

Anthropological Theory
Dr. Ritu G. Khanduri

ANTH 3300
Spring 2009

Department of Sociology & Anthropology
UH 417
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Tue/Thu 2:00-3:20
UH 09
Office Hours: Thu 12:30-1:30
& by appointment

This lecture-seminar introduces students to methods of knowledge construction and explanation in sociocultural anthropology. We focus on both the development of anthropological theory since the late-19th century and current directions. Key paradigms studied include functionalism, structuralism, Marxist approaches, interpretive turn, Foucauldian approaches and recent influences of feminist critique and postmodernism. The aim is to acquaint students with a broad range of competing theoretical approaches so that they may learn to understand the relationship between anthropological knowledge, power and politics.

Required Texts

Benedict, Ruth. 2006. *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*. New York: Mariner. 0618619593
Hewamanne, Sandya, 2007. *Stitching Identities in a Free Trade Zone: Gender and Politics in Sri Lanka*. Philadelphia: Penn Press. 0812240456
Abu-Lughod, L. 2004. *Dramas of Nationhood: The Politics of Television in Egypt*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press. 0226001970

Supplementary readings are available in a folder in the Sociology & Anthropology Office and selected articles are posted on the course website:

http://webct.uta.edu/SCRIPT/anth330001sp09/scripts/serve_home

Requirements: Each Student will sign up with a colleague to lead two presentations, which will be based on the course material. Additionally, each student team will sign up as a discussant to review one presentation. Please consult your calendar and themes of interest before signing-up. Attendance is mandatory. More than one unexcused absence will lead to a grade deduction. This seminar requires students' active participation and preparation. Professional conduct in the classroom, discussion board and email is required.

Evaluation

Three Essays:	60
Two Presentations:	20
One discussion:	10
Participation:	10
Total:	100 Points

The Essay will be a 800 word analytical writing based on a question posted on the course website at least two weeks in advance of the due date.

Team presentation/Review will be on the weekly topic as per the syllabus. Details will be discussed in class.

Assignments must be typed and submitted in class on the due date. Assignments will not be accepted electronically. **Late assignments** will be marked down one point per day late except in cases of legitimate, documented circumstances that prevent you from completing assignments.

Make up Quizzes will only be given in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

Participation includes all in-class activities.

Email and the course website will be used as a means of communication with students. If you are unable to access your email or course website then please contact UTA's OIT Help Desk at (817) 272-2208. You will be responsible for checking your **e-mail and course website** regularly for class work, electronic readings, assignments, discussions, and announcements.

Feedback is an important part of any kind of learning. Without feedback on how well you understand the material it is more difficult for you to make significant progress. During this course you will give me feedback on your learning in informal and formal ways, such as anonymous feedback forms, assignments and exams. I want you to let me know when something we discuss is not clear. This kind of communication will enable me to provide additional information when needed or to explain a concept in different terms.

In addition to feedback on your learning, I will be asking for feedback from you about how my teaching strategies are helping or hindering your learning. This kind of feedback is very important to me as I continually strive to be the best teacher I can be. This feedback will be gathered from anonymous surveys. I encourage you to respond to these surveys so that together we can create an effective teaching and learning environment. I believe Team Based Learning (TBL) to be an effective teaching/learning method. In the present context professional learning skills are valued in every work place and TBL will help you develop these skills. Since I am incorporating TBL as an important component of this course, your anonymous feedback will also help me evaluate this method for teaching cultural anthropology. Your feedback will also help me to consider your suggestions for any improvement in the course format.

Academic Integrity and Scholastic Honesty

Academic integrity and scholastic honesty is expected of all students and applies to all assignments, quizzes, and exams in this course. Policy on cheating—students who violate University rules on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. In the case of the team based assignments collaborative work is expected but the standards of integrity and honesty still apply. Please read all of the information in: <http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/aiwhatconstitutes.html>

Accommodations for Persons with Documented Disabilities

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in University Hall room 102 or call them at (817) 272- 3364.

***Class Etiquette:** Please switch off your cell phones and electronic gadgets in class. Laptops may only be used for taking notes. Professional conduct in class and email is required. No late entries or early exits without Dr. Khanduri's prior permission. Unprofessional conduct will affect your participation grade.

Week 1: Jan 20: Introduction and Overview

Clifford Geertz, **A Life of Learning** (W)

Natalie Zemon Davis, **A Life of Learning** (W)

Week 2: Jan 27: Patterns of Culture

Tue

- **Ruth Benedict**, *Chrysanthemum and the Sword*. Mariner Books. 2006 (reprinted).

