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 trace the development of anthropological theory from its 19th century origins into the present day. 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
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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
All assignments, except as otherwise specified, are due on Thursday of the given course week, at 11:59 PM.

1) Take-home exams:
   - Take home #1: Thursday, February 23, 11:59 PM
   - Take home #2: Thursday, March 23, 11:59 PM
   - Take home #3: Thursday, April 13, 11:59 PM
   - Take home #4: Monday, May 8, 11:59 PM

2) “Anthropology & Me” Paper
   - 4-5 pages must be submitted to Turnitin by 11:59 PM, Thursday, April 27. In this essay you will address some aspect of anthropology theory/social that you encounter outside of this class. I will provide more detail in a separate document.

3) Miscellaneous “pop” assignments: Exactly what this says.

4) Blackboard Discussions:
   - Students will be randomly assigned to “Discussion groups” in Blackboard Learn. Beginning the week of January 30, there will be two required discussion posts weekly:
     1. The first should be posted at least ½ hour before class on each Wednesday. This must be your “reaction” to the reading – approximately 150-250 words. See “Online Discussions in Anthropology 4021” for more detail.
     2. The second should be posted at least ½ hour before class on each Friday – This will be your response to the members of your Discussion group’s reactions – approximately 100 words.
   - You will receive 6 points for each day’s post for a total of 12 points weekly. Late posts will receive 0 points, no exceptions. There are 26 opportunities to post over the semester, so you can skip two posts without being penalized. You will not be able to receive an ‘A’ in this class without regularly participating in this requirement.

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/.
### STUDENT EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take-home exams (4)</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>600 total (150 each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous “pop” assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100 (20 pts. ea. X 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>On line Discussions</td>
<td>~14%</td>
<td>144 (6 pts./post, 2 per wk., 12 wks.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthropology and Me</td>
<td>~16%</td>
<td>156</td>
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**TOTAL POSSIBLE PTS:** 1000

### COURSE POLICIES

1. Unless told otherwise, submit all written assignments for this class to Turnitin, via Blackboard. After submitting via Turnitin, you should receive an email documentation of their 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, p. 2)

2. **PERSONAL DUE DATES:** Those of you who have taken classes with me before know that I am flexible about when papers may be handed in, in order to accommodate the sometimes pressing multiple demands of your lives. **If you cannot hand in an assignment when it is due, you may establish a “personal due date” that is WITHIN 2 WEEKS of the assignment’s due date.** In order to make your personal due date official, please send an email to me and cc: Azure with the new date clearly stated on it. **No excuses are necessary. You cannot request another personal due date until you have submitted the assignment for which you originally requested one. Papers not submitted by two weeks after the assignment is due will receive a failing (gasp!) grade. No exceptions, except documented health excuses.**

3. **EMAIL POLICY:** Use your my.unt.edu email account. Use your my.unt.edu email account. **Put your full name and ANTH 4021 in the subject line (I have too many students this semester).** Much as I care about you, I would prefer not to receive emails when you can’t make it to class, for whatever reason. I would much rather see you in class. If you are absent for an extended period of time, trust me, I’ll be aware of it. If you have a medical situation or a family emergency for your extended absence, please DO let me and Azure know.

4. **COMMUNICATION POLICY:** you must check your my.unt.edu email account every day. We will not accept any excuses. All announcements posted on Blackboard you will also receive as emails, too. Azure 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.** We will extend the same courtesy to you.

5. **ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION (online) POLICY:** **Students who do well in this class attend class regularly and blog faithfully.** Though we do not take formal attendance except at the beginning of the semester when I have to hand in paperwork to the Registrar’s Office, we notice who is present. This UNT policy statement, found [here](#), states that:

   ...
Therefore, I reserve the right to drop you from the class. If you fail to participate in A. Blackboard discussions for more than two successive weeks 
OR 
B. are absent from class more than 4 TIMES IN A ROW without notification, 
I WILL DROP YOU FROM CLASS FOR LACK OF PARTICIPATION.

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COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Bring physical copies of ALL ASSIGNED READING to class so that you’ll have it for class discussions. This may be one of the “pop” assignments.

