

ANG 6034 History and Theory in Cultural Anthropology

Fall 2021

Mondays 3rd-5th periods (9:35 am-12:35 pm)
TUR 1208A

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Collings' Office Hours: Mondays 2-4 pm & by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides an overview of the history and major research themes of cultural anthropology. The objective of the course is to provide a solid foundation in the history and theory of the discipline.

Class meetings will be delivered over Zoom, so each student is required to have access to a web camera, microphone, and internet connection. There is no plan to audio-visually record class meetings. There is no plan to hold face-to-face meetings during the semester. Office hours will be conducted via Zoom, but, given the small size of the class, it may be easier to arrange a meeting based on mutual availability.

Reading Assignments:

There is one assigned textbook for this class, as follows:

Moore, Henrietta, and Todd A. Sanders, eds. 2014. *Anthropology in Theory: Issues in Epistemology* (2nd ed). New York: Wiley-Blackwell.

Additional material will come from the primary reading. We will discuss distribution during our first class.

Assignments and Grading

Team Discussions: Each week, teams of 2 students will lead the class discussion. Each group is expected to meet outside of class to organize readings and prepare a list of questions and points of discussion and organize any in-class activities. Each student will be responsible for leading class a total of 4 times during the semester. Team discussion leadership is worth 50 points.

Written assignments: Students are required to write 6 essays based on that week's readings. I will post questions for each week (total 12), but students are required to complete only 6 assignments. Students must complete three during the first 6 weeks of the course, and three during the last 6 weeks. Essays are due end of day Tuesday following that week's meeting. Written work should be 1500 words or slightly longer (double-spaced, 12 pt. font.) and focused on a particular point, idea, and/or theme occurring in the readings. Late papers will be docked five points per day past the Tuesday they are due. Each paper is worth 50 points (total 300).

Final Exam: There will be one take-home exam, due during finals week. The exam is worth 100 points. The

essay(s) that make up this assignment are synthetic in nature, asking you to reflect upon themes discussed in the course.

Attendance and Participation: This is a graduate seminar, and students are expected to alternatively participate and lead class discussions. Because this is a graduate seminar and we meet only once per week, attendance is effectively mandatory. Unless there is a compelling reason you cannot attend class, you are expected to be here. More importantly, students are expected to also actively participate in class discussion. The participation grade is worth 50 points.

The grades and assignments for this course break down as follows:

Class participation: 50 points
Writing Assignments: 300 points
Final Exam: 100 points
Team Discussion: 50 points

Total 500 points. As for letter grades, the numbers are as follows:

A=465+, A- =450-464, B+= 430-449, B=415-429
B-=400-414, C+=380-399, C=365-379, C-= 350-364, D=300-349, E=<299

Please note that this is a required course for Anthropology graduate students. A grade of B or better is necessary to satisfy this requirement.

Academic Honesty

Unless it is specifically connected to assigned collaborative work, all work should be individual. Evidence of collusion (working with someone not connected to the class or assignment), plagiarism (use of someone else's published or unpublished words or design without acknowledgment) or multiple submissions (submitting the same work for different courses) will lead to the Department's and the University's procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. All students are expected to honor their commitment to the [University's Honor Code](#).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#). The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. **Please make any requests by September 9.**

UF Counseling Services.

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. [University Counseling and Wellness Center](#), 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575. Personal, career, and emergency counseling.
2. [Career Resource Center](#), Reitz Union, 392-1601, Career development assistance and counseling.
3. [Writing Studio](#), 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Writing assistance, study skills, test preparation.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing [online evaluations](#). Evaluations are typically open during the last 2-3 weeks of the semester, but students will be notified of specific times when they are open. [Summary results](#) of these assessments are also available to students.

Schedule of Topics:

Week 1 (August 30): Foundations. Read Chapters 1-4, 13-15.

Week 2 (Sept. 13): Structure, System, Function. 5-12.

Week 3 (Sept. 20): Meaning, Ideology, Critique. 16-18, with additional Readings:

Harris, Grace G. 1989. Concepts of Individual, Self, and Person in Description and Analysis. *American Anthropologist* 91(3):599-612.

Ingold, Tim. 1991. Becoming Persons: Consciousness and Sociality in Human Evolution. *Cultural Dynamics* 3(4):355-378.

Robertson, A.F. 1996. The Development of Meaning: Ontogeny and Culture. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 2(4):591-610.

Week 4 (Sept. 27): Language, Method, Fieldwork. 19-21, with additional readings (below):

Austin, J.L. 1962. *How to do things with words*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Ahearn, L.M. Language and Agency. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 30: 109-137.

Rosaldo, M. 1982. The things we do with words: Ilongot speech acts and speech act theory in philosophy. *Language in Society* 11: 203-237.

Week 5 (October 4): Cognition, Psychology, Neuroanthropology. 22-25, with additional readings (below):

Harris, G.G. 1989. Concepts of Individual, Self, and Person in Description and Analysis. *American Anthropologist* 91(3): 599-612.

Romney, A.K., S. Weller, and W. Bachelder. 1986. Culture and Consensus: A Theory of Culture and Informant Accuracy. *American Anthropologist* 88: 313-338

Jones, D. 1999. Evolutionary Psychology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 28: 553-575.

Week 6 (October 11): The Body. 26-28.

Scheper-Hughes, N. and M. Lock. 1987. The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1(1):6-41

Csordas, T. Somatic Modes of Attention. *Cultural Anthropology* 8(2):135-156.

Rasmussen, S. 2010. Remaking Body Politics: Dilemmas Over Female Fatness as Symbolic Capital in Two Rural Tuareg Communities. *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* 34:615-632.

Week 7 (October 18): Coherence and Contingency. 29-33.

Week 8 (October 25): Universals, Domains, Cultural Logics. 34-39.

Week 9 (Nov 1): Objectivity, Morality, and Truth. 40-43.

Week 10 (Nov 8): Western Thought and Rethinking Relativism. 44-49.

Week 11 (Nov 15): Subjects and Objects. 50-56.

Week 12 (Nov. 22): Anthropologizing Ourselves. 57-60.

Week 13 (Nov. 29): TBA

Week 14 (Dec. 6): TBA