

**History of Anthropological Theory
Dr. Ritu G. Khanduri**

**ANTH 5310/Huma 5303
Fall 2008**

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**Thursday 5:30-8:20
UH 418**

Office Hours: Mon 11:00-12:00 & by appointment

This 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 two-fold: first, 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; second, encourage students to engage with theory in order to build their own ongoing research project.

Required Texts

Ruth Benedict, 2006. *Chrysanthemum and the Sword*. Mariner Books.
Ian Condry, 2006. *Hip-Hop Japan: Rap and the Paths of Cultural Globalization*. Duke University Press.
Purnima Mankekar, 1999. *Screening Culture, Viewing Politics: An Ethnography of Television, Womanhood, and Nation in Postcolonial India*. Duke University Press.
Marshall Sahlins, 1981. *Historical Metaphors and Mythical Realities: Structure in the Early History of the Sandwich Islands Kingdom*. University of Michigan Press.
Christian Zolniski, 2006. *Janitors, Street Vendors, and Activists: The Lives of Mexican Immigrants in Silicon Valley*. University of California Press.

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/anth5310001fa08/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 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

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

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.

Week 1: Introduction and Overview

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

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

Week 2: Patterns of Culture

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

Sonia Ryang’s review of *Chrysanthemum and the Sword* (W)

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

Hernandez, Graciela. **Multiple subjectivities and Strategic Positionality: Zora Neale Hurston’s Experimental Ethnographies**. In *Women Writing Culture*, 1996.

Week 3: Politics of Anthropology

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. **Anthropology and the Savage Slot: The Poetics and Politics of Otherness**. In *Recapturing Anthropology*. Richard Fox, ed. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press, 1991.

Clifford, James. **On Ethnographic Authority**. In *The Predicament of Culture*. James Clifford ed. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1988.

Foucault, Michel. **What is an Author**. In the *Foucault Reader*. Paul Rabinow ed. New York: Pantheon Books, 1984.

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

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

Geertz, Clifford. **Being There: Anthropology and the Scene of Writing**. In *Works and Lives*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1988.

Wolf, Eric. **American Anthropologists and American Society**. In Reinventing Anthropology. Dell Hymes ed. New York: Pantheon Books, 1972. (Optional)

Asad, Talal. **Ethnographic Representation, Statistics and Modern Power**. Social Theory 61(1):55-88. 1994. (W)

Week 4: Marxian Approaches

Marx, Karl & Friedrich Engels, pp. 3-6, 136-75, 203-26, 294-384, 431-42, 473-83, 586-617, 760-68 in The Marx-Engels Reader (2nd ed.), edited by Robert Tucker, New York: Norton, 1978.

Week 5: Weberian Approaches

Weber, Max. **chapters 11-13, 15-16, 18-19, 21-22, and 27-31**, in Wolf Heydebrand ed. Sociological Writings,. New York: Continuum, 1994.

Weber, Max. **Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism in** The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, New York: Charles Scribner's, 1958.

*Paper 1 Due

Week 6: Boas

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.

Mintz, Sidney. **Culture: An Anthropological View**. The Yale Review. 1982. (W)

Bashkow, Ira. **A Neo Boasian Conception of Cultural Boundaries**. American Anthropologist 106(3):443-459, 2004. (W)

Visweswaran, Kamala. **Race and the Culture of Anthropology**. American Anthropologist 100(1):70-83. 1998. (W)

Trouillot, Michel Rolph. **Culture, Color and Politics in Haiti**. In Race. Stephen Gregory and Roger Sanjek eds. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1994.

Sacks, Karen Brodin. **How did Jews Become White Folks?** In Race. Stephen Gregory and Roger Sanjek eds. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1994.

Week 7: Structure and Function

Durkheim, Emile **The Field of Sociology and Methods of Explanation and Analysis**, Selected Writings, Anthony Giddens, ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972.

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).

Radcliffe-Brown, A.R. **Introduction, The Sociological Theory of Totemism, On the Concept of Function in Social Science, and On Social Structure** in *Structure and Function in Primitive Society* New York: The Free Press, 1965 (1952).

