THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY

Required Readings (all paperback editions):


All books can be purchased at Orange and Blue Textbooks, 309 NW 13th Street, 352-375-2707.

Course Outline, Reading Assignments & Course Requirements:

Week I  *Introduction to the History of Anthropological Theory*
  Harris, Introduction (Margolis) and Chapter 1
  Bohannan and Glazer, Introduction and Chapter 24
  Murphy and Margolis, Chapter 1 (Johnson)

Week 2  *The 18th Century and the Enlightenment*
  Harris, Chapter 2

Week 3  *The Early 19th Century*
  Harris, Chapter 3

Week 4  *Spencer and Scientific Racism*
  Harris, Chapters 4-5

Week 5  *Evolutionary Theory*
  Harris, Chapters 6-7
  Bohannan and Glazer, Chapters 1-3

Week 6  *Marx and Historical Materialism*
  Harris, Chapter 8

Week 7  *Boas and Historical Particularism*
  Harris, Chapters 9-11
  Bohannan and Glazer, Chapters 4 & 5
Week 8  **Other Boasians**
   Harris, Chapters 12-13
   Bohannan and Glazer, Chapters 6 & 7

Week 9  **Culture and Personality: Early Works**
   Harris, Chapter 15
   Bohannan and Glazer, Chapter 10

Week 10  **Culture and Personality: Freud**
   Harris, Chapter 16

Week 11  **Culture and Personality: Recent Trends**
   Harris, Chapter 17
   Bohannan and Glazer, Chapter 13

Week 12  **French Structuralism**
   Harris, Chapter 18
   Bohannan and Glazer, Chapters 14, 15, 16 & 26

Week 13  **British Structural Functionalism**
   Harris, Chapter 19
   Bohannan and Glazer, Chapters 17, 18, 19 & 25

Week 14  **Modern Evolutionary Theory**
   Harris, Chapter 22
   Bohannan and Glazer, Chapters 21, 22 & 23

Week 15  **Anthropological Ecology**
   Harris, Chapter 23
   Bohannan and Glazer, Chapter 20
   Murphy and Margolis, Chapter 5 (Good)

Week 16  **Recent Developments**
   Murphy and Margolis, Chapters 4 & 9 (Harris & Murray)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 10:30-12:30 and by appointment via e-mail

**ATTENDANCE IN CLASS IS REQUIRED AND ATTENDANCE MAY BE TAKEN PERIODICALLY. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE WITHOUT REGULAR ATTENDANCE IN CLASS.** Much of the material in the lectures will not be covered in the readings but will be on the first and second exams. Should you miss a class, be sure to get the notes
from another student who attended. Also students should do all the required readings in the sequence suggested and it is strongly advised that you keep up with the reading assignments.

**No** incompletes will be given except for reasons of illness (with a doctor's note) or serious personal crisis.

**FIRST EXAM:** Tuesday October 3, in class  
**SECOND EXAM:** Tuesday, December 5, in class

In addition to the two exams, this course requires a research proposal of approximately 8 to 10 pages typed which will be discussed the first day of class.

**PAPER DUE:** Thursday, November 9.

**NOTE:** There will be no class on Thursday, Aug. 31 and Thursday Sept. 14.

**Research Proposal Assignment**

1) Choose a major figure in the history of anthropological theory. If it is someone not mentioned in the assigned readings or in class, check with me to see if the person has been a major contributor to anthropological theory.

2) Read a representative sample of the person's work. If you do not know how to narrow down what to read, consult with me. You will find that some major figures have written a great deal and may have made contributions in more than one area.

3) After you are familiar with the individual's theories and methods, you are going to write a research proposal that he or she _might have written_. The proposal is to be based on your understanding of the person's theoretical orientation, on what he or she _might have studied_ or on what he or she _might have been_ interested in proving or disproving about a particular aspect of culture or issue in cultural anthropology.

The proposal should be clearly labeled and divided into four parts:

a) Description of the Research Project  
b) Theoretical Significance of the Project  
c) Methodology  
d) References Cited

You can think of the first three parts of the paper as the "what," "why," and "how" of the research proposal. Since this is a course in anthropological theory, I am primarily interested in how you handle the significance of the project. As such, it
does not matter what time period or geographical setting you choose for your research. What does matter is that you follow your chosen anthropologist's theoretical perspective.

The methodology used should also be appropriate to the individual selected. For example, don't have Lewis Henry Morgan doing computer analysis or Franz Boas using random sampling to decide which Kwakiutl to interview.

The references should include all sources you used to write the proposal.

I have placed two copies on reserve of an actual research proposal that I submitted to the National Science Foundation. While I was not pretending to be anyone other than myself in writing the proposal, it may be helpful to see how grant writers distinguish between the description of their research (the "what") and its theoretical significance (the "why").