

ANG 6286: CONTEMPORARY THEORY

I. General Information

Class Meetings

- Fall 2023
- Meeting Day/Time: Friday 11:45 – 2:45 (5-7)
- Location: ROG 0106

Instructor

- Dr. Marit Tolo Østebø
- **Office location:** Grinter Hall 488
- **Office hours:** TBD
- Contact: Marit.ostebo@ufl.edu

Course Description

This is an independent study course that allows you as a student to actively design an individual course syllabus that reflects your specific research interests and needs. However, to facilitate classroom discussion and a common ground, I have assigned **one** weekly theory text. For a good resource and overview of theory in anthropology, see the following website

<https://anthropology.ua.edu/anthropological-theories/> .

II. Graded Work

Design of Individual Syllabus (100 points)

The syllabus is due the second week of class. It must include the following:

- A short introductory paragraph that details the main topics of your independent study and why these readings are important to your progress.
- A minimum of five student-learning objectives (SLOs)
- A reading list organized in a weekly schedule
- A detailed description of what you intend to accomplish in the form of a final project. Include a rubric that details the expectations you have for the project. I will use the rubric when assessing your final project.

One-Pagers (250 points, 50 points each, total of 5)

A one pager is a way to visually share key ideas and information from what you have learned. When you create a one pager, you are trying to use both visual symbols and important words to clearly and concisely share your most important takeaways with someone else. I will provide a template for the one-pager.

Here is what it MUST include:

- ❖ A border which shows the title and key themes from your text
- ❖ An image in the upper left hand corner with a quotation woven into or around it. This image should represent what you consider to be the most important argument or contribution of the text.
- ❖ Images and/or doodled words in the upper right hand corner that presents and situates the author.
- ❖ Images and/or words in the bottom right hand corner that show theoretical connections between the themes and ideas in the text you have read and your research interests / questions.
- ❖ A section in the bottom left corner that connects this text to other anthropological texts
- ❖ A statement in the rubric across the page about why you think this text does or does not deserve its place in your syllabus.

And if you wondered what inspired me to adopt this assignment, you can read more about it [here](#) and also see examples of one-pagers, and get additional ideas and inspiration for your own teaching.

Participation in Class (100 points)

As always, I expect that you are actively participating in class discussions. Time used on your phone or computer during class discussions may lower your participation grade.

Final Project (300 points)

It is up to you to decide what you would like to submit for your final project. It should be in a format that is important for your progress as a graduate student in anthropology, and something that will push you to work on and finalize a piece of work, such as a research proposal, a chapter in your dissertation, or a journal article. Include a rubric that reflects the expectations you have for yourself with regards to this project. I will use the rubric when I grade.

III. Weekly Schedule for Common Readings

WEEK/DATE	THEME / READING
WEEK 1 August 25	DECOLONIZING THE SYLLABUS Sulafa, Zidani (2020) Whose pedagogy is it anyway? Decolonizing the syllabus through a critical embrace of difference
WEEK 2 September 1	ON THEORY I

	Ortner, S. (1984) Theory in Anthropology since the Sixties
WEEK 3 September 8	ON THEORY II Harrison, F. (2016) Theorizing in ex-centric sites
WEEK 4 September 15	POWER I Michel Foucault (1982) The Subject and Power
WEEK 5 September 22	POWER II Mbembe, A. (1992) Provisional Notes on the Postcolony
WEEK 6 September 29	EMBODIMENT Lock, M. (1993) Cultivating the Body: Anthropology and Epistemologies of Bodily Practice and Knowledge
WEEK 7 October 6	HOMEcoming – NO CLASS
WEEK 8 October 13	MATERIALITY Ingold, T. (2012) Toward an Ecology of Materials
WEEK 9 October 20	NEOLIBERALISM Ganti, Tejaswini (2014) Neoliberalism
WEEK 10 October 27	INFRASTRUCTURE Larkin, B. (2013) The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure
WEEK 11 November 3	AFFECT Skoggard, I. & Waterson, A. (2015) Introduction: Toward an Anthropology of Affect and Evocative Ethnography
WEEK 12 November 10	HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
WEEK 13 November 17	BECOMING - LAST DAY OF CLASS Biel, J. & Locke, P. (2017) The Anthropology of Becoming
WEEK 14 November 24	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS
WEEK 15 December 1	LAST DAY OF CLASS - REVIEW

IV. Required Policies

Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

In-Class Recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.