

COURSE OUTLINE AND SYLLABUS

ANTHROPOLOGY 503 HISTORY AND THEORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Fall Semester 2009

Boise State University

Dr. Mark G. Plew

1:40-4:30 P.M.; T, Anthropology Conference Room

INTRODUCTION and OUTCOMES: This course is an intensive historical overview of the events leading to the development of basic concepts, theory and methods in contemporary anthropology. The course seeks to develop an understanding of: **1)** anthropological inquiry, **2)** the relationship of anthropology to the history of western science, **3)** and events in European and American social science leading to the emergence of the discipline.

COURSE FORMAT: The course will be conducted as a seminar during which time assigned readings will be discussed. Your preparation and participation in these discussions is required. On a weekly basis I will assign one student to prepare for the next week an overview of the required readings. The individual will be expected to assume a lead role in the discussions. This means that you can not come to class unprepared!

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS and READINGS:

Harris, Marvin

2001 *The Rise of Anthropological Theory*. Updated Edition. Altimara

Recommended:

Bohannon, P. and M. Glazer

1973 *Highpoints in Anthropology* (old but contains selected readings)

Garbarino, Merwyn

1987 *Socio-Cultural Theory in Anthropology: A Short History*.

Kaplan, David and Robert Manners

1987 *Culture Theory* (Reprint. An outstanding little book for summary)

Kuhn, Thomas S.

1970 *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. International Encyclopedia of Unified Science
Volume Number 2. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

McGee and Warmes
1996 *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. Mayfield Publishers.

Stocking, George
1987 *Victorian Anthropology*

CHAPTER OUTLINES: Each student is expected to prepare an outline/notes for weekly discussions. These will be submitted each week. I will evaluate them for a total of 100 points toward your course grade.

EXAMINATIONS: There will be two examinations. The first given near mid-term will cover racial science, the rise of evolutionary theory and the comparative method. The second will be given at the end of the semester and will cover Boasian anthropology and the rise of neo-evolutionism in the United States. I will give you three questions from which you will pick two. You will have the entire period to write the exams. You should plan on bringing a lap top to write the exam.

COURSE PAPER: Each student will prepare a major research paper (15-20 pages) focusing on some aspect of the development of anthropology. The topic will be selected in conference with the instructor. To insure that you have adequate time to prepare the paper, the topic must be selected by October 10th. Each student will present a summary of the paper. The paper is due by November 19th.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Attendance is **required**. Your participation is **expected and will be graded**.

FACULTY-STUDENT CONFERENCES: You are required to schedule at least two faculty-student conferences during the semester. The first conference will serve as an opportunity to discuss your paper topic.

GRADING: Grades will be based upon your participation and performance in seminar (100 points), research paper and presentation (100 points). The scale is as follows:

400 - 460 = A
459 - 419 = B
418 - 378 = C
377 = D

OFFICE HOURS: T - Th, 10:30 - 12:00 and by appointment. Office--Room 52, Hemingway Western Studies Center. Office Phone - 426-3444; Home Phone - 384-0479; email: mplew@boisestate.edu

SYLLABUS

WEEK I August 24

Anthropology as Social Process/Epistemological Foundations: The Nature of Theory and Explanation

Recommended:

M. Garbarino, Sociocultural Theory, Chapter 1
T. Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions
M. Ferris, Coming of Age in the Milky Way.
Kaplan, The Conduct of Inquiry;
K. Popper, The Logic of Scientific Discovery
P. Berger and T. Luckman, The Social Construction of Reality;
J. Lett, The Human Enterprise, Chapters 4, 8.
R. Boyd, "Confirmation, Semantics and the Interpretation of Scientific Theories," In Philosophy of Science pp. 3-23.

WEEK II September 1

The Enlightenment

Required: Harris, Chapters 1-2

Recommended:

J. Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding
J. Rousseau, Discourse on the Origin and Foundation of Inequality Among Men and The Social Contract
Spinoza, Ethics
Montesquieu, The Spirit of Laws
Voltaire, Candide
Stocking, Victorian Anthropology

WEEK III: September 8

The Rise of Racial Determinism

Required: Harris, Chapter 4

Recommended:

WEEK IV-V: September 15/September 22

The Rise of Evolutionary Theory: Spencerism, Evolution, and Evolutionists.

Required: Harris Chapters 4-5

Recommended:

Appropriate sections in J. Honigman, The Development of Anthropological Theory and E. Voget, A History of Ethnology, Part II.