Week 1 (begins 1/16): Orientation to the History of Anthropological Thought
- McGee and Warms: pp. 1-4
- ON BLACKBOARD: Perennial Themes in Anthropology 2016

Week 2 (begins 1/23): Historical Contexts of Anthropology
- ON BLACKBOARD: Moberg, pp. 46-67

Week 3 (begins 1/30): 19th Century Evolutionism, Part I – Tylor and Morgan
- McGee and Warms, pp. 6-13 (intro material); pp. 30-45 (Tylor); pp. 45-57 (Morgan);
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class

Week 4 (begins 2/6): 19th Century Evolutionism, Part II – Marx
- McGee and Warms, pp. 57-73 (Marx and Engels)
- ON BLACKBOARD: Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach”
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class

Week 5 (begins 2/13): Foundations of Sociological Thought – Durkheim and Mauss
- McGee and Warms, pp. 74-77 (intro material); pp. 78-85 (Durkheim); pp. 85-97 (Mauss)
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class
- Take-home #1 will be handed out this week

Week 6 (begins 2/20): Historical Particularism – Boas and Kroeber
- McGee and Warms, pp. 112-117 (intro material); pp. 117-124 (Boas); pp. 125-131 (Kroeber)
- Boas movie
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class
- TAKE HOME #1 DUE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 11:59 PM – Submit to Turnitin
Week 7 (begins 2/27): Culture and Personality – Benedict and Mead
- McGee and Warms, pp. 195-200 (intro material); pp. 200-210 (Benedict); pp.211-217 (Mead)
- ON BLACKBOARD: Kluckhohn, “The Impact of Freud on Anthropology”
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class

Week 8 (begins 3/6): Functionalism – Malinowski and Radcliffe-Brown
- McGee and Warms, pp. 150-154 (intro material); pp.154-170 (Malinowski); pp. 170-181 (Radcliffe-Brown)
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class
- Take-home #2 will be handed out this week

SPRING BREAK, week of March 13

Week 9 (begins 3/20): Neo-Evolutionism – White and Steward
- McGee and Warms, pp. 220-223 (intro material); pp. 223-243 (White); pp. 243-258 (Steward)
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class
- **TAKE HOME #2 DUE THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 11:59 PM—Submit to Turnitin**

Week 10 (begins 3/27): Neo-materialist Approaches – Harris and Rappaport
- McGee and Warms, pp. 259-262 (intro material); pp. 277-292 (Harris); pp. 293-306 (Rappaport)
- ON BLACKBOARD: Applebaum, pp. 293-300
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class

Week 11 (begins 4/3): Women Raising Questions (or Hell, take your pick)
- AZURE: I’M STILL DECIDING WHAT TO ASSIGN
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class
- Take-home #3 will be handed out this week
- Anthropology and Me prompt handed out this week.

Week 12 (begins 4/10): Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology I – Douglas and Turner
- McGee and Warms, pp. 439-440 (intro material); pp. 440-449 (Douglas); pp. 449-467 (Turner)
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class
- **TAKE HOME #3 DUE THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 11:59 PM - Submit to Turnitin**

Week 13 (begins 4/17): Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology II – Geertz
- McGee and Warms, pp. 467-487 (intro material and “Balinese Cockfight”)
- ON BLACKBOARD: Geertz, “Thick Description”
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class
- Take-home #4 will be handed out this week
Week 14 (begins 4/24): Poststructuralism – Foucault
- McGee and Warms, pp. 520-524, pp. 508-519 (intro material, excerpt from Foucault)
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class
- ANTHROPOLOGY AND ME ESSAY DUE THURSDAY, APRIL 27, BY 11:59 PM - Submit to Turnitin

Week 15 (begins 5/1): Postmodernism – Rosaldo and Abu-Lughod
- McGee and Warms, pp. 488-492 (intro material); pp. 524-537 (Rosaldo); pp. 539-549 (Abu-Lughod).
- ON BLACKBOARD: Renato Rosaldo, “Grief and a Headhunter’s Rage”
- Discussion posts due on Wednesday and Friday, BEFORE beginning of class

TAKE HOME #4 DUE MONDAY, MAY 8, BY 11:59 PM – Submit to Turnitin