Introduction to Graduate Social Anthropology
Anthropology 392
Fall 2012

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Description

This course introduces students to theory in sociocultural anthropology from its colonial roots to the contemporary period. This course is not a history of anthropological theory, but will explore and interpret the relationships between varying and, at times, competing theoretical, epistemological, and ethical claims on anthropology.

Each student will be expected to lead the discussion, and to write a discussion paper of 1000 words, for 2 seminars. These papers, copies of which are to be distributed to all members of your seminar group by 9 PM the night before, should address significant issues raised by the readings and provide a focus for the seminar discussion. For each discussant we'll have a respondent, who will orally respond to the discussant's observations.

Students will be expected to write 3 papers of 5 to 6 double-spaced pages (approximately 1250 to 1500 words) over the span of the semester. Papers are to be concise and cogent discussions of the readings. Late papers will be marked down substantially, and papers more than two days late will ordinarily not be accepted. Each paper will be worth 20% of the overall grade. You can use your discussion papers as first drafts for 2 of these papers.

Class participation is absolutely essential. Students are expected to attend class regularly, and to be ready to participate in the seminar discussion. Unexcused absences will lower a grade. Attendance, participation in class discussions, and discussion papers will comprise 40% of the final grade.

Books

Tucker, Robert C., ed., The Marx-Engels Reader (2nd ed). New York: Norton,1978
Mauss, Marcel. 1967. The Gift: Forms and Functions of Exchange in Archaic Societies. Norton.
Taussig, Michael. 1980. The Devil and Commodity Fetishism in South America. UNC Press.
Klima, Alan. 2002. The Funeral Casino. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
Barnard, Alan. 2000 History and Theory in Anthropology. Cambridge University Press.

All other readings will be available on Blackboard.

Class Topics and Reading Assignments

Wed. Sep 4 **Introduction**

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

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: Panthoen Books, 1984.

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

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

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

Wed. Sept. 11 **Marx**

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

Eric Wolf, "The Mills of Inequality: A Marxian Approach. " In Gerald Berreman, ed., *Social Inequality Comparative and Developmental Approaches,* pp.41-57. New York; Academic Press, 1981.

Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature*, part 1 chapter 2 ("Determination"), pp.83-89. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977.

Wed. Sept. 18 **Weber**

Max Weber, *Sociological Writings*, edited by Wolf Heydebrand, chapters 11-13, 15-16, 18-19, 21-22, 27-31, pp. 28-46, 59-122, 151-73, 179-204, 228-303. New York: Continuum, 1994.

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, ch.5 ("Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism"), pp. 155-83. New York: Charles Scribner's, 1958.

Wed. Sept. 18 **Boas: Culture and Race**

Boas, Franz**. A Year Among the Eskimo**. In The Shaping of American Anthropology 1883-1911: A Franz Boas Reader. George Stocking ed.

--------. **The Mind of a Primitive Man**. Rev. ed. New York: Macmillan. Chapters 8 (Race Language and Culture), 10 (The Interpretation of Culture) and 13 (The Race Problem in Modern Society.

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

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

Du Bois, W.E.B. 'The Conservation of Races' in *Theories of Race and Racism,* edited by Les Back and J. Solomos. Pp. 79-86.

Hall, Stuart 'Old and new Identities, old and new Ethnicities' in *Theories of Race and Racism,* Pp. 144-153.

Young, Robert. 'White Power, White Desire. The Political Economy of Miscegenation' in *Colonial Desire. Hybridity in Theory, Culture and Race*. London: Routledge.

Wed. Sept 25 **Structure and Function**

Emile Durkheim, "The Field of Sociology" and "Methods of Explanation and Analysis," chs. 1 & 2 of his *Selected Writings*, Anthony Giddens, ed., pp. 51-88. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972.

Bronislaw Malinowski, *Argonauts of the Western Pacific,* "Introduction: The Subject, Method and Scope of this Enquiry," pp. 1-25, and ch. 3 ("The Essentials of the Kula"), pp. 81-104. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1961 (1922).

A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, *Structure and Function in Primitive Society*, "Introduction," pp. 1-14, ch. 6, ("The Sociological Theory of Totemism"), pp. 117-32, ch.9 ("On the Concept of Function in Social Science"), pp. 178-187, and ch. 10 ("On Social Structure"), pp. 188-204. New York: The Free Press, 1965 (1952).

E.E. Evans-Pritchard, "Social Anthropology: Past and Present." Reprinted in Paul Bohannan & Mark Glazer, eds. *High Points in Anthropology* (2nd ed.), pp. 410-21. New York: McGraw Hill, 1988.

E.R. Leach, *Political Systems of Highland Burma*, "Introduction" and chs.1-4, pp. 1-100. Boston: Beacon Press, 1964 (1954).

J. Van Velsen, "The Extended-Case Method and Situational Analysis." In A.L. Epstein, ed., *The Craft of Social Anthropology*, pp. 129-49. London: Tavistock, 1967.