Thu

- Babcock, Barbara. **Not in the Absolute Singular: Rereading Ruth Benedict**. In Behar and Gordon eds. *Women Writing Culture*, 1996.
- Discussion/Presentation

Week 3: Feb 03: Politics of Anthropology

Tue

- Said, Edward. **Representing the Colonized: Anthropology's Interlocutors**. *Critical Inquiry* 15(2):205-225, 1989. (W)

Thu

- Sanjek, Roger. **Anthropology's Hidden Colonialism: Assistants and their Ethnographers**. *Anthropology Today* 9(2):13-18, April 1993. (W)
- Discussion/Presentation

Week 4: Feb 10: Marxian Approaches

- Marx, Karl & Friedrich Engels, *Selections from The Marx-Engels Reader* (2nd ed.), edited by Robert Tucker, New York: Norton, 1978.
- Discussion

Week 5: Feb 17: Weberian Approaches

- Weber, Max. *Selections from Wolf Heydebrand ed. Sociological Writings*,. New York: Continuum, 1994.
- *Essay 1 Due
- Discussion/Presentation

Week 6: Feb 24: Boas

Tue

- Franz Boas. **A Year Among the Eskimo**. In *The Shaping of American Anthropology 1883-1911: A Franz Boas Reader*. George Stocking ed.
- ----- . **Race Language and Culture, The Interpretation of Culture, and The Race Problem in Modern Society** in *The Mind of a Primitive Man*. Rev. ed. New York: Macmillan.

Thu

- Bashkow, Ira. **A Neo Boasian Conception of Cultural Boundaries**. *American Anthropologist* 106(3):443-459, 2004. (W)
- Trouillot, Michel Rolph. **Culture, Color and Politics in Haiti**. In *Race*. Stephen Gregory and Roger Sanjek eds. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1994.
- Discussion/Presentation

Week 7: Mar 03: Structure and Function

- Malinowski, Bronislaw. **Introduction: The Subject, Method and Scope of this Enquiry, and The Essentials of the Kula** in *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1961 (1922).
- Discussion/Presentation

Week 8: Mar 10: Event and Structure

Tue

- Levi-Strauss, Claude. **History and Anthropology, Structural Analysis in Linguistics and Anthropology and The Sorcerer and his Magic**. In *Structural Anthropology*. Basic Books, 1963.

Thu

- Thompson, E. P. **Folklore, Anthropology and Social History**. *The Indian Historical Review* 1977. (W)
- Discussion/Presentation

Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10: Mar 24: Structure and Agency

Tue

- Hewamanne, Sandya, *Stitching Identities in a Free Trade Zone: Gender and Politics in Sri Lanka*

Thu

- Hall, Stuart. **Gramsci's Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity** in *Journal of Communication Inquiry* 10 (2): 5-27, 1986.
- Discussion/Presentation

Week 11: Mar 31: Feminist Ethnographies

Tue

- Stacey, Judith. **Can there be a Feminist Ethnography**. *Women's Studies International Forum* 11(1):21-27. 1988. (W)

Thu

- Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. **Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and the Colonial Discourses**. In *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*. Chandra Mohanty, Ann Russo and Lourdes Torres eds. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 1991.

- *Essay 2 Due
- Discussion/Presentation

Week 12: Apr 07: Political Economy

Tue

- Roseberry, William. **Political Economy**, in American Anthropological Review (W)

Thu

- Ong, Aihwa. **The Gender and Labor Politics of Postmodernity**. Annual Review of Anthropology 20: 279-309, 1991. (W)
- Discussion/Presentation

Week 13: Apr 14: Nation, Modernity, and Identity

Tue

- Anderson, Benedict. **Introduction, Cultural Roots, and ch.3** in Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism London: Verso, 1991 (1983).

Thu

- Appadurai, Arjun. **Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy** in Public Culture 2 (2): 1-24, 1990. (W)
- Discussion/Presentation

Week 14: Apr 21: Nation, Modernity, and Identity

Tue

- Abu-Lughod, L. 2004. *Dramas of Nationhood: The Politics of Television in Egypt*.

Thu

- Discussion/Presentation

Week 15: Apr 28

Tue

- Abu-Lughod, L. 2004. *Dramas of Nationhood: The Politics of Television in Egypt*.

Thu

- Discussion/Presentation

Week 16: May 05

Tue

- *Essay 3 due

Thu

- Discussion/Presentation
- Course Wrap-up