

ANG 5621

Pro-seminar in Cultural and Linguistic Anthropology

URL: www.clas.ufl.edu/users/ckshih

Instructor: Dr. Chuan-kang Shih

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:00-5:00 p.m. and Thursdays 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Course Description

Since the inception of anthropology as an academic discipline, generations of anthropologists have advanced overarching paradigms for elucidating social and cultural phenomena. While theories in the past, together with ever-evolving methodologies, have shaped our discipline, novel approaches are being proposed as we speak. Practicing anthropologists are thus inevitably in constant conversations with theories. Each theory we know today arose in response to the social conditions and intellectual climate of its time, as well as to other existing theories. It is therefore of utmost importance for a graduate student of anthropology to be familiar not only with anthropological theories, but also with the historical factors that conditioned a particular theory.

This course is designed to provide the student with a balanced, solid foundation in anthropological theories ranging from the 19th century to the early 21st century. For each weekly three-hour session, we will read historiography of anthropological theories, selected original writings of influential theorists, or critique on anthropological theories and practices. Through readings, class discussion, and written work, this course also aims to enhance the student's ability of critical thinking.

Texts

Clifford, James and George E. Marcus, eds. 1986. *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Erickson, Paul A. and Liam D. Murphy, eds. 2010. *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory*, 3rd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Harris, Marvin. 2001. *The Rise of Anthropological Theory: A History of Theories of Culture*, updated ed. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press.

Terms

It is imperative that students attend each and every session on schedule and take an active part in class activities. In addition to reading assignments as laid out in the last part of this syllabus, required work include an oral presentation, two essays (five to eight pages each) and a term paper (twenty to twenty-five pages).

The reading assignment for each session comprise two parts, the first part is either historiography of anthropological theories or postmodernist critique on anthropological theories and practices. The second part is original writings of historical importance. The oral presentation should include a summary, comments, additional background information as appropriate, and questions for class discussion about either part of the readings for a single session. Choice of date and topic for oral presentation will be granted in the coordination session on a first-come-first-get basis.

The first essay should be a critique on part one of a single session's reading assignment and the second essay on part two. An essay for this course differs from a book review in that it must be built on a central argument of your own. You need to give an informative and attractive title to your essay. Due to the university calendar of this semester and the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, we will miss three sessions. In order to make up for the missed meeting time, it is required that topics for the two essays must be chosen from the assignments for the missed sessions (November 4, 11, and 18).

The term paper must critically relate at least four theories to your own research interest. More specific instruction about the term paper will be posted online.

Course grade will be based on the following scale:

Class performance:	20%
Oral presentation:	20%;
Essays:	10% each, 20% total;
Term paper:	40%;

Disability Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Important Dates

Fri., Sep. 30 First essay due.
Fri., Nov. 04 Second essay due.
Fri., Dec. 02 Research paper due.

Reading Schedule

Fri., Aug. 26 Course overview and coordination

- Reading: This syllabus.
- Fri., Sep. 02 Origin of the Discipline // The Early History I
 Readings: Harris 2001, chaps. 1-3 (pp. 1-79)
 Erickson and Murphy 2010 chaps. 1-3 (pp. 22-51)
- Fri., Sep. 09 Racial Determinism, Spencerism // The Early History II
 Readings: Harris 2001, chaps. 4-5 (pp. 80-141)
 Erickson and Murphy 2010, chaps. 4-6 (pp. 52-74)
- Fri., Sep. 16 Evolutionism, Marxism // The Early History III
 Readings: Harris 2001, chaps. 6-8 (pp. 142-249)
 Erickson and Murphy 2010, chaps. 7-9 (pp. 75-100)
- Fri., Sep. 23 Boasian Historical Particularism // The Early 20th Century I
 Readings: Harris 2001, chaps. 9-11 (pp. 250-318)
 Erickson and Murphy 2010, chaps. 10-12 (pp. 116-140)
- Fri., Sep. 30 Kroeber, Lowie, Diffusionism // The Early 20th Century II
 Readings: Harris 2001, chaps. 12-14 (pp. 319-392)
 Erickson and Murphy 2010, chaps. 13-15 (pp. 141-174)
- Fri., Oct. 07 Culture and Personality // The Early 20th Century III
 Readings: Harris 2001, chaps. 15-17 (pp. 393-463)
 Erickson and Murphy 2010, chaps. 16-18 (pp. 175-201)
- Fri., Oct. 14 French Structuralism, British Social Anthropology, Emics, Etics, and the New
 Ethnography // The Early 20th Century IV
 Readings: Harris 2001, chaps. 18-20 (pp. 464-604)
 Erickson and Murphy 2010, chaps. 19-21 (202-251)
- Fri., Oct. 21 Cultural Materialism // The Late 20th Century and Early 21st Century I
 Readings: Harris 2001, chaps. 22-23 (pp. 634-687)
 Erickson and Murphy 2010, chaps. 22-24 (pp. 281-321)
- Fri., Oct. 28 Post-modernism // The Late 20th Century and Early 21st Century II
 Readings: Clifford and Marcus 1986, pp. 1-26; 51-76; 262-266
 Erickson and Murphy 2010, chaps. 25-27 (pp. 322-369)
- Fri., Nov. 04 Fieldwork and Fieldworker // The Late 20th Century and Early 21st Century III
 Readings: Clifford and Marcus 1986, pp. 27-50; 77-97
 Erickson and Murphy 2010, chaps. 28-30 (370-422)
(Homecoming, no class.)
- Fri., Nov. 11 Post-modern Ethnography // The Late 20th Century and Early 21st Century IV
 Readings: Clifford and Marcus 1986, pp. 98-140
 Erickson and Murphy 2010, chaps. 31-33 (pp. 423-468)
(Veterans' Day, no class.)
- Fri., Nov. 18 Problems of Ethnography // The Late 20th Century and Early 21st Century V
 Readings: Clifford and Marcus 1986, pp. 141-193
 Erickson and Murphy 2010, chaps. 34-36 (pp. 469-529)

(Instructor will be absent for AAA annual meeting in Montreal, Canada.)

Fri., Nov. 25 Thanksgiving, no class.

Fri., Dec 02 Modernity and Post-modernity in Anthropology // The Late 20th Century and
Early 21st Century VI

Readings: Clifford and Marcus 1986, pp. 194-261

Erickson and Murphy 2010, chaps. 37-39 (pp. 530-583)

End of course.