Wed. Oct 2 **Structuralism**

Saussure, Ferdinand de. **Course in General Linguistics**. Illionois: Open Court, 1986.

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

Volosinov V.N. Sections from Marxism and the Philosophy of Language (Harvard University Press:1973).

Sahlins, Marshall. **Historical Metaphors and Mythical Realities**. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Geertz, Clifford. **The World in a Text: How to Read** Tristes Tropiques. In Works and Lives. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1988.

Geertz, Clifford. **The Cerebral Savage: On the Work of Claude Levis Strauss**. In The Interpretation of Culture. Basic Books, 1973.

Wed. Oct. 9 Political Economy

Sherry Ortner, "The Seventies: Marx," part of "Theory in Anthropology since the Sixties." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 26 (1): 138-44, 1984.

William Roseberry, "Political Economy." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 17 (1988), pp. 161-85.

Neil Smelser, "Towards a Theory of Modernization." In Wilbert Moore & Bert Hoselitz, eds., *The Impact of Industry*. Paris: International Social Science Council, 1963. Reprinted in George Dalton, ed., *Tribal and Peasant Economies* , pp. 29-48. Garden City: Doubleday, 1967.

Karl Polanyi, excerpt from "The Economy as Instituted Process." In Polanyi *et al*. eds., *Trade and Market in the Early Empires*, pp. 243-56. Chicago: Regnery, 1971 (1957).

E. R. Leach, *Political Systems of Highland Burma*, ch. 5, pp. 101-95 (skim pp. 108-36, 172-94). Boston: Beacon Press, 1964 (1954).

Eric Wolf, "Closed Corporate Peasant Communities in Mesoamerica and Central Java." *The Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 13:1-18, 1957. And "The Vicissitudes of the Closed Corporate Peasant Community." *American Ethnologist* 13:325-29, 1986. Both reprinted in Eric Wolf, *Pathways of Power: Building an Anthropology of the Modern World,* pp. 147-65. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

Eric Wolf, *Europe and the People Without History*, ch.1 ("Introduction"), pp. 3-23, and ch. 12 ("The New Laborers"), pp. 354-83. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982.

Eric Wolf, "Incorporation and Identity in the Making of the Modern World." *Suomen Antropologi* 3: 82-92, 1984. Reprinted in Wolf, *Pathways of Power,* pp.353-69.

Nancy Scheper-Hughes, *Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*, excerpt from "Introduction: Tropical Sadness," pp. 1-21, and ch. 1 ("O Nordeste: Sweetness and Death"), pp. 31-64. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992.

Wed. Oct. 16 Culture, Power and History

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. **Introduction**, Silencing the Past**.** Boston: Beacon Press. 1995

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

N. Abu El-Haj 1998 "**Translating truths: Nationalism, the practice of archaeology, and the remaking of past and present in contemporary Jerusalem**, *American Ethnologist* 25(2):166-188.

White, Hayden. **The Question of Narrative in Contemporary Historical Theory**. In The Content of Form. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987.

--------. **Chapters 1 (The Burden of History), 2 (Interpretation of History), 3 (The Historical Text as Literary Artifact) and 5 (The Fictions of Factual Representation)**. In Tropics of Discourse. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978

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

Chakrabarty, Dipesh. **Chapters 1 (Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History) and 3 (Translating Life-Worlds into Labor and History).** In Provincializing Europe. Princeton University Press, 2000.

Feeley-Harnik, Gillian. **The Political Economy of Death: Communication and Change in Malgasy Colonial History**. American Ethnologist 1191):1-19. 1984

Wed. Oct. 23 **Structure and Agency**

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

E.R. Leach, *Political Systems of Highland Burma*, chs. 6-10, pp. 197-292 (skim ch. 8). Boston: Beacon Press, 1964 (1954).

Pierre Bourdieu, *Outline of a Theory of Practice*, "Section 1: Analyses," part of ch. 1 ("The Objective Limits of Objectivism"), pp. 1-30, ch.2 ("Structures and the Habitus"), pp. 72-95, ch. 3 ("Generative Schemes and Practical Logic: Invention Within Limits"), pp. 96-158, and ch. 4 ("Structures, Habitus, Power: Basis for a Theory of Symbolic Power"), pp. 159-97. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977.

Anthony Giddens, *Profiles and Critiques in Social Theory,* ch. 3 ("Action, Structure, Power"), pp. 28-39. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983.

Wed. Oct. 30 **Feminism and Anthropology**

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

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

Mahmood, Saba. **Feminist Theory, Embodiment and the Docile Agent: Some Reflections on the Egyptian Islamic Revival**. Cultural Anthropology 16(2):202-236. 2001

Stoler, Ann. **Gender and Morality in the Making of Race.** Chapter 3, Pp. 41-59. In *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power.* University of California Press. 2002.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpode. **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.

Abu-Lughod, Lila. **Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and its Others**. American Anthropologist 104(3):783-790. 2002.

