

Anthropology 4050/6050

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Spring 2008

Instructor: Peter Brosius

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Course Description:

This course provides a broad overview of the field of cultural anthropology, from its beginnings up to the present. We will combine two approaches in this course: (1) an intellectual history approach to the discipline, in which we consider the contributions of certain major figures to the development of the discipline, and (2) an approach that examines particular ethnographic accounts as a way of defining the different types of explanatory paradigms that anthropologists have used to explain cultural diversity. The course will also consider the role of anthropology in the contemporary world and examine some of the ethical challenges that confront anthropologists today.

Grades for the course will be determined on the basis of two midterm examinations, a final examination, and attendance in class, each of which will be worth 25% of your grade. Exams are not cumulative. Early exams will not be given to accommodate travel plans. Makeup exams will be given only in the event of illness or other serious matters, and verification must be provided.

Attendance is required. Your grade for attendance will drop 4 points (out of 100) for each class you miss. These add up quickly: do the math. If you miss three classes, your attendance grade will fall into the "B" range, and so forth. You will not be given credit for being in class if you arrive more than five minutes late.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Announcements pertaining to class matters will be made at the beginning of class. You are responsible for knowing about these announcements; missing them because you are late does not constitute an excuse.

Cell phones must be turned off in class. Instructor reserves the right to answer all calls received during class time.

Academic honesty policy:

The University of Georgia seeks to promote and ensure academic honesty and personal integrity among students and other members of the University Community. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty" (www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/ahs.htm). *Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.*

WEBCT

The remainder of the readings not in the required texts will be available in electronic form via WebCT. The website will also have a discussion forum that you can use to prepare for exams and assignments. You should have access to the WebCT page for this course automatically if you are enrolled – if you're having trouble with the site, please speak to one of the TAs as soon as possible.

Texts:

McGee, J. & R. Warms. 2008. *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. Fourth Edition. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield.

Peacock, J. 2001. *The Anthropological Lens: Harsh Light, Soft Focus*. Second Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Erickson, P. & L. Murphy. 2003. *A History of Anthropological Theory*. Second Edition. Orchard Park, NY: Broadview Press.

COURSE OUTLINE

Tuesday, Jan. 8: Introduction.

Reading: McGee & Warms, "Introduction"; Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 17-37.

Thursday, Jan. 10: Key Concepts in the History of Anthropological Theory.

Reading: Peacock, Preface and Chap. 1.

Tuesday, Jan. 15: The Roots of Anthropology: From the Enlightenment to Darwin.

Reading: Kant, "What is enlightenment?"; Wernick, "Declaring an open season on the wisdom of the ages"; Erickson & Murphy, Pp.37-42.

Thursday, Jan. 17: Classical Evolutionism: Spencer, Darwin, Morgan and the Concept of Progress.

Reading: McGee & Warms, "Nineteenth-Century Evolutionism," Pp. 5-11, Chap. 1 (Spencer); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 47-54, 60-72.

Tuesday, Jan. 22: From 19th Century Materialism to Psychoanalysis: Marx and Freud

Reading: McGee & Warms, Chaps. 4 (Marx & Engels); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 42-46, 83-86; Freud, "The psychopathology of everyday life."

Thursday, Jan. 24: Film: *William Rivers: Everything is Relatives*

Reading: McGee & Warms, Chaps. 2 (Tylor) & 3 (Morgan).

Tuesday, Jan. 29: Boasian Historical Particularism.

Reading: McGee & Warms, "Historical Particularism," Pp. 116-121, Chap. 9 (Boas); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 54-57, 73-78.

Thursday, Jan. 31: Film: *Franz Boas: The Shackles of Tradition*

Reading: McGee & Warms, Chaps. 10 (Kroeber) & 11 (Radin).

Tuesday, Feb. 5: Mead, Benedict and the "Culture and Personality" School; Film: *Coming of Age: Margaret Mead*.

Reading: McGee & Warms, "Culture and Personality," Pp. 204-209, Chaps. 16 (Benedict) & 17 (Mead); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 78-83, 86-89.

Thursday, Feb. 7: Fieldwork and the Politics of Interpretation: The Mead/Freeman Controversy.

Reading: Marshall, "The wizard from Oz meets the wicked witch of the East: Freeman, Mead, and ethnographic authority"; Rappaport, "Desecrating the Holy Woman."

Tuesday, Feb. 12: First Midterm Exam

Thursday, Feb. 14: Durkheim and Weber.

Reading: McGee & Warms, "The Foundations of Sociological Thought," Pp. 69-73, Chaps. 5 (Durkheim), 6 (Durkheim), 7 (Mauss), & 8 (Weber); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 89-94; 131-135.

