

Kinship Theory and Archaeology

ANG 6186 (sect 3255)

Thursday periods 3-5 (9:35-12:34)

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Objectives:

This graduate seminar will explore kinship theory as it applies to archaeological reconstructions. Although it has been reported that archaeologists cannot excavate kinship systems, our models of social and cultural development are based on constructs of consanguinity, descent, genealogy, alliance, exchange and residence. In other words, “structured structures predisposed to function as structuring structures...” Moreover, where social formations conceptually are not based on kinship their definition typically is in apposition (e.g., Chiefdoms, Kings, States, Houses). The goal of this seminar is to explore patterns of social relations and their archaeologically detectable material correlates.

Topics:

1. Introduction and basic models - Keegan
2. Critique of kinship - Schneider, Kuper
3. Response to critiques - Scheffler
4. Elementary forms of kinship – Levi-Strauss and Fox
5. Genealogy and Descent – Murdock, Schneider and Gough
6. Residence – Goodenough, Hill
7. Marriage and Exchange – Rubel and Rosman, Ensor
8. Kinship terminology – Murdock, Byrne
9. Case study – Yap and Trobriand Islands – Schneider, Malinowski, Weiner
10. Case study – Oceania – Hage, Sahlins, Earle
11. Case study – Taino – Keegan, Curet, Ensor
12. Case study - Southeast U.S. – Pauketat, Widmer

13. Cognatic Descent and Houses – Levi-Strauss, Joyce and Gillespie

Readings:

Byrne, Bryan (n.d.).

Curet, L. Antonio (

Earle, Timothy (1978). *Economic and Social Organization of a Complex Chiefdom: The Halelea District, Kau'I, Hawaii*. Museum of Anthropology, Anthropological Papers no. 63. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan.

Ensor, Bradley

Fox, Robin (1967). *Kinship and Marriage*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Goodenough, Ward (1956). *Residence Rules*.

Hage, Per (

Hill, James N. (1970). *Broken K Pueblo*.

Joyce, Rosemary and Susan Gillespie, eds. (). *Beyond Kinship*.

Jones, Doug and Bojka Milicic (2010). *Kinship, Language, and Prehistory: Per Hage and the Renaissance in Kinship Studies*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press.

Keegan, William F. (1992). *The People Who Discovered Columbus*. Gainesville: University Presses of Florida.

Keegan, William F. (2007). *Taino Indian Myth and Practice*. Gainesville: University Presses of Florida.

Kuper, Adam (1982). *Lineage Theory: A Critical Retrospective*. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 11: 71-95.

Leví-Strauss, Claude (). *The Elementary Structures of Kinship*.

Malinowski, Bronislaw (). *The Sexual Life of Savages*.

Murdock, George P. (). *Social Structure*.

Pauketat, Timothy R. (2007). *Chiefdoms and Other Archaeological Delusions*. New York: AltaMira.

Rosman, Abraham and Paula G. Rubel (1971). *Feasting with Mine Enemy*. Waveland Press, Illinois.

Rubel, Paula and Abraham Rosman (). *Your Own Pigs you May Not Eat*.

Sahlins (1958). *Social Stratification in Polynesia*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

Scheffler, Harold W. (2001). *Filiation and Affiliation*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Schneider, David M. (). *Yap Kinship*.

Schneider, David M. (1984). *A Critique of the Theory of Kinship*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Schneider, David M. and Kathleen Gough, eds. (1961). *Matrilineal Kinship*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Weiner, Annette ()

Widmer, Randolph (

Project and Grading:

Grading will be based on class participation and the final project. There are no exams. Students are expected to be conversant in the readings assigned each week and to discuss these and other knowledge of the subject. The final project will be to evaluate the kinship structure of the particular culture they study, and to evaluate the degree to which kinship theory might (or might not) contribute to their study.

It is recommended that the students obtain the following texts:

Fox, Robin (1967). *Kinship & Marriage*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Rosman, Abraham and Paula G. Rubel (1971). *Feasting With Mine Enemy*. Waveland Press, Illinois.

Scheffler, Harold W. (2001). *Filiation and Affiliation*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Schneider, David M. (1984). *A Critique of the Study of Kinship*. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor.