

ANTHROPOLOGY 3525: HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY

Dr. Mark Moritz
moritz.42@osu.edu
4058 Smith Laboratory
Tel. (614) 247-7426

Autumn 2013
Hours of instruction: MWF 10:20 - 11:15AM
Classroom: McPherson Lab 1021
Office hours: R12-3 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of key theories that anthropologists use and have used to describe and explain cross-cultural variation, starting with nineteenth century evolutionists to twenty-first century complexity theorists. We will critically examine each theoretical paradigm by examining how anthropologists have used theory to study questions, such as “What is the nature of culture?”, “What is the nature of human nature?”, “What holds societies together?”, “What is the relationship between individual and society?”, and “How can another culture be understood by an anthropological outsider?”. The goal is to train students to think theoretically as anthropologists by examining key texts for a selection of major theoretical paradigms. In addition, students will examine the development of one theoretical paradigm in-depth in a term paper, in particular, how the paradigm has been interpreted (and reinterpreted) in the writing of its history.

COURSE GOALS

The goal is to train students to think theoretically as anthropologists, i.e., understand how anthropologists use theory to describe and explain cross-cultural variation, and this entails that students will be able to:

1. Understand and appreciate anthropological perspectives (anthropological approach).
2. Know the history of the main theoretical paradigms in anthropology (history of anthropology).
3. Understand the role of theory in shaping anthropological research (conceptual frameworks).
4. Reflect on their own conceptual framework with which they view and understand the world (reflexivity).
5. Recognize explicit and implicit theoretical frameworks in anthropological texts (theoretical literacy).
6. Recognize that writing the history of anthropological theory is an interpretive exercise (critical literacy)
7. Appreciate the theoretical contributions from anthropology to the social sciences (value of anthropological theory).

DISABILITY SERVICES

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT STATEMENT

All students should become familiar with the rules governing academic misconduct, especially as they pertain to plagiarism and cheating. Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse and all alleged cases of academic misconduct will automatically be reported to the committee on academic misconduct.

READINGS

The following books are required reading and available in the OSU Book Store or from online vendors like Amazon.com.

McGee, R. Jon and Richard L. Warms. (2012). *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. 5th Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill Publishing Company.

Moore, Jerry D. (2012). *Visions of culture: An introduction to anthropological theories and theorists*. 4th Edition. Lanham, MD: Altamira Press.

Additional required and recommended readings are made available through Carmen. All assigned readings are mandatory. You are expected to have read the assigned readings once or twice before you come to class. As you read, highlight, take notes, summarize, look up new words or concepts, and come with questions for me and/or your classmates. In short, be prepared to discuss the readings in class and bring the readings to class. I also recommend you to go over the readings once more after class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Attendance and participation: You are expected to be actively engaged in class; that is, coming to class prepared, paying attention, and contributing to discussions and problem solving, both by making comments and by facilitating other people's participation. Because it is difficult to do well in the course if sessions are missed *attendance at every class meeting is required*. Late arrival and early departure are considered poor participation; they are disruptive to others and make it likely to miss essential information. Please contact me if there is an emergency situation. If you are ill and must miss a class, you are responsible for getting the notes and assignment information from your classmates.

2) Theory Assignments (TA). Throughout the semester you will complete short reading assignments for selected readings from McGee and Warms (2012). The goal of these assignments is to critically analyze the theoretical paradigms for the selected readings using a worksheet with

eight questions. The assignments should be written in your own words without any quotes. You have to bring the assignment to class so that we can use them in discussion. I will randomly select five assignments that will be graded based on content, clarity, and grammar. The assignments are due in the Carmen dropbox before class. However, you have the option of submitting an improved version after our discussion in class.