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. **Social Anthropology: Past and Present**. Reprinted in Paul Bohannan & Mark Glazer, eds. *High Points in Anthropology* (2nd ed.). New York: McGraw Hill, 1988.

Week 8: Event and Structure

Sahlins, Marshall. *Historical Metaphors and Mythical Realities: Structure in the Early History of the Sandwich Islands Kingdom*. University of Michigan Press. 1981.

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

Comaroff, John and Jean. **Introduction** in *Ethnography and the Historical Imagination*. Boulder: Westview Press. 1992.

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

Week 9: Structure and Agency

Ortner, Sherry. "Into the Eighties: Practice" and "Conclusions and Prospects," parts of **Theory in Anthropology since the Sixties** in *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 26 (1): 144-65, 1984.(W)

Bourdieu, Pierre. **Section 1: Analyses, The Objective Limits of Objectivism, Structures and the Habitus, Generative Schemes and Practical Logic: Invention Within Limits and Structures, Habitus, Power: Basis for a Theory of Symbolic Power** in *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977.

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

Thompson, E.P. **Preface, pp. 9-15** in *The Making of the English Working Class*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1968 (1963).

Paul Gilroy. **Race, Class and Agency** in *There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1987.

*Paper 2 Due

Week 10: Feminist Ethnographies

Strathern, Marilyn. **An Awkward Relationship: The Case of Feminism and Anthropology**. *Signs* 12(2):276-292. Winter, 1987. (W)

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

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.

Weiner, Annette. **Trobriand Descent: Female/Male Domains.** *Ethos* 5(1):54-70. 1977. (W)

Gough, Kathleen. **Nuer Kinship: A Re-examination.** In *The Translation of Culture*. T. O. Beidelman ed. London: Tavistock. (Optional)

Hutchinson, Sharon. **The Cattle of Money and the Cattle of Girls among the Nuer, 1930-1983.** *American Ethnologist* 19(2):294-316. 1992. (W)

Abu-Lughod, Lila. **Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and its Others.** *American Anthropologist*. (W)

Visweswaran, Kamala. **Histories of Feminist Ethnography.** *Annual Review of Anthropology* 26:591-621. 1997. (W)

Mankekar, Purnima. *Screening Culture, Viewing Politics: An Ethnography of Television, Womanhood, and Nation in Postcolonial India.* Duke University Press. 1999.

*Paper 3 Due

Week 11: Foucauldian Turn

Foucault, M. **Governmentality** in the Foucault Effect. Graham Burchell et.al eds. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1991.

Chatterjee, Partha. **Community in East.** *Economic and Political Weekly*. February 7, 1998. (W)

Mbembe, Achille. **Necropolitics.** *Public Culture* 15(1)11-40. 2003. (W)

Scott, David. **Fanonian Futures** in his *Refashioning Futures*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1999. Electronic copy in UTA library.

Stoler, Ann Laura. **Tense and Tender Ties: The Politics of Comparison in North American History and (Post) Colonial Studies.** *The Journal of American History*. Vol. 88, No. 3. (Dec., 2001), pp. 829-865. (W)

Week 12: Political Economy

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

Sassen, Saskia. **The Informal Economy: Between New Developments and Old Regulations** *The Yale Law Journal*, Vol. 103, No. 8, Symposium: *The Informal Economy* (Jun., 1994), pp. 2289-2304 (W)

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

Zolniski, Christian. *Janitors, Street Vendors, and Activists: The Lives of Mexican Immigrants in Silicon Valley.* University of California Press. 2006.

Week 13: Globalization, Nation, Modernity, and Identity

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

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

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. **Anthropology of the State in the Age of Globalization: Close Encounters of the Deceptive Kind** in his *Global Transformations*. New York: Palgrave. 2003.

Condry, Ian . *Hip-Hop Japan: Rap and the Paths of Cultural Globalization*. Duke University Press. 2006.

*Paper 4 Due

Week 14

Thanksgiving Holidays

Week 15

Research comments, Wrap-up and Course review