

Syllabus for THOUGHT AND PRAXIS II

ANTH 5021 ♣ University of North Texas
Dr. Andrew Nelson
Spring 2017

Tuesdays, 6-8:30pm
GAB 438

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to familiarize you with the nature of the discipline of Applied Anthropology. Students will be given an introduction to the way the field of Applied Anthropology has emerged from traditional anthropological theory. It examines the theoretical frameworks of the discipline, particularly in the way anthropologists have applied concepts from anthropology to identify social needs and apply solutions. In this course, students will

- Analyze the way the practice of anthropology has instigated changes in anthropological thought
- Use past and current cases of applied anthropology to scrutinize theoretical frames utilized in applied practice
- Design theoretical models based on their particular research agendas.

Emphasis will also be placed on policy formulation, on appropriate interface with client and other communities, and on a wide range of other ethical issues in the applied field. It will be highly 'processual' and very dynamic. Through our weekly discussions students will be allowed to develop and expand their own interests in the field of applied anthropology that may lead to the addition of readings and case studies aligned with the student's own research interests.

The course is structured in three parts:

1. Overview of major theoretical frameworks in the discipline of anthropology with an emphasis on the emergence of pioneer applied anthropological work.
2. Analysis of ethical responsibilities of applied research and connection to policy using classic cases in applied anthropology.

3. Examination of current examples of applied anthropological work.

COMMUNICATION WITH INSTRUCTOR

You are welcome to communicate with me during my office hours on Thursday 10am until noon or at any time via email. My email address is andrew.nelson@UNT.edu. You can also use the email option within the Blackboard Learn.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Weekly Discussion (20%)

This is a seminar-based class and active participation from each of you is required.

B. Writing Assignments (60%)

You will be expected to write four papers during this course on topics that will be developed through discussions. Papers should generally be around 1000-1500 words and demonstrate a critical understanding of the readings.

Papers are due **on** the Sunday **before** the class meeting at 11:59 pm.

Paper 1: February 26

Paper 2: March 26

Paper 3: April 16

Paper 4: April 30

All Weekly Assignment essays must be written in grammatically correct, academic style with no punctuation mistakes, colloquialisms or informalities. The more you practice accurate writing now, the easier it will be when you are under pressure to meet your employer'/clients' deadlines. UNT has a Writing Lab providing help and feedback on your essays if you need it. I also highly recommend the resources and exercises on the Lab's website:

<http://www.unt.edu/writinglab/index.htm>

C. Research Presentation (20%)

Students will design, and elaborate on, an applied anthropology research project that applies the theoretical models or framework addressed in this

course. At the end of the course students will present their research papers in a format similar to a professional conference. The presentation should be approximately 10 minutes.

Presentation will be on Tuesday, May 9th

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1 Introduction to the Course

Jan. 17

- Overview of the course
- Review of Theory and Praxis I
- Discussion of current theoretical approaches and position of applied anthropology.

Week 2 Overview of the Development of Anthropological Thought

Jan. 24

- Different “stories” of anthropological development
- Critical analysis of the “stories”
- What does “anthropology” mean?

Readings:

- Goodenough, Ward H. (2002) Anthropology in the 20th Century and Beyond. *American Anthropologist* 104(2) 423-440.
- Nader, Laura (2002) Missing Links: A Commentary on Ward H. Goodenough’s Moving Article “Anthropology in the 20th Century and Beyond.” *American Anthropologist* 104(2)441-449.
- *Herskovits at the Heart of Blackness* (2009). 57 minutes. Found in BB.

Week 3 History of Applied Anthropology. Origins and Pioneers.

Jan. 31

- The birth of applied anthropology
- Analysis of first principles of “applied” work
- Analysis of particular cases

Readings:

- Boas, Franz (1928) *The Problem of Race. Anthropology and Modern Life.* New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company Inc. 1-61.

- Ervin, Alexander (2005) A Brief History of Applied Anthropology. In *Applied Anthropology: Tools and Perspectives for Contemporary Practice*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon. Second Edition. (Chapter 2)
- Thompson, Laura (1950) The Problem. In *Culture in Crisis. A Study of the Hopi Indians*. Harper and Brothers.
- Sillitoe, Paul (2006) The Search for Relevance: A Brief History of Applied Anthropology. *History and Anthropology* 17(1) 1-19

Week 4 Post-Modernism and Applied Anthropology

Feb. 7

- Postulates of Post-modernism
 - Post-modernism in Anthropology
 - Parallelism between Post-modernism and Applied Anthropology
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- Escobar, Arturo (1994) *Encountering Development*. Princeton University Press. Chaps. 1 & 2.
 - Johannsen, Agneta M. (1992) Applied Anthropology and Post-Modernist Ethnography. *Human Organization* 51(1) pp.71-81.
 - Singer, Merrill (1994) Community-Centered Praxis: Toward an Alternative non-dominative Applied Anthropology. *Human Organization* 53(4) 336-344.
 - Bunzl, Matti (2009) The Quest for Anthropological Relevance: Borgesian Maps and Epistemological Pitfalls. *American Anthropologist* 110(1) 53-60.
 - Farmer, Paul (2004) An Anthropology of Structural Violence. *Current Anthropology* 45(3): 305-325.

