

ANTH 408: HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL THOUGHT

Section 001 MWF 1:00-1:50 Peck 2405

Professor Nancy Lutz Office: Peck 1224 Office phone: 650-2746

Office hours: MWF 2:00-3:00 or by appointment

E-mail: nlutz@siue.edu

Course Description: An introduction to the history of anthropological methods, theories, and ideas, focusing primarily on the history of American cultural anthropology. Includes major topics, people and ideas that have shaped the history of anthropology from the early twentieth century (1900) to the present.

This course is designed as a bridge course between undergraduate and graduate level anthropology. As such, it will be run primarily as a seminar (as are most courses at the graduate level), with the bulk of material being provided through readings and discussion rather than through lectures or PowerPoints. In many cases, students will be asked to try to figure out the major points and ideas themselves, and present them to the rest of the class, with the instructor as back-up, rather than the instructor providing all the information.

Course Requirements: There are three required parts to this course:

- Three in-class essay exams, 3 x 100 = 300 points
- One research term paper (approx. 10 pages), 1 x 100 = 100 points OR
Five article reports (2 pages each), 5 x 20 = 100 points
- Attendance (40 out of 44 days) 40 x 1 = 40 points + 10 pts. Participation = 50 points

Grades will be based on a total of 450 points as follows:

- 405-450 points = A (= 90%)
 - 360-404.5 points = B (= 80%)
 - 315-359.5 points = C (= 70%)
 - 270-314.5 points = D (= 60%)
 - 0-269.5 points = F (= below 60%)
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- **Exams** will consist of a choice of long (approx. 2 handwritten pages) essay questions. The full class period will be allowed for each exam.

A set of essay questions will be provided one or two class sessions in advance of each exam, and you may choose the question you wish to answer. Exams will be closed book (no books, notes or any electronics allowed during the exam), but essays may be thought through in advance. A good argument, and well-organized essay, with plenty of supporting examples and specific detail, is what makes the difference between an A and a B (or a B and a C).

Exams will be on **Mon. September 23, Mon. October 28, and Tues. Dec. 10.**

- **The Research Term Paper** is a chance to delve in more depth into a person, theory, or topic linked to the course that interests you. A minimum of five academic sources (books and/or journal articles) beyond the course material is required, and sources must be cited and referenced in AAA (American Anthropological Association) style. A link to the AAA Style Guide is posted on BlackBoard. Papers should be approximately 10 pages long, typed, double spaced, 12 font type, with an additional page(s) of References Cited. Term papers are due **Mon. December 2** (this is the Monday after Thanksgiving Break, so you may turn your paper in before Break if you like, but no later than Dec. 2). Earlier drafts are welcome and encouraged. Note: Excellent research term papers may be submitted for the Voget Prize in Anthropology. **Hard copies only.**
- **Article Reports** are a chance to further explore people, topics, or ethnographic case studies beyond the readings in class. Each article report must involve an academic journal article linked to the material being covered in class. [Note: JSTOR is a good source for academic journal articles in anthropology, as are AnthroSource and Wiley Online. You may also use articles from the two class readers not discussed in class, but the analysis and commentary must be your own, not those of the volume editors]. Each article report will consist of approximately a 1/3-to-1/2 page summary of the article, and then a 2/3-to-1-1/3 page discussion in your own words linking the article to the material discussed in class. A full citation for the article must be given at the beginning or end of the article report. Article reports must be typed, double-spaced, 12 font type. **Hard copies only.**
- **Make-up Exams and Late Article Reports** must be taken or turned in within one week of the scheduled exam or due date, and may be graded down 10% at the instructor's discretion. True medical or other emergencies are the only legitimate reasons to miss exams or paper deadlines without penalty, and documentation should be available. ("Printer failure" or "not feeling well" are not adequate excuses to miss exams or paper deadlines, and may result in the 10% penalty.) Note: Anything due in the final three weeks of the course must be turned in on time, in order to be graded and returned in a timely fashion.
- **Attendance and Participation** are both expected and required, as noted above. Attendance points are counted for 40 of the 44 class days, so you may miss 4 days without penalty. However, students who attend more than the 40 required days will get extra credit for each extra day they attend. This allows a total of 4 points extra credit (which can help make up for a borderline exam or project grade). Active engagement and participation in class are required. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and assignments for that day, and you may be called on at any time to contribute input to class discussions.

