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.
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:
- 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:

Week 4  Post-Modernism and Applied Anthropology
Feb. 7

- Postulates of Post-modernism
- Post-modernism in Anthropology
- Parallelism between Post-modernism and Applied Anthropology


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:
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:

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:
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:

Week 11  Applied Anthropology and Policy Research
March 28
- Definition of Policy
- Anthropological research as policy research
- How does theory affect policy analysis?

Readings:
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:

**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:

**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:
- 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:
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.