Also suggest works of Karl Marx as well as review historical overviews in Introductory P. A. and Western "Civ" texts; Stocking, Victorian Anthropology, Ch. 2, 7.

WEEK VI: September 29

Dialectical Materialism

Required: Harris, Chapter 8

Week VI: October 6

Franz Boas and Historical Particularism.

Required: Harris, Chapters 9-10

P. Bohannon and M. Glazer, High Points in Anthropology, Part II, Chs. 4, 5.
J. Lett, The Human Enterprise, Chapter 5.

Recommended:

F. Voget, A History of Ethnology, Ch. 9.
Boas, Frank (1948), Race, Culture and Language (essays: 1888); The Central Eskimo, Smithsonian (1911); The Mind of Primitive Man. G. Stocking, Race, Culture and Evolution. Chs. 9, 10,11.

WEEK VII: October 13

Kroeber and Lowie and Wissler—American Diffusionism and European "Kulturkreise"

Required:

Harris, Chapters 12-14

Recommended:

Kroeber, A.L.

1917 "The Superorganic," American Anthropologist.

1920 "Totem and Taboo: An Ethnologic Psychoanalysis," American Anthropologist 22:48-55.

1939 Cultural and Natural Areas of Native North American

1944 Configuration of Culture Growth, Berkeley: N.C. Press.

"The Culture Area and Age Area Concepts of Clark Wissler,"

Lowie, R.

1920 Primitive Society.

Wissler, Clark

1917 The American Indian

WEEK VIII October 20

Pre-Freudian Culture and Personality

Required: Harris, Chapter 16

Recommended:

R. Benedict, Patterns of Culture, 1934

M. Mead, Coming of Age in Samoa, 1928

C. Kluckhohn, "Southwestern Studies in Culture and Personality" American Anthropologist, 1954

R. Linton, The Cultural Background of Personality, Appleton-Century Craft, 1945

Radin, P., The World of Primitive Man, 1939

Wallace, A.F.C., Culture and Personality, 1962

Review the works of Sigmund Freud--especially Totem and Taboo, 1913

WEEK IX October 27

Pre-Freudian Culture and Personality

Required: Harris, Chapter 16

Recommended:

R. Benedict, Patterns of Culture, 1934

M. Mead, Coming of Age in Samoa, 1928

C. Kluckhohn, "Southwestern Studies in Culture and Personality" American Anthropologist, 1954

R. Linton, The Cultural Background of Personality, Appleton-Century Craft, 1945

Radin, P., The World of Primitive Man, 1939

Wallace, A.F.C., Culture and Personality, 1962

Review the works of Sigmund Freud--especially Totem and Taboo, 1913

WEEK X: November 3

Culture and Personality: New Directions

Required: Harris, Chapter 17

Recommended:

Kardiner, *The Individual and His Society
and Psychosocial Studies*

Whiting, *Becoming a Kwomo: Teaching and Learning in a New
Guinea Tribe and Child Training and Personality: A Cross-Cultural Study*

WEEK XI: November 10

French Structuralism

Required: Harris, Chapter 18

Recommended:

Levi-Strauss, The Raw and the Cooked (peruse).

Bohannon, P. and M. Glazer, High Points in Anthropology, Pt. IV, Chs. 25, 26

Leach, Edward, Levi Strauss, 1970.

Schultz, Bob (1973), Structured Anthropology of Levi-Strauss in Handbook of Socio-Cultural Anthropology J. Homigman (ed.)

Recommended: Select readings from general bibliography on structuralism, especially Leach, Levi-Strauss and Wallace.

WEEK XII: November 17 (**Term Papers are Due by Friday November 19st**)

British Social Anthropology, Malinowski, Radcliffe-Brown and others-- Structural-Functionalist Approaches

Required: Harris, Chapter 19

Recommended:

Malinowski, B., Argonauts of the Western Pacific, 1922, Dutton: New York.

The Sexual Lives of Savages in Northwestern Melanesia. London: Rutledge: 1929.

Magic, Science and Religion, N.Y.: Anchor, 1948

Radcliffe-Brown, A.R., Structure and Function in Primitive Society, London: Oxford, 1952

Evans-Pritchard, E.E., The Nuer, Oxford: Oxford, 1940.

Strongly recommend Essays in Colonial Situation by George Stocking et.al. History of Anthropology Vol. 7, contextualization of ethnographic knowledge.

Recommend review or familiarization with the works of R. Firth, C.D. Forde, M. Fortes, Habitat, Economy and Society (1949) J. Beattie and Lucy Mair.

