

Syllabus for THOUGHT AND PRAXIS II

ANTH 5021 • University of North Texas
Dr. Andrew Nelson
Spring 2018

Tuesdays, 6-8:30pm
Wooten Hall 214

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 Tuesday noon until 2pm 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 (15%)

This is a seminar-based class and active participation from each of you is required. Each week, you will be responsible for covering at least one reading.

B. Writing Assignments (70%)

You will be expected to write five short 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. Paper topics will be distributed at least 10 days before due dates.

Papers are **due on Sundays** at 11:59 pm.

Paper 1 (History): February 11

Paper 2 (Theory/Praxis): February 25

Paper 3 (Ethics/Methods): March 18

Paper 4 (Public): April 1 (no joke!)

Paper 5 (Activism/Advocacy): April 22

All papers 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 (15%)

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 8th

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1 Introduction to the Course

Jan. 16

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

Week 2 History of Applied Anthropology I: Colonial Misadventures

Jan. 23

- Colonial origins
- State anthropology = neocolonialism?
- Happy Endings

Readings:

- Sillitoe, Paul (2006) The Search for Relevance: A Brief History of Applied Anthropology. *History and Anthropology* 17(1) 1-19.
- Horowitz, Irving 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.
- Baba, M. and Carole C. Hill (2006) What's in the Name 'Applied Anthropology'? An Encounter with Global Practice. *NAPA Bulletin* 25:176-207.

Week 3 History II: Race

Jan. 30

- The Social Role of Ideas
- Boas and anti-racism
- White supremacy's staying power

Readings:

- Boas, Franz (1928) *The Problem of Race*. Anthropology and Modern Life. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company Inc. 1-61. (Skim)
- *Herskovits at the Heart of Blackness* (2009) 57 minutes. Found in BB.
- Liss, Julia (1998) Diasporic Identities: The Science and Politics of Race in the Work of Franz Boas and WEB Du Bois, 1894-1919. *Cultural Anthropology* 13(2): 127-166.
- Baker, Lee D. (1998) Unraveling the Boasian Discourse: The Racial Politics of "Culture" in School Desegregation, 1944-1954. *Transforming Anthropology* 7(1): 15-32.
- Caspari, Rachel (2003) From Types to Populations: A Century of Race, Physical Anthropology, and the American Anthropological Association. *American Anthropologist* 105(1): 65-76.
- Brodtkin, Morgen, and Janis Hutchinson (2011) Anthropology as White Public Space. *American Anthropologist* 113(4): 545-556.
- Shanklin, Eugenia (1999) The Profession of the Color Blind: Sociocultural Anthropology and Racism in the 21st Century. *American Anthropologist* 100(3): 669-679.

Week 4 History III: World Anthropologies

Feb. 6

- Anthropology in other national traditions
- What can US anthropology learn?

Readings:

- Read all of *NAPA Bulletin* 25 cases of applied anthropology in Ecuador, Egypt, India, China, Russia, Israel, Great Britain, Portugal and Canada.

Week 5 Applied Theory & Praxis I: the Critique

Feb. 13

- Analysis of "applied" anthropological work
- Postmodern critique of applied anthropology
- Responding to the pomos

Readings:

- Hastrup, Kristen and P. Elsass (1990) Anthropological Advocacy. *Current Anthropology* 31(3): 301-311.
- Johannsen, Agneta M. (1992) Applied Anthropology and Post-Modernist Ethnography. *Human Organization* 51(1): 71-81.

- Kozaitis, Kathryn (2000) The Rise of Anthropological Praxis. *NAPA Bulletin* 18(1): 45-66.
- Rylko-Bauer, Barbara, Merrill Singer, and John van Willigen (2006) Reclaiming Applied Anthropology: Its Past, Present, and Future. *American Anthropologist* 108(1): 178-190.

Week 6 **Theory & Praxis II: Integrating Thought and Praxis**

Feb. 20

- What about the dichotomy “thinking” vs. “doing”?
- How might applied debates contribute to anthropological theory?

Readings:

- Singer, Merrill (1995) Beyond the Ivory Tower: Critical Praxis in Medical Anthropology. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 9(1): 80-106.
- Copeland-Carson, Jacqueline (2005) “Theory-Building” Evaluation Anthropology: Bridging the Scholarship-Versus-Practice Divide. *NAPA Bulletin* 24: 7-16.
- Hill, Carole (2000) Strategic Issues for Rebuilding a Theory and Practice Synthesis. *NAPA Bulletin* 18(1): 1-16.
- Baba, Marietta L. (2000) Theories of Practice in Anthropology: A Critical Appraisal. *NAPA Bulletin* 18(1): 17-44.
- Barth, Fredrik (2000) Reflections on Theory and Practice in cultural Anthropology: Excerpts from three articles. *NAPA Bulletin* 18(1): 147-163.
- Angrosino, Michael (2000) The Culture Concept and Applied Anthropology. *NAPA Bulletin* 18(1): 67-78.

Week 7 **Applied Ethics & Methods I: What are anthropological ethics?**

Feb. 27

- Development of anthropological “ethics”
- The cost of intervention?
- 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.
- Scheper-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.
- Bourgois, Philippe (1991) “Confronting the Ethics of Ethnography: Lessons From Fieldwork in Central America.” In *Decolonizing*

Anthropology: Moving Further Toward an Anthropology for Liberation, Edited by Faye Harrison. Pp. 110-126. Washington DC: Association of Black Anthropologists and American Anthropological Association.