3) Term Paper. You will write one term paper in which you will examine the history of one particular theory/theorist(s) using original primary sources and different kinds of secondary sources (peer-reviewed and websites). The goal of the paper assignment is that you learn more about the history and development of anthropological theory through a study of the history or interpretation of one anthropological theory/theorist(s) of your choice. In particular, you will compare and contrast how secondary sources, both peer-review and internet, have interpreted (and reinterpreted) these theories.

a) Annotated Bibliographies. You will write three annotated bibliographies for your topic using different kinds of sources: 1) primary sources from a theory/theorist(s) of your choice; 2) secondary sources from the internet about a theory/theorist(s) of your choice; and 3) peer-reviewed secondary sources about a theory/theorist(s) of your choice. The second and third bibliography should contain at least three sources. The bibliography should follow the guidelines of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) (http://www.aaanet.org/publications/style_guide.pdf). In your annotation you should: 1) identify the source; 2) summarize the source in no more than one or two sentences; 3) evaluate its strengths and weaknesses; and 4) reflect on its usefulness for your paper. The AAA guidelines and a model of an annotated bibliography are posted on Carmen. You may also use the following website to assist you in preparation of your bibliographies: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>. The annotated bibliographies are due on the following dates: September 13, September 27, and October 11 before Midnight in the appropriate dropbox.

b) Paper Prospectus. You will write a one-page prospectus of your proposed term paper. The purpose of the prospectus is to give the reader a quick overview of what the paper will be about, your arguments, and the general organization of your paper. You should also include a brief discussion of the theory and associated theorist(s) as well as how the theory and the interpretation thereof has developed over time. You might think of the prospectus as a preview of coming attractions. If necessary, I reserve the right to have you rewrite your prospectus or reconstruct your until your topic is approved. The prospectus is due on Friday 1 November before Midnight.

c) Final paper. You will write a 6 to 8-page term paper in which you examine the history of one particular theory/theorist(s) using original primary sources and different kinds of secondary sources (peer-reviewed and websites). You have to use and cite relevant sources, including required course readings. The final paper is due Friday 22 November before Midnight.

4. Take-home Exam. There will be one take-home exam that covers all course materials, including films, readings, lectures, discussions, and research assignments. The exam questions will be in essay format and is due in the Carmen dropbox on Thursday 5 December before 10AM.

Evaluation: Course responsibilities will be weighted in the following way:

1. Participation and attendance	10%
2. Theory assignments (TA)	25%
3. Term paper	
Annotated bibliographies (3)	10%
Paper prospectus	10%
Final paper	25%
4. Take-home exam	20%
Total	100%

Final grades are based on the OSU Standard Scheme. A general guide to how you are doing is: A 93; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 60-66; E < 60.

Special notes from the instructor:

- Except in cases of properly documented illness or personal emergency will late assignments be accepted; they will progressively lose value and will be evaluated as time allows.
- I strive to make this a paper-less course. All assignments are to be submitted as .doc, .docx, or .txt documents in the Carmen dropbox, not in hard copy or by email or any other format.
- I will use Carmen to post assignments and other information for the class (e.g., cancelled office hours, changes in reading assignments). Check it regularly (at least twice a week).
- Please note that the schedule below is tentative and that the instructor reserves the right to make changes.

SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

MO = Moore

MW = McGee and Warms

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

Aug. 21: Anthropology (Henrich et al. 2010)

Aug. 23: Theory (MO xi-xv; MW 1-4)

WEEK 2: HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS

Aug. 26: Research design (Cliggett 2005:23-46)

Aug. 28: Morgan (MW 6-13, 45-57, MO 17-29)

Aug. 30: Marx (TA) (MW 57-73)

WEEK 3: FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGICAL THOUGHT

Sept. 2: No Class – Labor Day

Sept. 4: Foundations of sociological thought (MO 42-54, MW 74-78)

Sept. 6: Durkheim (TA)(MW 78-85)

WEEK 4: HISTORICAL PARTICULARISM

Sept. 9: Historical particularism (MO 30-41, MW 112-117)(Film: The Shackles of Tradition)

Sept. 11: Boas (MW 117-124)

Sept. 13: Mead (TA) (MW 211-217, MO 95-106)