Tuesday, Feb. 19: Radcliffe-Brown and British Structural-Functionalism.

Reading: McGee & Warms, "Functionalism", Pp. 159, Chap. 14 (Radcliffe-Brown); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 100-103.

Thursday, Feb. 21: Malinowski and Functionalism.

Reading: McGee & Warms, Chap. 13 (Malinowski); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 103-105; Firth, "Bronislaw Malinowski."

Tuesday, Feb. 26: Film - *Off the Veranda: Bronislaw Malinowski*.

Reading: Malinowski, *A Diary in the Strict Sense of the Term*.

Thursday, Feb. 28: Evans-Pritchard and Max Gluckman; Film: *Strange Beliefs: Sir Edward Evans-Pritchard*

Reading: McGee & Warms, Chaps. 15 (Gluckman); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 105-111; Evans-Pritchard, "Some recollections on fieldwork in the Twenties."

Tuesday, March 4: Fieldwork and the Politics of Interpretation: The Penan of Sarawak.

Reading: McGee & Warms, Chap. 38 (Rosaldo); Peacock, Chap. 2.

Thursday, March 6: Structuralism and Semiotics: Levi-Strauss and Exchange Models of Social Organization.

Reading: McGee & Warms, "Structuralism," Pp. 324-326, Chaps. 24 (Levi-Strauss), 25 (Levi-Strauss) & 26 (Ortner); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 94-100.

Tuesday, March 18: Guest Speaker: Cheryl McClary – *The Anthropology of Water*

Reading: Hassoun, "Water Between Arabs and Israelis: Researching Twice-Promised Resources," Lansing & Erazo, "The Value of a River."

Thursday, March 20: Guest Speaker: Eial Dujovny – *Reflections on Fieldwork in India*

Reading: Scott, "Taming nature: An agriculture of legibility and simplicity," Goldman, "Tragedy of the Commons or the Commoner's Tragedy: The State and Ecological Crisis in India."

Tuesday, March 25: Cultural Ecology and Neoevolutionism.

Reading: McGee & Warms, "The Reemergence of Evolutionary Thought," Pp. 226-229, Chaps. 18 (White) & 19 (Steward); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 117-121.

Thursday, March 27: Second Midterm Exam

Tuesday, April 1: Cultural Materialism and Ethnoscience.

Reading: McGee & Warms, "Neomaterialism," "Ethnoscience and Cognitive Anthropology," Pp. 265-269, 360-364, Chaps. 20 (Fried), 21 (Harris), 22 (Rappaport), 27 (Conklin), & 28 (Tyler); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 113-117, 123-131.

Thursday, April 3: Turner, Douglas, Geertz: Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology.

Reading: McGee & Warms, "Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology," Pp. 482-484, Chaps. 35 (Douglas), 36 (Turner), & 37 (Geertz); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 131, 135-143.

Tuesday, April 8: Precursors to Contemporary Theory: Critical Theory and Cultural Studies.

Reading: A. Gramsci, "Americanism and Fordism"; T. Adorno, "Culture industry reconsidered," R. Williams, "Advertising: the magic system."

Thursday, April 10: Foucault: Power and the Archeology of Knowledge.

Reading: Foucault, "We 'other Victorians'" & "The Repressive Hypothesis"; Foucault, "The eye of power"; Rabinow, "Introduction."

Tuesday, April 15: Challenges to the Practice of Ethnographic Representation: Feminism, Post-structuralism, and Post-colonialism

Reading: McGee & Warms, "Anthropology and Gender," "Post-modernism and Its Critics," Pg. 432-435 & 532-537, Chaps. 32 (Slocum), 33 (Leacock), & 34 (Stoler); Erickson & Murphy, Pp. 135-146.

Thursday, April 17: Recent Developments in Environmental Anthropology.

Reading: Cronon, "The trouble with wilderness or, getting back to the wrong nature"; Orlove, "Mapping reeds and reading maps"; Rappaport, "The anthropology of trouble."

Tuesday, April 22: Case Study: The Contested Meanings of Conservation and Development in Sarawak.

Reading: Turner, "Representing, resisting, rethinking: historical transformations of Kayapo culture and anthropological consciousness"; B. Conklin, "Body paint, feathers, and VCRs: Aesthetics and authenticity in Amazonian activism."

Thursday, April 24: Globalization and the Relevance of Anthropology.

Reading: McGee & Warms, "Globalization, Power, and Agency," Pp. 580-582, Chap. 41 (Appadurai), 42 (Bourgois), & 43 (Ong); Peacock, Chap. 3.

Tuesday, May 6, 12:00 – Final Exam