- 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.
- Moskowitz, Nona (2015): Engagement, Alienation, and Anthropology's New Moral Dilemmas. *Anthropology and Humanism* 40(1): 35-57

Week 8 Applied Ethics & Methods II: Case Studies

March 6

- Critical analysis of anthropological ethics through historical cases
- Participatory Action research

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.
- Agar, Michael and J. MacDonald (1995) Focus Groups and Ethnography. *Human Organization* 54(1): 78-86.
- Wilson, Ruth (1998) The Role of the Anthropologist as Short-Term Consultants. *Human Organization* 57(2): 245-252.
- Mctaggart, Robin (1991) Principles for Participatory Action Research. *Adult Education Quarterly*. 47(3):168-187.
- Fals Borda, Orlando (1987) The Application of Participatory-Action Research in Latin America. *International Sociology* 2 (4), 329-347.
- Hall-Arber, Madeleine. 2007. The Community Panels Project: Citizens' Groups for Social Science Research and Monitoring. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 28(1): 148-162.

March 13 – 17: Spring Break

Week 9 Public Anthropology I: Is anybody listening?

March 20

- What is public anthropology?
- For whom do we write?
- How could we reach more readers?

Readings:

- Bunzl, Matti (2009) The Quest for Anthropological Relevance: Borgesian Maps and Epistemological Pitfalls. *American Anthropologist* 110(1) 53-60.
- Vine, David (2011) "Public Anthropology" in its Second Decade: Robert Borofsky's Center for a Public Anthropology. *American Anthropologist* 113(2): 336-339.
- Haugerud, Angelique (2016) Public Anthropology in 2015: Charlie Hebdo, Black Lives Matter, Migrants, and More. *American Anthropologist* 118(3): 585-601.
- Fassin, Didier (2013): Why Ethnography Matters: On Anthropology and its Publics. *Cultural Anthropology* 28(4): 621-646.

Week 10 Public Anthropology II: Policy

March 27

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

Readings:

- Wedel, Janine, Chris Shore, Gregory Feldman and Stacy Lathrop (2005) Toward an Anthropology of Public Policy. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 600: 30-51.
- Oliver-Smith, Anthony. 2016. Disaster Risk Reduction and Applied Anthropology. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 40(1): 73-85.
- Schuller, Mark and Julie K. Maldonado. 2016. Disaster Capitalism. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 40(1): 61-72.
- Khanna, Sunil. 2009. Anthropological Approaches for Understanding the Complexities of the Global Food Crisis. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 32(1): 193-200.
- Heyman, Josiah, Maria Cristina Morales, Guillermina Gina Nuñez. 2009. Engaging with the Immigrant Human Rights Movement in a Besieged Border Region: What do Applied Social Scientists bring to the Policy Process? *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 31(1): 13-29.
- Okongwu, Anne Francis and Joan Mencher (2000) The Anthropology of Public Policy: Shifting Terrains. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 29:107-124

Week 11 Bye Week: TBA

April 3

Week 12 Activism & Advocacy

April 10

- The role of activism and advocacy in anthropology
- Critical analysis of particular cases in anthropological activism and advocacy

Readings:

- 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.
- Unterberger, Alayne. 2009. The Blur: Balancing Applied Anthropology, Activism, and Self vis-à-vis Immigrant Communities. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 31(1): 1-12.
- Martínez, Konane M. 2009. Thirty Cans of Beef Stew and a Thong: Anthropologist as Academic, Administrator, and Activist in the US-Mexico Border Region. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 31(1): 100-113.

Week 13 Anthropology in Practice I: The University

April 17

- The (a)political university
- How can anthropologists re-politicize their institutions?
- Taking class beyond the ivory tower

Readings:

- Lacy, Sarah and Ashton Rome. 2017. (Re)Politicizing the Anthropologist in the Age of Neoliberalism and #Blacklivesmatter. *Transforming Anthropology* 25(2): 171-184.
- Bennett, Linda and Linda Whiteford. 2013. Anthropology and the Engaged University: New Visions for the Discipline within Higher Education. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 37(1): 2018.
- 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.
- Hyland, Stanley and Linda Bennett. 2013. Responding to Community Needs through Linking Academic and Practicing Anthropology: An Engaged Scholarly Framework. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 37(1): 34-56.
- Kozaitis, Kathryn. 2013. Anthropological Praxis in Higher Education. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 37(1): 133-155.

- Vasquez, Miguel. 2013. A Latino Anthropologist in Arizona: Obligations and Opportunities. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 37(1): 19-33.
- Copeland, Toni and H.J. Francois Dengah II. 2016. "Involve me and I learn": Teaching and Applying Anthropology. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 40(2): 120-133.

Week 14 **Practice II: Anthropological Careers**

April 24

- What does a 21st century anthropologist look like?
- Gender and intellectual labor
- What do you want to do with your degree?

Readings:

- Brondo, Keri Vacanti and Linda Bennett (2012) Career Subjectivities in US Anthropology: Gender, Practice and Resistance. *American Anthropologist* 114(4): 598-610.
- Guerrón-Montero (2008) Preparing Anthropologists for the 21st Century. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 29(1): 1-13.
- Kedia, Satish (2008) Recent Changes and Trends in the Practice of Applied Anthropology. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 29(1): 14-28.
- Lassiter, Luke Eric. (2008) Moving Past Public Anthropology and Doing Collaborative Research. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 29(1): 70-86.
- Pick any two other articles from *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 29(1).
- Wasson, Christina (2006) Histories and Futures at the Frontier. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 26(1): 223-226.
- Squires, Susan (2006) Solving Puzzles. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 26(1): 191-208.
- One additional article from *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 26(1).

Week 15 **Applying Theory to Sub-Fields**

May 1 **Meet at Eastside**

- Connect class to own research interests

Readings:

- Search for and read 2 research articles from sub-field and come to class prepared to describe them

Finals Week

May 8 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.