→ *First annotated bibliography due Friday 13 September before Midnight*

WEEK 5: FUNCTIONALISM

Sept. 16: Functionalist approaches (MW 150-154)(Film: Off the Veranda)

Sept. 18: Library workshop led by Nancy Courtney in Thompson Library 150

Sept. 20: Malinowski (TA) (MW 154-170, MO 122-133)

WEEK 6: STRUCTURAL-FUNCTIONALISM

Sept. 23: Structural-functionalism (MO 134-145)

Sept. 25: Evans-Pritchard (MO 146-156)

Sept. 27: Gluckman (TA) (MW 181-194)

→ *Second annotated bibliography due Friday 27 September before Midnight*

WEEK 7: MATERIALIST APPROACHES

Sept. 30: Materialist approaches (MW 259-262)

Oct. 2: Steward (MW 220-223, 243-258)

Oct. 4: Harris (TA) (MW 277-292, MO 185-195)

WEEK 8: STRUCTURALISM

Oct. 7: Library workshop led by Nancy Courtney in Thompson Library 150

Oct. 9: Structuralism (MW 320-322, MO 209-223)

Oct. 11: Levi-Strauss (TA) (MW 320-330)

→ *Third annotated bibliography due Friday 11 October before Midnight*

WEEK 9: FEMINIST ANTHROPOLOGY

Oct. 14: Feminist critique (MO 196-204, MW 396-398)

Oct. 16: Slocum (MW 399-408)

Oct. 18: Leacock (TA) (MW 408-423)

WEEK 10: SYMBOLIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Oct. 21: Symbolic and interpretive anthropology (MW 438-440)

Oct. 23: Ngaben film guide (2012) (MO 235-246) (Film: Ngaben)

Oct. 25: Geertz (TA) (MW 467-487)

WEEK 11: POWER, DISCOURSE AND PRACTICE

Oct. 28: Power, discourse and practice (MW 488-492)

Oct. 30: Bourdieu (MW 492-508, MO 292-307)

Nov. 1: Foucault (TA) (MW 508-519)

→ *Paper prospectus due Friday 1 November before Midnight*

WEEK 12: POSTMODERN ANTHROPOLOGY

Nov. 4: Postmodern anthropology (MW 520-524)

Nov. 6: Abu-Lughod (MW 539-549)

Nov. 8: Rosaldo (TA) (MW 524-539)

WEEK 13: GLOBALIZATION

Nov. 11: No Class – Veteran’s Day
 Nov. 13: Wolf (MO 308-326, MW 565-567)
 Nov. 15: Bourgois (TA) (MW 587-603)

WEEK 14: COMPLEXITY THEORY

Nov. 18: Complex adaptive systems (Film: Computer and the Goddess)
 Nov. 20: Lansing (2009: 1-19)(TA)
 Nov. 22: No Class – AAA Meetings
 → *Term paper due Friday 22 November before Midnight*

WEEK 15: THINKING THEORETICALLY

Nov. 25: Thinking theoretically as an anthropologist (EM 205-215)
 Nov. 27: No Class – Thanksgiving
 Nov. 29: No Class – Thanksgiving

WEEK 16: REVIEW

Dec. 2: Review

FINALS WEEK

→ *Take-home exam is due on Thursday 5 December before 10AM.*

REQUIRED READINGS

Cliggett, Lisa. (2005). Grains from grass: aging, gender, and famine in rural Africa. Ithaca (NY): Cornell University Press. Pp. 23-46.

Henrich, Joseph, Steven J. Heine, and Ara Norenzayan. (2010). Most people are not WEIRD. *Nature* 466(1 July 2010):29.

Lansing, J. Stephen. (2006). Perfect order: Recognizing complexity in Bali. Princeton (NJ): Princeton University Press. Pp. 1-19.

McGee, R. Jon and Richard L. Warms. (2008). *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. 3rd Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill Publishing Company.

Moore, Jerry D. (2012). *Visions of culture: An introduction to anthropological theories and theorists*. 4th Edition. Lanham, MD: Altamira Press.