Note: Because this class will be run primarily as a seminar/discussion class, there are higher expectations than in a standard lecture class for regular and thorough preparation and participation. Students are expected to come prepared every day with a list of at least three questions on the readings for that day. Questions may be either content or discussion questions, and will be used as the basis for the day's class discussion. Each

student will be asked in turn for one of their questions, and other students will answer the questions in discussion before the instructor joins in. It is your responsibility, not the instructor's, to make sure that your questions get discussed, and also to ensure that the class discussion is proceeding along lines that you feel are productive. If you feel that the discussion is getting too far off topic, or that particular students are monopolizing the discussion, it is your responsibility to join the discussion or to change the topic to one you feel is more productive.

Course Policies: The following are basic ground rules for the course:

- **Courteous behavior** is expected at all times. This includes being in class before class begins, staying the entire class period, and only engaging in activities related to this class. Students engaging in other activities (homework for other classes, reading non-class material, texting, checking your phone, playing on your computer, passing notes or talking privately to other students, etc.) will be asked to leave the class. Students arriving late or leaving early may lose their attendance point for that day.
- **No cheating or plagiarism** will be tolerated. Students caught cheating, plagiarizing, or falsifying attendance sheets will receive an F for the course and will be reported to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Provost of the University.
- **Students with disabilities** will be happily accommodated, with an ID card from Disability Support Services. Disability Support Services is located in the Student Success Center in the MUC, and their phone number is 650-3726.

Textbooks: There are two textbooks for this class, which are available from Textbook Rental. Additional readings will be posted on BlackBoard.

1. R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms, eds., *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. 5th edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2012.
2. Antonius C.G.M. Robben and Jeffrey A. Sluka, eds., *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. 2nd edition. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

[Note: This schedule is subject to change or modification as conditions warrant.]

Week 1: Fieldwork and Anthropological Theory

Mon. Aug. 19: Introduction to course

Wed. Aug. 21: Discuss: Jeffrey A. Sluka and Antonius C.G.M. Robben, "Fieldwork in Cultural Anthropology: An Introduction", in *Ethnographic Fieldwork*, pp. 1-17

Fri. Aug. 23: Discuss: Jeffrey A. Sluka and Antonius C.G.M. Robben, "Fieldwork in Cultural Anthropology: An Introduction", in *Ethnographic Fieldwork*, pp. 17-29.

Weeks 2: Franz Boas and American Anthropology

Mon. Aug. 26: Discuss: McGee & Warms, “Historical Particularism”, in *Anthropological Theory*, pp. 112-117.

Discuss: Franz Boas, “The Methods of Ethnology”, in *Anthropological Theory*, pp. 117-124.

Wed. Aug. 28: Video: “Franz Boas – The Shackles of Tradition” (onYouTube)

Fri. Aug. 30: Discuss: Herbert S. Lewis, “The Passion of Franz Boas”, *American Anthropologist*, New Series, 103 (2): 447-467, June 2001 (on BlackBoard)

Week 3: Early Anthropologists and their Informants

Mon. Sept. 2: *Labor Day holiday. No class.*

Wed. Sept. 4: Discuss: Richard G. Whitten and Larry J. Zimmerman, “Directions for Miss Deloria: Boas on the Plains”, *Plains Anthropologist*, 27 (96): 161-164, May 1982 (on BlackBoard)

Fri. Sept. 6: Discuss: Joan Mark, “Francis LaFlesche: The American Indian as Anthropologist”, *Isis*, 73 (4): 496-510, Dec. 1982 (on BlackBoard)

