

Anthropology Department

History of Anthropological Theories

Fall 2013

Lecturers: Rahimov Ruslan, PhD and Amanda Wetsel, MA

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Office hours:

Time and venue

Wednesday:

Description of the course

This course is one of the core fields for the curriculum. As any discipline, social anthropology has been developing in connecting with the history and social circumstances. The course seeks to explore the appearance and development of the essential anthropological currents and concepts. We will make an attempt to discuss the evolution of anthropological theories also in terms of national traditions: English, American, French, German and Soviet.

At the end of the course the students will learn precursors of anthropology; evolutionism in all its guises; diffusions and culture area theories, functionalism and structural-functionalism; action-centered theories; processual and Marxist perspectives. This course aims to develop of critical and writing skills, as well as improve reading capacities.

Key readings

- Alan Barnard, “History and theory in anthropology», Cambridge University Press 2000,
- Salzmann Philip Carl, “Understanding culture: an introduction to anthropological theory”, Waveland Press.
- Paul Erickson and Liam Murphy, “A History of anthropological theory”

Assignments:

Oral Participation:	30 %
2 Short Papers (1-2 pp):	20 %
Presentation:	10 %
Mid term exam:	15 %
Final project and presentation (5-6 pp):	25 %

Attendance

Attendance is required. Attendance will be checked in the beginning of each class period. If you are late you will not be allowed to the class. Or, you can be allowed to the class but will get an absence in the attendance list.

If you got sick, you have to notify an instructor or the office manager in advance, and later submit an official document (spravka) from a physician, especially if you are scheduled to make a class presentation. **Four unexcused absences** will result in “X” for the whole course. Participation will be graded based on active participation, which 1) demonstrates awareness of the subject;2)shows knowledge of the reading;3) shows ability to criticize the topic.

Moodle system: Most of readings, texts and presentation can be found on the e-course. Students are expected to participate in the forums as well as uploading different texts. This participation will be also one of the evaluation criteria's.

2 reflection papers

Short reflection paper will be mainly based on reading critique of one of the articles, which will be provided in advance. Student has to discuss author's arguments. Samples will be posted on the Moodle course site (click political anthropology, enrollment key: ANTH 376). Papers should be given in a printed form. Reflection paper can be also done in the form of media file.

Presentation

Each student should make a presentation on bibliography of any anthropologist outlining his anthropological experience, historical context and his/her main contributions.

Deadlines

Papers must be submitted to the office manager of Anthropology Department before the deadline (moodle system can be also used). The time you submit will be recorded by the office manager and confirmed by your signature. Papers and assignments submitted beyond the deadline will not be accepted or graded. Deadlines can only be extended upon prior permission request and for medical reasons. Only those late papers with valid or legitimate excuse will be accepted but penalized that will affect the final grade for the assignment. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade (i. E. A- to B+).

Mid Term exam

Exam will be in-class writing and will be based on 4 questions based on class topics, student should select two of them.

Final paper and presentation

Each student is expected to choose one concept based on class readings (e.g.: cultural evolutionism, relativism, cultural area, practice etc.) and write a paper (5-6 papers, 12, double-spaced) which will be presented in class. It should be an analysis with evaluation, critique of the selected concept, outlining its genesis, meaning, advantages, limitations and your understanding of its importance for contemporary anthropology. Presentation may be limited to: 1) an overview of your analysis, 2) a reflection on the impact of the term on your understanding.

Grading scale:

A =100-95	C =76-73
A-=94-90	C-=72-70
B+=89-87	D+=69-67
B =86-83	D =66-63
B-=82-80	D-=62-60
C+=79-77	F =59 and less

Mobile phones

Mobile phones and other electronic devices must be off while you are attending the class.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated during the course. Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas and representing them as your own original work. You must either paraphrase the sentence by putting it completely in your own words and citing it with the proper footnote, endnote or in text citation, or put the quotation marks or make block quotation if you use the direct words of the source without any change with the following footnote, endnote or other citation after the copied words. All information must be cited. Always cite a legitimate source. Wikipedia is not a legitimate source. Books published by university presses and academic papers found on JSTOR are legitimate sources.

Cheating will not be tolerated during the course Cheating is the use of unauthorized sources during exams such as books, student's notes, cellular phones, etc.

Class presentations

If you fail to make a class presentation on time, you will not be given a second chance to do it and lose those points assigned for the presentation.

Note: no laptops are allowed during the class.

Appeals

If you don't agree with your grade for an assignment, you must submit a written appeal for the name of the Anthropology Department Head explaining the reasons of your disagreement. Oral appeals are not considered.

Class Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the class outline, exam dates or assignment. It is your responsibility to attend the class and be informed of any changes to the syllabus.

1 week

Introduction to the anthropological theory

2 week

Precursors in anthropology, discovery

Historical factor in anthropology

3 week Historical particularism

BOAS Frantz, The Methods of Ethnology

KROEBER Alfred, What anthropology is about?

4 week

Culture and Personality

RUTH BENEDICT

"Psychological Types in the Cultures of the Southwest",

Anthropological Theory, R. John McGee, Richard L. Warms

216-230,

MEAD Margaret, Introduction (Coming of age in Samoa)

5 week Functionalism and Structural-functionalism

Meyer FORETS and EVANS_PRITCHARD, Introduction (African Political system)
RADCLIFFE_BROWN Alfred, Social Structure

6 week

MALINOWSKI Bronislaw, The subject, method and scope of this inquiry
(Argonauts of the Western Pacific), The essentials of Kula

Recommended reading:

British Social Anthropology: A Retrospective: Jonathan Spencer

7 week Sociological background

E.DURKHEIM AND M. MAUSS,

“What is social fact?”

“The Gift”

8 week

Mid Term exam! (Essay-4 questions).

9 week

No classes

10 week Guest lecturers and films

Debate: Interaction of sociology and anthropology

Film: The Kawelka of Papua, New Guinea

11-week Marx and anthropology

MAX WEBER, The sociology of Charismatic Authority

K.MARX and F.ENGELS, Bourgeois and Proletarians

12 week Soviet anthropology

BROMLEY's theory of ethnos

TISHKOV V: US and anthropology in Soviet Union

13 week Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology

CLIFFORD GEERTZ – “Thick Description”

VICTOR TURNER – “Symbols in Ndembu Ritual”

14 week Structuralism

LEVI-STRAUSS

Excerpt from the Elementary Structures of Kinship?

BOURDIEU Pierre

Kabyle House

15 week

National traditions and the future of anthropological theory

A. Barnard, pp. 178-184

December 1-3

16-week: Presentations