Week 5 So, What is Applied Anthropology?

Feb. 14

- Identifying the place of Applied” anthropology
- Analysis of “applied” anthropological work
- What about the dichotomy “thinking” vs. “doing”?

Readings:

- Baba, Marietta (1994) The Fifth Subdiscipline: Anthropological Practice and the Future of Anthropology. *Human Organization* 53(2) 174-186
- Goldschmidt, Walter (2001) Notes Toward a Theory of Applied Anthropology *Human Organization* 60(4) 423-429
- Kozaitis, Kathryn (2000) The Rise of Anthropological Praxis. *NAPA Bulletin* 18(1) pp. 45-66.
- Find a foundational article in the subfield of your research

Week 6 **Class Cancelled**

Feb. 21

Week 7 **Ethics in Applied Anthropology I**

Feb. 28

- Development of anthropological “ethics”
- What is “anthropological ‘ethics’”?
- Ethics in anthropological interventions

Readings:

- Manderson L. and R. Wilson (1998) Negotiating with Communities: The Politics and Ethics of Research. *Human Organization* 57(2) 215-16.
- Sheper-Hughes, Nancy (2006) The Primacy of the Ethical: Propositions for a Militant Anthropology. In *Anthropology in Theory. Issues in Epistemology*. Moore, H. and T. Sanders (eds.) Blackwell Publishing.
- McDonald, James (2002) The Applied Anthropology Reader, Chapter 3 (Ethics): readings 3, 4 & 5
- Malter & Wise (2008) Reciprocity: An Ethic for Community Based Participatory Action Research. *Action Research* 6(3): 305–325
- Brody and Meerwarth (2014) Coming of Age of Anthropological Ethics and Practice. *Journal of Business Anthropology*, special issue, Spring 11-37.
- Thompson, Kerry. Who Was Boas, Really? *Anthropology News*, December 2009.
- Dongoske, Kurt. 2017. Ethical Responsibility in the Face of the Incoming Administration. AAA Ethics Blog.

Week 8 **Ethics in Applied Anthropology II. Study Cases**

March 7

- Historical cases and the emergence of the “ethics” debate
- The “price” of intervention
- Critical analysis of anthropological ethics through historical cases

Readings:

- Doughty, Paul L. (2002) Ending Serfdom in Peru. The Struggle for Land and Freedom in Vicos. In *Contemporary Cultures and Societies of Latin America* Heath, D. (ed.) Waveland Press, Third Edition

- Horowitz, Irwing L. (1976) *The Life and Death of Project Camelot*. Reproduced in *Ethnographic Fieldwork. An Anthropological Reader*. Robben, Antonious and J. Sluja (eds.) (2007) Blackwell Publishing
- Price, David (1998) Gregory Bateson and the OSS: World War II and Bateson's Assessment of Applied Anthropology. *Human Organization* 57(4) 379-384
- *Human Terrain* (2010) 69 minutes. Link found in BB.

Week 9 Spring Break

March 13 - 17

Week 10 World Epistemologies

March 21

- Discussion on the epistemological universalism
- Modernismo, Colonialismo, Ethnocentrism epistemological correlations
- World system of thought in Latin America, Africa, South Asia

Readings:

- Gudynas, Eduardo (2011) *Buen Vivir: Today's Tomorrow*. *Development*, 54(4), (441–447).
- Benedetta & Giordano (2013) *Indigenous Voices: Enriching Contaminations Between Buen Vivir, Ubuntu and the Western World*.
- Mignolo, Walter (2002) Geopolitics of knowledge and the Colonial Difference. *Thee South Atlantic Quarterly* 101:1
- Roy, Ananya (2006) *Praxis in a time of Empire Planning Theory*.

Week 11 Applied Anthropology and Policy Research

March 28

- Definition of Policy
- Anthropological research as policy research
- How does theory affect policy analysis?

