

**THEORIES OF CULTURE AND SOCIETY**  
(Anthropology 330C)

Summer 2012  
M-Th 1:00-3:00  
cayocan@mail.utexas.edu

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This course examines the theoretical approaches that have established the intellectual foundations of contemporary socio-cultural anthropology. It begins by introducing students to contemporary discussions about cultural anthropology and the debates around representation and culture. We will then move to social theories of Karl Marx, Max Weber and Emile Durkheim. It then turns to developments within anthropology itself, beginning with the work of Franz Boas and his followers in the United States and that of Bronislaw Malinowski, A.R. Radcliffe-Brown and their followers in Britain. After that it looks at several trends, schools and traditions that flourished in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including structuralism, poststructuralism and political economy. The third and final part of the course starts by examining the relationship between anthropology and poststructuralism. This prepares the ground for discussion of issues that are central to contemporary theoretical debates, including questions of agency and the subject, the impact of feminist theory, modes of domination and resistance, globalization, and the practice of ethnography. The course is primarily intended for anthropology majors.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1) Attendance and Participation

In the summer format, we meet everyday except Friday. Please attend all classes. It is a smaller class, participation is expected.

2) Writing Assignments

Every student will write two short papers during the course, each around 1500 words (approximately five double-spaced typewritten pages) in length. Each of these papers will be worth 25% of the overall grade. In evaluating these papers, the greatest weight will be given to such qualities as logical coherence, cogent argument, judicious assessment, clarity of expression, and the ability to make connections between different texts and theories.

I will assign the dates for the paper later.

3) Class Presentation

Students will be divided into small groups of 4-5. Each group will be asked to present before the class at least twice during the term. The presentation has to be written up and submitted to me afterwards. Around 5 pages. 25% of the overall grade.

3) Summary of Grading

a) Papers.....	50
b) Presentations (group) .....	25%
c) Attendance/Participation.....	25%
	100%

## ASSIGNED READINGS

1) Course Packets: There will be a Course Pack available at Speedway Printers in Dobie Mall. The assigned readings include selections from:

- a) Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by Robert Tucker (2nd ed.). New York: Norton, 1978.
- b) Max Weber, *Sociological Writings*, edited by Wolf Heydebrand. New York: Continuum, 1994.
- c) Emile Durkheim, *Selected Writings*, edited by Anthony Giddens. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972.
- d) Pierre Bourdieu, *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977.
- e) Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977.
- f) Marshall Sahlins, *Historical Metaphors and Mythical Realities*. University of Michigan Press, 1995 (1981)