

Anthropology 4021.001
Spring 2016, TR, 11:00-12:20 PM
Environmental Science 115

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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
- **Contextualize** key authors– how did they influence and how were they influenced by major theoretical "schools" in anthropology and in social theory more generally?
- **Understand the impact** of historical and cultural contexts on the emergence of theory
- **Compare and contrast** different theoretical perspectives
- **Distill and synthesize** specific concepts from theory in your writing

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 Sunday of the given course week, at 11:59 PM.

1) Take-home exams:

- Take-home #1 must be submitted to Turnitin by 11:59 PM, **Sunday, February 28**
- Take-home #2 must be submitted to Turnitin by 11:59 PM, **Sunday, April 3**
- Take-home #3 must be submitted to Turnitin by 11:59 PM, **TUESDAY, May 9.**

2) “Anthropology & Me” Paper

- 4-6 pages must be submitted to Turnitin by 11:59 PM, **Sunday, April 17.** 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) Term paper

- 7-10 pages must be submitted to Turnitin by 11:59 PM, **MONDAY, May 1.** I will supply a list of suggested topics in a separate document. **Plan to meet with Azure to discuss your term paper topic by Friday, March 4. You must have a preliminary meeting with Azure or me BEFORE Spring Break** (Friday, March 11 is the last day of class before the break).

4) Blackboard Discussions:

- Students will be randomly assigned to “Discussion groups” in Blackboard Learn. **Beginning Tuesday February 1, there will be two required discussion posts weekly:**
 1. The first must be posted **before class on each Tuesday, that is, by 10:30 AM** – This must be your “reaction” to the reading – approximately 150-250 words. See “Online Discussions in Anthropology 4021” for more detail.
 2. The second must be posted **before class (by 10:30 AM) on each Thursday**– 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.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **PAPER SUBMISSION:** You are required to submit written assignments for this class to Turnitin, a web-based submission system. 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 in box below).

2. **PERSONAL DUE DATES:** Those of you who have taken classes with me before know that I am flexible (within reason) 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. Send the email and then live up to your commitment. You cannot request another personal due date until you have submitted the assignment for which you originally requested one. Papers not submitted by the personal due date or two weeks after the assignment is due, whichever comes later, will receive a failing (gasp!) grade.
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** use your **my.unt.edu email** account. We will be communicating with you via this account and will not accept any excuses for not knowing something that was sent to you via my.unt.edu email. We send all announcements posted on BlackBoard as emails, too, so there is no reason for you to miss any important information. Azure and I will reply to emails within 24 hours, or 48 hours if the email is sent over the weekend.
5. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** *Students who do well in this class attend class regularly and contribute to the group discussions 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, I notice who is in the class. Anything discussed in class is “fair game” as source material for exam questions.

I reserve the right to drop you from the class for lack of participation, which will be defined by:

- a. **failure to participate in discussions over two successive weeks**
- b. **extended absence from class (more than a week) without notification**
- c. **repeated failure to reply to emails from Azure or me within 72 hours**

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 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>

STUDENT EVALUATION

	Percent	Points
On line Discussions	14%	144 <i>OK, so the math is a little off. Sue me.</i>
Take-home exams (170pts/each)	51%	510
Essay/Thought Piece	15%	150
Term Paper	20%	200
	TOTAL POSSIBLE PTS:	1000

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Core Curriculum: This capstone course is an important component of UNT's Core Curriculum. This course is related to the category of **Language, Philosophy and Culture** and will focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience. As an integral part of the core curriculum, while engaging in this course you will develop and demonstrate the core objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility and Social Responsibility.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Complete all reading for the week BEFORE class, unless you receive a notification otherwise. Bring physical copies of ALL ASSIGNED READING to class so that you'll have it for class discussions.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1/19-1/24, Week 1: Orientation to the History of Anthropological Thought

- McGee and Warms: pp. 1-4
- ON BLACKBOARD: Moberg, pp. 46-67

1/25-1/31, Week 2: Historical Contexts of Anthropology

- ON BLACKBOARD: Moberg, pp. 46-67 – REVIEW (or read for the first time ☺)

2/01-2/07, Week 3: 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 by 10:30AM, Tuesday and Thursday

2/08-2/14, Week 4: 19th Century Evolutionism, Part II – Marx

- pp. 57-73 (Marx and Engels)
- ON BLACKBOARD: Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach"
- *Take-home #1 will be handed out this week*

2/15-2/21, Week 5: 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 by 10:30AM, Tuesday and Thursday

2/22-2/28, Week 6: Historical Particularism – Boas and Kroeber

- McGee and Warms, pp. 112-117 (intro material); pp. 117-124 (Boas); pp. 125-131 (Kroeber)
- Discussion posts due by 10:30AM Tuesday and Thursday
- **TAKE HOME #1 DUE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 11:59 PM**

2/29-3/06, Week 7: 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 by 10:30AM, Tuesday and Thursday

3/07-3/13, Week 8: 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 by 10:30AM, Tuesday and Thursday
- *Take-home #2 will be handed out this week*

SPRING BREAK March 14-19

3/20-3/26, Week 9: Neo-Evolutionism -- White and Steward

- McGee and Warms, pp. 220-223 (intro material); pp. 223-243 (White); pp. 243-258 (Steward)
- Discussion posts due by 10:30AM, Tuesday and Thursday

3/27-4/03, Week 10: 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 10:30AM, Tuesday and Thursday
- *Anthropology and Me prompt handed out this week.*
- **TAKE HOME #2 DUE SUNDAY, APRIL 3, BY 11:59 PM – Submit to Turnitin**

4/04-4/10, Week 11: Structuralism – Levi-Strauss

- McGee and Warms, pp. 320-343 (intro material and excerpts from L-S and Ortner)
- Discussion posts due 10:30AM, Tuesday and Thursday

4/11-4/17, Week 12: Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology I – Douglas and Turner

- McGee and Warms, pp. 439-467 (intro material and excerpts from Douglas and Turner)
- Discussion posts due by 10:30AM, Tuesday and Thursday
- **“ANTHROPOLOGY AND ME ESSAY” DUE SUNDAY, APRIL 17, BY 11:59 PM - Submit to Turnitin**

4/18-4/24, Week 13: 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 by 10:30AM, Tuesday and Thursday

4/25-4/31, Week 14: Precursors to Poststructuralism and Postmodernism – Foucault

- McGee and Warms, pp. 488-492, pp. 508-519 (intro material, excerpt from Foucault)
- ON BLACKBOARD: Davenport, “Witnessing and the Medical Gaze”
- Discussion posts due by 10:30AM, Tuesday and Thursday
- *Take-home #3 handed out this week*

5/01-5/06, Week 15: Poststructuralism and Postmodernism – Rosaldo and Abu-Lughod

- ON BLACKBOARD: Renato Rosaldo, “Grief and a Headhunter’s Rage”
- ON BLACKBOARD: Lila Abu-Lughod, “The Romance of Resistance”
- Discussion posts due 10:30AM, Tuesday and Thursday

Term paper submitted to Turnitin by 11:59 PM, Monday, May 1

Take home #3 submitted to Turnitin by 11:59 PM, Tuesday, May 9