meeting.

All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned.

\211The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic dishonesty and misconduct procedures

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(Policy T 10.03). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Policies & Procedures).\211

Required Texts: Stocking, George. Victorian Anthropology The Free Press.

Schumaker, Lynn. Africanizing Anthropology Duke Univ. Press.

Kulick, Henrika. The Savage Within: The Social History of British Anthropology, 1885-1945. The course instructor reserves the right to check for plagiarism using software provided by the SFU administration for this purpose.

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