Week 4: Alfred Kroeber and Ishi

Mon. Sept. 8: **Article Report #1 due.**

Discuss: Ira Jacknis, “The First Boasian: Alfred Kroeber and Franz Boas, 1896-1905”, *American Anthropologist*, New Series, 104 (2): 520-532, June 2002 (on BlackBoard)

Wed. Sept. 10: Video: “Ishi: The Last Yahi” (Anth # C- 67)

Fri. Sept. 12: Discuss: Nancy Rockafellar and Orin Starn, “Ishi’s Brain”, *Current Anthropology*, 40 (4): 413-416, Aug/Oct. 1999 (on BlackBoard)

Discuss: Nancy Scheper-Hughes, “Ishi’s Brain, Ishi’s Ashes: Anthropology and Genocide”, *Anthropology Today*, 17 (1): 12-18, Feb. 2001 (on BlackBoard)

Week 5: Language and Culture

Mon. Sept. 16: Discuss: Roman Jakobson and Franz Boas, “Franz Boas’ Approach to Language”, *International Journal of American Linguistics*, 10 (4): 188-195, Oct. 1944 (on BlackBoard)

Wed. Sept. 18: Marcel Danesi, “Language and Cognition”, in *Linguistic Anthropology: A*

Brief Introduction. Toronto: Canadian Scholar's Press, Inc., 2012, pp. 145-170
(on BlackBoard)

Fri. Sept. 20: K. David Harrison, "Endangered Number Systems: Counting to Twenty on Your Toes", in *When Languages Die: The Extinction of the World's Languages and the Erosion of Human Knowledge*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007, pp. 167-200 (on BlackBoard)

Week 6: Malinowski and Fieldwork

Mon. Sept. 23: **Exam #1**

Wed. Sept. 25: Video: "Bronislaw Malinowski: Off the Veranda" (Anth #C-118; also on YouTube)

Fri. Sept. 27: Discuss: Bronislaw Malinowski, "Method and Scope of Anthropological Fieldwork", in *Ethnographic Fieldwork*, pp. 69-81.

Week 7: Margaret Mead

Mon. Sept. 30: **Article Report #2 due.**
Video: "Margaret Mead: Coming of Age" (Anth # C-111; also on YouTube)

Wed. Oct. 2: Discuss: Margaret Mead, "Introduction to *Coming of Age in Samoa*", in *Anthropological Theory*, pp. 211-217.

Fri. Oct. 4: Discuss: Nancy Lutkehaus, "Margaret Mead: Public Anthropologist", *Anthropology Now*, 1 (1): 29-35, April 2009 (on BlackBoard)

Week 8: Anthropology and War

Mon Oct. 7: Discuss: David Price, "Lessons from Second World War Anthropology: Peripheral, Persuasive and Ignored Contributions", *Anthropology Today*, 18 (3): 14-20, June 2002 (on BlackBoard)

Wed. Oct. 9: Discuss: Orin Starn, "Engineering Internment: Anthropologists and the War Relocation Authority", *American Ethnologist*, 13 (4): 700-720, Nov. 1986 (on BlackBoard)

Fri. Oct. 11: Discuss: Sydel Silverman, "American Anthropology in the Middle Decades: A View from Hollywood", *American Anthropologist*, 109 (3): 519-528, September 2007 (on BlackBoard)

Week 9: Anthropology and Ethics

Mon. Oct. 14: Discuss: Philippe Bourgois, "Confronting the Ethics of Ethnography: Lessons

from Fieldwork in Central America”, in *Ethnographic Fieldwork*, pp. 318-330.

Wed. Oct. 16: Discuss: Gerald D. Berreman, “Ethics versus ‘Realism’ in Anthropology”, in *Ethnographic Fieldwork*, pp. 331-352.

Fri. Oct. 18: Discuss: American Anthropological Association, “Code of Ethics (2009)”, in *Ethnographic Fieldwork*, pp. 359-364.

