

**Anthropology 4021 – Development of Anthropological Thought**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Section 001, MWF, 11:00-11:50 PM, Wooten Hall 113**  
**Section 002, MWF, 1:00-1:50 PM, Wooten Hall 317**

**Instructor:** Beverly A. Davenport, PhD, MSPH  
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**Email:** [bad@unt.edu](mailto:bad@unt.edu)  
**Drop-in office hrs.:** Wednesday and Thursday, 3:30-5:00 PM (office hours END at 5:00); or by appointment

**IA:** Chandler Shoaf  
**Office:** Ask for Chandler at the Front Desk of the Anthropology Dept., 330Q Chilton Hall  
**Email:** [Chandler.Shoaf@unt.edu](mailto:Chandler.Shoaf@unt.edu)  
**Drop-in office hrs.:** Tuesday, 2:30-4:00 PM and Wednesday, 9:00-10:30 AM; or by appointment

**DEVELOPMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL THOUGHT**

What do we mean when we use the term “theory” in social science in general, and in anthropology specifically? How does social science theory compare to theory in natural science? What is theory good for? Does it actually help us to understand social phenomena? How can we discern theoretical points of view in research presentations (book length ethnographies, journal articles, conference papers and posters)? Do theoretical perspectives of authors color their interpretation of data? How do we employ theory in our own research? How do implicit “ways of knowing” guide our own thinking about social phenomena?

We will ponder these questions as we follow the (mostly) chronological development of anthropological theory from its 19<sup>th</sup> century origins into the present day. *You will be pondering and writing about one or more of these questions in the multi-staged “developmental term paper” that you’ll write for the course.* By the end of this course I hope that you will have working answers that will inspire you to further study. No theory is disembodied; it emerges out of specific cultural, historical, and geographical contexts. As we study the writing of our most influential anthropological predecessors, I ask you to remind yourselves of this context in order that you might develop a more holistic understanding of their ideas.

Through reading, discussion, informal and formal writing in this class you will:

- **Learn** some key concepts in anthropological theory **and**
- **Identify** the authors associated with those key ideas
- **Understand the impact** of historical and cultural contexts on the emergence of theories
- **Contextualize** key authors– how did they influence major theoretical “schools?” How did developments in society influence them?
- **Compare and contrast** different theoretical perspectives
- **Analyze** concepts from theory

## TEXTBOOK:

R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms

2017 A History of Anthropological Theory, 6th edition. McGraw Hill. **Abbreviated as McGee and Warms in the syllabus.** *The pages you see listed are page numbers from the 6<sup>th</sup> edition. The page numbers from the 5<sup>th</sup> edition are in parentheses.*

## OTHER REQUIRED READING:

**All material listed on the syllabus is required.** Readings that are not in McGee & Warms are posted on Blackboard. **Download and print out all readings.** Bring “McGee and Warms” and/or other current reading to class. Read your assignments BEFORE class.

## HOW AND WHAT YOU WILL BE EVALUATED ON:

1. **10 Critical Commentaries** – 15 pts. @

These will be graded as follows:

- 0 = no submission
- 7 = “below proficient”
- 12 = “proficient”
- 15 = “above proficient”) – 150 pts.

I will shortly provide a rubric for Critical Commentaries to guide your thinking and writing.

**Critical commentaries begin Week 4 (week beginning 2/5/18) and will be due in the designated journal on Blackboard by Tuesday of each week at 11:59 PM**

2. **10 Weekly Puzzlements** – 10 pts. @ (graded pass/fail) – 100 pts.

These begin as soon as you start reading. Monitor yourself. You must submit 10 questions on the Discussion Board by the end of week 14. Typically puzzlements will be based on the week’s reading, but if you have a carryover puzzlement from a class discussion, please submit that.

3. **Midterm on Blackboard**, combination of “objective questions” and short-answer questions – 250 pts.
4. **Final on Blackboard**, as above – 250 pts.
5. **Term Paper** – 250 pts.

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE FOR THE CLASS = 1000.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

Online midterm will be posted 3/5 and will be due no later than 3/18.

Online final will be posted 5/1 and will be due no later than 5/9.

Critical Commentaries are due on Tuesdays by 11:59 beginning Week 4

Weekly Puzzlements are also due on Tuesdays by 11:59.

Development Term Paper will be due in stages:

Stage 1 – due end of week 6 (February 23), details to follow

Stage 2 -- TBD

Stage 3 -- TBD

## COURSE POLICIES

1. **SUBMITTING WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** Unless told otherwise, submit all written assignments for this class via Blackboard. This means Critical Commentaries in the Journal feature on Blackboard and Your Puzzlements on the Class Discussion Board. **Specific notes for Turnitin:** After submitting via Turnitin, you should receive an email documentation of your submission. **If you didn't receive an email from Turnitin, something went wrong and you need to resubmit it.** (So try again. Ask the Blackboard help desk for assistance if necessary.) *We will not accept papers submitted via email OR hard copy.* All works submitted for credit must be original works created by you uniquely for this class (see Plagiarism Policy, below)

### ***Anthropology Department Undergraduate Plagiarism Policy***

*Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional. You should always provide references for any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of information that are not common knowledge. The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty. Students suspected of academic dishonesty will be given a hearing in which they are informed of the charges. Clear evidence in support of the charge will merit failure in the course. For more information on the university's policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities at <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>.*

2. **EMAIL POLICY:** Please use your **my.unt.edu** email when corresponding with Chandler and me. **Put your full name and ANTH 4021 on the subject line** (I have too many students this semester).