WEEK XIII: November 24 **Thanksgiving Holiday
Recess**

WEEK XIV-December 1 The New Ethnography/Linguistic Analogy- Emic and Etic Approaches/Statistical Survey

Required: Harris, Chapter 20.

Recommended:

P. Bohannon and M. Glazer, High Points in Anthropology, Part 4, Chs. 9,10

Bidney, David (1953) Theoretical Anthropology.

Black, M. "Linguistic Relativity: The Views of Benjamin Lee Whorf" (on reserve)

Sapir, Edward. Selected Writings of Edward Sapir. D.G. Mandelbaum (ed.).

Voegelin, C. "Sociolinguistics, Ethnolinguistics, and Anthropological Linguistics," American Anthropologist 62: 943-965.

Recommended: Lyons, J. Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics, Cambridge, 1968.

Greenberg, J.H., Anthropological Linguistics: An Introduction; Language, Thought and Reality: Selected Writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf (J. B. Carroll (Ed.)

Bloomfield, L. Language, 1933

Hymes, Dell, Reinventing Anthropology, 1972

Suggest reviewing or acquainting yourselves with the works of N. Chomsky, C.F. Hockett, Harry Hoijer, M. Haas, Roman Jakobson, S. Lamb, E. Lenneberg

Melville Herskovitz, Cultural Relativism, 1972

Alexander Lesser, History, Evolution and the Concept of Culture, Selected Papers S. Mintz (ed.). Pike, K, Language in Relation to a Unified Theory of the Structure of Behavior. Summer Institute of Linguistics: Glendale.

Bennett, J.W., Northern Plainsman, Aldine, 1969.

Spradley, J.P., Owe Yourself a Drunk. Little Brown and Co., 1970.

Driver, H.E., and A. L. Kroeber, 1932. "Qualitative Expression of Cultural Relationships." University of California, Publication in American Archaeology and Ethnology. 31: 24-56.

Driver, H.E. and W.C. Massey, Comparative Studies of North American Indians. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society VLVII, 165-456.

Sturtevant, W. S. "Studies in Ethnoscience," American Anthropologist. 66, pt. 2: 99-131.

WEEK XVI: December 8

Neo-Evolutionism Julian Steward and Leslie White; Specific and General Evolution/Cultural Ecology/Emergence of Cultural Materialism

Required:

McGee and Warms, Chs. 18, 19

Recommended:

- White, Leslie, The Evolution of Culture, 1959 (skim).
- Steward, J. Theory of Cultural Change, 1955 (skim); "Economic and Social Basis of Primitive Bands" in Essays in Honor of A.L. Kroeber, U.C. Berkeley (read), 1936; "Cultural Causality and Law: A Trial Formulation of Early Civilization," American Anthropologist 51:1-27.
- Sahlins, M. and Elman Service, Evolution and Culture, 1960 UMP, Elman Service, Primitive Social Organization, 1962.
- Bohannon, P. and M. Glazer, High Points in Anthropology, Pt. IV, Ch. 27.
- Lett, J., The Human Enterprise, Chapter 10.
- Harris, Marvin, Cultural Materialism, 1979.
- Suggest Reviewing the work of Tylor, Morgan, V. Gordon Childe and contemporary evolutionary ecologists--Bettinger, Winterhalder, Earle, O'Connell, Kaplan, Hill and Hurtado, among others.
- Kelley, Robert, *Hunter-Gatherers*

AND History and Beyond: New Approaches/Political Economy/Behavioral Ecology, Interpretive Anthropology and the Drift toward Post-Modernism

Required: Harris, Chapters 22-23

Recommended:

- Keessing, Rodger M. "Theories of Culture" in Annual Review of Anthropology, 1974.
- Geertz, Clifford
1983 Local Knowledge: Essays in Interpretive Anthropology.
- Turner, Victor and Edward Bruner
1986 The Anthropology of Experience.
- Leacock, Eleanor and Richard Lee (eds.)
1982 Politics and History in Band Societies. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Wolf, Eric R.
1982 Europe and the People Without History. UC Press, Berkeley.
- Roseberry William
1988 "Political Economy" In Annual Review of Anthropology 17.
- Chagnon and Irons (eds)
1979 Evolutionary Biology and Social Behavior. North Scituate.
- See also Boyd and Richerson.
- Ortner, Sherry B.
1984 "Theory in Anthropology Since the Sixties." In *Comparative Studies in Society And History* 26:126-166.