Discuss: Stuart Plattner, “Comment on IRB Regulation of Ethnographic Research”, *American Ethnologist*, 33 (4): 525-528, November 2006 (on BlackBoard)

Week 10: Anthropologists on the Margins

Mon. Oct. 21: **Article Report #3 due.**

Discuss: Louise Lamphere, “Unofficial Histories: A Vision of Anthropology from the Margins”, *American Anthropologist*, 106 (1): 126-139, March 2004 (on BlackBoard)

Wed. Oct. 23: Video: “Herskovits at the Heart of Blackness” (library DVD #1608)

Fri. Oct. 25: Discuss: Walter Jackson, “Melville Herskovits and the Search for Afro-American Culture”, in George W. Stocking, Jr., ed., *Malinowski, Rivers, Benedict and Others: Essays on Culture and Personality*. Madison: The University Wisconsin Press, 1986, pp. 95-126 (on BlackBoard)

Week 11: Reaching Out Towards the Nation-State

Mon. Oct. 28: **Exam #2**

Wed. Oct. 30: Discuss: Eric R. Wolf, “Aspects of Group Relations in a Complex Society: Mexico”, *American Anthropologist*, New Series, 58 (6): 1065-1078, Dec. 1956 (on BlackBoard)

Fri. Nov. 1: Discuss: Philip A. Dennis, “The Oaxacan Village President as Political Middleman”, *Ethnology*, 12 (4): 419-427, Oct. 1973 (on BlackBoard)

Week 12: Symbolic Anthropology

Mon. Nov. 4: Discuss: Eric R. Wolf, “The Virgin of Guadalupe: A Mexican National Symbol”, *The Journal of American Folklore*, 71 (279): 34-39, Jan-March 1958 (on BlackBoard)

Wed. Nov. 6: Discuss: Clifford Geertz, “Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight”, in *Anthropological Theory*, pp. 467-487.

Fri. Nov. 8: Discuss: Walter Edwards, "Something Borrowed: Wedding Cakes as Symbols in Modern Japan", *American Ethnologist*, 9 (4): 699-711, Nov. 1982 (on BlackBoard)

Week 13: Reflexive Anthropology

Mon. Nov. 11: **Article Report #4 due.**

Discuss: Renato Rosaldo, "Grief and a Headhunter's Rage", in *Anthropological Theory*, pp. 524-539

Wed. Nov. 13: Discuss: Paul Stoller, "Son of Rouch: Portrait of a Young Ethnographer by the Songhay", *Anthropological Quarterly*, 60 (3): 114-123, July 1987 (on BlackBoard)

Fri. Nov. 15: Discuss: Janet Liebman Jacobs, "Women, Genocide, and Memory: The Ethics of Feminist Ethnography in Holocaust Research", *Gender and Society*, 18 (2): 223-238, April 2004 (on BlackBoard)

Week 14: Language, Power, and Discourse

Mon. Nov. 18: Discuss: Michel Foucault, "The Incitement to Discourse", in *Anthropological Theory*, pp. 508-519

Wed. Nov. 20: Discuss: Jeanne Favret-Saada, "The Way Things Are Said", in *Ethnographic Fieldwork*, pp. 528-539

Fri. Nov. 22: Discuss: Shaylih Muehlmann, "'Spread Your Ass Cheeks': And Other Things That Should Not be Said in Indigenous Languages", *American Ethnologist*, 35 (1): 34-48, February 2008 (on BlackBoard)

Week 15: (Nov. 25-29) Thanksgiving Break. No classes.

Week 16: Globalization and the Future of Anthropology

Mon. Dec. 2: **Research Term Papers due. Article Report #5 due.**

Discuss: Philippe Bourgois, "From Jibaro to Crack Dealer: Confronting the Restructuring of Capitalism in El Barrio", in *Anthropological Theory*, pp. 587-602

Wed. Dec. 4: Discuss: Paul Farmer, "An Anthropology of Structural Violence", *Current Anthropology*, 45 (3): 305-325, June 2004 (on BlackBoard)

Fri. Dec. 6: Discuss: James L. Peacock, "The Future of Anthropology", *American Anthropologist*, New Series, 99 (1): 9-17, March 1997 (on BlackBoard)

Week 17: Tues. Dec. 10: 12:00-1:40 Final Exam