*Please DO NOT to send emails when you can't make it to class.* The only exception to this request is if you have a medical situation or a family emergency that will require your extended absence, in which case, please DO let us know.

3. **COMMUNICATION POLICY:** Because there may be suggested questions for you to consider on a topic for any given lecture, you must check your **my.unt.edu** email account every day. **I will submit such things no less than 24 hours ahead time.** All announcements posted on Blackboard will be sent as emails, too. We will not accept any excuses.

Chandler and I will reply to emails within 24 hours, or 48 hours if the email is sent over the weekend. *This means if you send an email to us after 5 PM on any given workday, don't EXPECT us to have read it before 5 PM the next day. If you send something on Friday, don't expect us to have read it until Monday.*

4. **ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION POLICY:** *Students who do well in this class attend class regularly and hand assignments in when they are due. Life happens and therefore I do allow occasional flexibility with due dates, but I must be notified in advance. All agreements made between Instructor or IA and student must be in writing on an email.*

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

*Unless otherwise indicated, all readings are REQUIRED.*

**PLEASE NOTE: Bring PHYSICAL COPIES of the week's ASSIGNED READING to class so that you'll have it for class discussions. This means downloading and printing out articles on Blackboard in addition to bringing McGee and Warms every day.**

### Week 1 (begins 1/15): Orientation to the History of Anthropological Thought

- McGee and Warms: pp. 1-4 (pp. 1-4)
- ON BLACKBOARD: Perennial Narratives in Anthropology 2016

### Week 2 (begins 1/22): Historical Contexts of Anthropology

- McGee and Warms, pp. 7-15 (pp. 6-13) [intro material]
- ON BLACKBOARD: Moberg. REQUIRED pp. 56-67, recommended 46-56
- ON BLACKBOARD: Mayr

### Week 3 (begins 1/29): 19<sup>th</sup> Century Evolutionism, Part I –Tylor and Morgan

- REVIEW McGee and Warms, pp. 7-15 (pp. 6-13 )
- REVIEW Mayr (on Bboard)
- McGee and Warms pp. 34-49 (pp. 30-45) ([Tylor]; pp. 50-62 (pp. 45-57) [Morgan]

### Week 4 (begins 2/5): 19<sup>th</sup> Century Evolutionism, Part II – Marx

- ON BLACKBOARD: Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach”
- ON BLACKBOARD: Marx, “Preface to the German Ideology

### Week 5 (begins 2/12): Marx, continued

- McGee and Warms, pp. 63-80 (pp. 57-73) [Marx and Engels]

### Week 6 (begins 2/19): Foundations of Sociological Thought – Durkheim

- McGee and Warms, pp. 81-85 (pp. 74-77) [intro material]; pp. 86-93 (pp. 78-85) [Durkheim]

### Week 7 (begins 2/26): Foundations of Sociological Thought – Mauss

- REVIEW McGee and Warms, pp. 81-85 (pp. 74-77)
- McGee and Warms, pp. 94-108 (pp. 85-97) [Mauss]

### Week 8 (begins 3/5): Historical Particularism – Boas and Kroeber

- McGee and Warms, pp. 127-137 (pp. 112-117) [intro material]; pp. 138-146 (pp. 117-124) [Boas]; pp. 147-157 (pp. 125-131) [Kroeber]
- Boas movie (link on Blackboard)

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## **SPRING BREAK, week of March 12**

### Week 9 (begins 3/19): Functionalism – Malinowski and Radcliffe-Brown

- McGee and Warms, pp. 195-200 (pp. 150-154) [intro material]; pp. 201-217 (pp. 154-170) [Malinowski]; pp. 218-229 (pp. 170-181) [Radcliffe-Brown]

Week 10 (begins 3/26): Neo-Evolutionism -- White and Steward

- McGee and Warms, pp. 247-251 (pp. 220-223) [intro material]; pp. 271-288 (pp. 243-258) [Steward]
- material on White tbn

Week 11 (begins 4/2): Neo-materialist Approaches – Harris and Rappaport

- McGee and Warms, pp. 305-308 (pp. 259-262) [intro material]; pp. 309-323 (pp. 277-292) [Harris]
- Rappaport tbn
- ON BLACKBOARD: Applebaum, pp. 293-30

Week 12 (begins 4/9): Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology I – Douglas and Turner

- McGee and Warms, pp. 435-438 (pp. 439-440) [intro material]; pp. 439-448 (pp. 440-449) [Douglas]; pp. 449-467 (pp. 449-467) [Turner]

Week 13 (begins 4/16): Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology II – Geertz

- McGee and Warms, pp. 468-489 (pp. 467-487) [intro material and “Balinese Cockfight”]
- ON BLACKBOARD: Geertz, “Thick Description”

Week 14 (begins 4/23): Poststructuralism – Foucault

- McGee and Warms, pp. 491-495, (pp. 520-524) [intro material]
- excerpt from Foucault – pages to be clarified
- Download from Anthrosource: Davenport, 2000, “Witnessing and the Medical Gaze,” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 14(3):310-327

Week 15 (begins 4/30): Postmodernism – Rosaldo

- McGee and Warms, pp. 527-531 (pp. 488-492) [intro material]; pp. 532-546 (pp. 524-537) [Rosaldo]

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Stage 2 - tbn

Stage 3 - tbn