

Anthropology 4021 – History of Anthropological Thought
Spring 2017
Section 001, MWF, 11:00-11:50 PM, Wooten Hall 115
Section 002, MWF, 1:00-1:50 PM, Wooten Hall 213

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Drop-in office hrs.: Monday, 12:00-1:00 in **Wooten Hall** and Wednesday, 9:00-10:30 in Chilton Hall 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 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
2012 A History of Anthropological Theory, 5th edition. McGraw Hill. **Abbreviated as McGee and Warms in the syllabus.**

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.

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/>.

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.

STUDENT EVALUATION

	Percent	Points
Take-home exams (4)	60% total	600 total (150 each)
Miscellaneous “pop” assignments	10%	100 (20 pts. ea. X 5)
On line Discussions	~14%	144 (6 pts./post, 2 per wk., 12 wks.)
Anthropology and Me	~16%	156
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. Use **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:

any instructor who informs students in *writing* about the necessity of class attendance may request of the Registrar that a student be dropped from the course with a grade of WF upon the accumulation of the stated number of absences. Instructor drops for non-attendance may be processed up to two weeks prior to the first day of final examinations for fall or spring terms/semesters and equivalent dates for summer sessions. Refer to www.unt.edu/catalog for more information. Departments and similar academic units have authority to establish a department or course attendance policy, so long as the policy is in accord with the above stipulations. If the instructor-initiated drop action falls within the time the student is eligible to drop with instructor consent and

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 Warmes, pp. 520-524, pp. 508-519 (intro material, excerpt from Foucault)
- Download from Anthrosource: Davenport, 2000, “Witnessing and the Medical Gaze,” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 14(3):310-327
- 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 Warmes, pp. 488-492 (intro material); pp. 524-537 (Rosaldo); pp. 539-549 (Abu-Lughod).
- ON BLACKBOARD: Renato Rosaldo, “Grief and a Headhunter’s Rage”
- ON BLACKBOARD: Lila Abu-Lughod, “The Romance of Resistance”
- 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