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

Wed. Nov. 6 **Culture and Hegemony**

Antonio Gramsci, "Culture," "Hegemony," "Ideology, Popular Beliefs and Common Sense," "The Intellectuals," and "the State." In Tony Bennett *et al*., eds., *Culture, Ideology and Social Process*, pp. 191-218. London: The Open University Press, 1981.

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

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

E.P. Thompson, "Patrician Society, Plebeian Culture." *Journal of Social History*, Summer 1974, pp. 382-405.

Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature*, "Introduction," pp.1-7, Part One ("Basic Concepts"), chs. 1, 2 & 4 (pp.11-44, 55-71), and Part Two ("Cultural Theory"), chs. 1-10, pp. 75-141. Oxford: OUP, 1977.

James Brow, "Notes on Community, Hegemony, and the Uses of the Past." *Anthropological Quarterly* 63 (1): 1-6, 1990.

James Brow, "The Incorporation of a Marginal Community Within the Sinhalese Nation." *Anthropological Quarterly* 63 (1): 7-17, 1990.

Paul Willis, "Class and Institutional Form of Counter-School Culture." In Tony Bennett *et al.,* eds., *Culture, Ideology and Social Process,* pp. 81-109. London: The Open University Press, 1981.

Paul Gilroy, ""'Race', Class and Agency." Ch 1 of his *There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack,* pp. 15-42 & 251-66. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1987.

Wed. Nov. 13 **The Foucauldian Turn**

Foucault, Michel. **Discipline and Punish (Part 3, Chapters 1-2).** New York: Vintage Books. 1979.

--------. **The History of Sexuality, Volume 1. pp.77-159**. New York: Vintage. 1980

-------- **Governmentality. In the Foucault Effect**. Graham Burcell et.al eds. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1991.

----- -- **Society Must be Defended pp.239-264**. New York: Picador. 2003

Brown, Wendy. **The States of Injury (Chapter five: Rights and Losses).** Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1995.

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

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

Agamben, Giorgio, **Means Without End**. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000

Scott, David. **Refashioning Futures (Chapter 8: Fanonian Futures**). Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1999.

Ghosh, Kaushik. **Between Global Flows and Local Dams: Indigenousness, Locality and the Transnational Sphere in Jharkand, India**. Cultural Anthropology 21(4):501-534.

Wed. Nov. 20 **Questions of Difference and other Ways of Being**

Chakrabarty, Dipesh. **Chapters 2 (The Two Histories of Capital) and 3 (Translating Life-Worlds into Labor and History).** In Provincializing Europe. Princeton University Press, 2000.

Asad, Talal. **Chapter 4 (Redeeming the "Human" through Human Rights)**. In Formations of the Secular. Stanford: Stanford University Press. 2003.

Mehta, Uday. **The Anxiety of Freedom**. Chapters 3 and 4. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 1992.

Lipuma, Edward. **Modernity and Forms of Personhood in Melanesia**. In Bodies and Persons, Michael Lambeck and Andrew Strathern eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1998.

Boddy, Janice. **Afterward: Embodying Ethnography**. In Bodies and Persons, Michael Lambeck and Andrew Strathern eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1998.

Clifford Geertz, *Negara: The Theatre State in 19th century Bali,* 1980. Pp. 11-25

Alan Klima. *The Funeral Casino. Mediation, Massacre and Exchange with the dead in Thailand*. Princeton University Press. 2002 Pp. 29-52.

Wed. Nov. 27 **Globalization, Culture and Identities**

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (revised edition), ch. 1 ("Introduction"), pp.1-7, and ch. 2 ("Cultural Roots"), pp. 9-36. London: Verso, 1991 (1983).

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

Lila Abu-Lughod, "Writing Against Culture." In *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present,* edited by James Fox, pp. 137-62. Santa Fe: School of American Research, 1991.

Akhil Gupta & James Ferguson, "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference." *Cultural Anthropology* 7 (1): 6-23, 1992.

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. "Anthropology of the State in the Age of Globalization: Close Encounters of the Deceptive Kind." Ch. 4 of his *Global Transformations*, pp. 79-96. New York: Palgrave. 2003.

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

Stuart Hall, "The Question of Cultural Identity." In Stuart Hall *et al*. eds., *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies*, pp. 595-634. Cambridge: Blackwell, 1996.

Stuart Hall, "Introduction: Who Needs 'Identity'?" In Stuart Hall & Paul du Gay, eds., *Questions of Cultural Identity*, pp. 1-17. London: Sage Publications, 1996.

Edmund T, Gordon & Mark Anderson, "Conceptualizing the African Diaspora." *Advances in Education in Diverse Communities* 1: 229-39, 2000.

Charles Hale, "Does Multiculturalism Menace? Governance, Cultural Rights and the Politics of Identity in Guatemala." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 34: 485-524, 2002.

Wed. Dec. 4 **Wrap-up and Evaluation**