Readings:

- Chambers, Erve (1985). *The Policy Idea*. In *Applied Anthropology, A Practical Guide*. Englewood Cliff, New Jersey: Prentice Hall
- Ervin, Alexander (2005) *Applied Anthropology*. Allyn & Bacon Chapters 6-10.
- Okongwu, Anne Francis and Joan Mencher (2000) *The Anthropology of Public Policy: Shifting Terrains* *Annual Review of Anthropology* 29:107-124

- Find and read an article related to policy in the subfield of your research

Week 12 **Class Cancelled**

April 4

Week 13 **Case Studies in Anthropology of Policy Research**

April 11

- Critical analysis of applied anthropology cases and impact on policy

Readings:

- Ervin, Alexander (2005) *Applied Anthropology*. Allyn & Bacon Chapters 4-5
- Escobar, Arturo (1994) *Encountering Development*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 5
- McDonald, James (2002) *The Applied Anthropology Reader*, Chapter 5 (Policy): readings 9, 10 & 11 (start on page 105)

Week 14 **Applied Anthropology, Advocacy and Activism**

April 18

- The role of “advocacy” in anthropology
- Advocacy as controversial intervention
- Critical analysis of particular cases in anthropological advocacy

Readings:

- Hastrup, Kristen and P. Elsass (1990) *Anthropological Advocacy*. *Current Anthropology* 31(3): 301-311
- Nash, June (1976) *Ethnology in a Revolutionary Setting*. Reproduced in *Ethnographic Fieldwork. An Anthropological Reader*. Robben, A. and J. Sluka (eds.) (2007) Blackwell Publishing.
- Checker, Melissa (2007) *But I Know It’s True: Environmental Risk, Assessment, Justice and Anthropology*. *Human Organization*
- Goldstein, Daniel (2014) *Laying the Body on the Line: Activist Anthropology and the Deportation of the Undocumented*. *American Anthropologist* 116(4) 839-842
- Merry, Sally Engle (2006) *Transnational Human Rights and Local Activism: Mapping the Middle*. *American Anthropologist* 108(1): 38-51.
- Public Anthropology section in *American Anthropologist* 116 (2), 2014.

Week 15 **Methods and Theory in Applied Anthropology.**

April 25

- The articulation of the “what” and the “how” in anthropological research
- Connection of theoretical lenses and methods
- Participatory Action Research

Readings:

- Agar, Michael and J. MacDonald (1995) Focus Groups and Ethnography. *Human Organization* 54(1): 78-86
- Mctaggart, Robin (1991) Principles for Participatory Action Research. *Adult Education Quarterly*. Vol 47(3) pp.168-187
- Fals Borda, Orlando (1987) The Application of Participatory-Action Research in Latin America. *International Sociology* 2 (4), 329-347.
- Henry, Lisa, Mariela Nunez-Janes, Ann Jordan and Alicia Re Cruz. 2013. Synonyms for Engagement: Forging an Engaged Anthropology in North Texas. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 39(1): 90-112.
- Wilson, Ruth (1998). The Role of the Anthropologist as Short-Term Consultants. *Human Organization* 57(2): 245-252.
- Pick One: Ervin, chs. 11, 12, 14 or McDonald chs. 6-8

Week 16

Review and General Discussion:

May 2

Towards a New Paradigm of Anthropological Research

Meeting Place: Oak Street Draft House

- Summary of Kuhn’s The Structure of Scientific Revolutions
- Definition of Paradigm
- Applied Anthropology for the 21st Century

Readings:

- Agar, Michael and J. MacDonald (1995) Focus Groups and Ethnography. *Human Organization* 54(1): 78-86
- Baba, M. and Hill C. (2006) What’s in the Name ‘Applied Anthropology’? An Encounter with Global Practice. *NAPA Bulletin* 25:176-207.
- Escobar, Arturo (1994) *Encountering Development*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 6
- Fiske, Sh. and Chambers, E. (1996) The Inventions of Practice. *Human Organization* 55(1) 1-12
- Kuhn, Th. (1970) *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Chapter X (Revolutions as Changes of World Views)

Finals Week

May 9 Final Presentations

DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of the University of North Texas not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability (where reasonable accommodations can be made) disabled veteran status or veteran of the Vietnam era status in its educational programs, activities, admissions or employment policies. In addition to complying with federal and state equal opportunity laws and regulations, the university through its diversity policy declares harassment based on individual differences (including sexual orientation) inconsistent with its mission and education goals. Direct questions and concerns to the Equal Opportunity Office, (940) 565-2456, or the Dean of Students, (940) 565-2648. TDD access is available through Relay Teas (800) 735-22989.

Anthropology does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The program provides academic adjustments and aids to individuals with disabilities in its programs and activities. If you have a disability, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Accommodations (940) 565-4323. It is the responsibility of the student to make the necessary arrangements with its instructor.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

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 automatic 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/>. 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. For more information on writing papers, including how to avoid plagiarism and how to use citations, see the department of anthropology's Writing Guide at <http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm>.

This syllabus is subject to changes or revisions.