Anthropology 311: 
History of Anthropology 
_Tuesday 10:55 -1:55, Hickman-213, Douglass Campus_ 
Prerequisite: 101

Instructor: Assaf Harel  
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Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:15 – 3:15  
Thursday, 12:30 - 1:30  
or by appointment  
Ruth Adams #313

Course Description:

This course reviews the history of sociocultural anthropology from the late 19th century to the beginning of the 21st century through engagement with major theoretical works that shaped the discipline. We will move chronologically and topically and pay attention to the historical, sociocultural and institutional conditions from which anthropological theories emerged. In the process we will examine how major issues and debates playout over time and consider how different personalities, national traditions and ideologies contributed to the making of the anthropological discipline. Throughout the course, students will learn to apply major theoretical concepts towards an examination of sociocultural problems from the past and the present. In addition, students will pursue individual research projects that will enable them to deepen their understanding of a specific anthropological theme of their interest and gain training in research, writing and presentation skills. By the end of the course, you will gain historical and theoretical knowledge of anthropology and its uniqueness as a discipline that blurs the boundaries between the social sciences and the humanities.

Course Objectives:

- To gain proficiency of major historical developments in anthropological theory such as evolutionary thought, historical particularism, functionalism, structuralism, post-structuralism, post-modern and feminist critiques as well as globalization and engaged anthropology [CITE 1 see http://anthro.rutgers.edu/undergrad-program/department-learning-goals]
- To relate influential thinkers to their historical and intellectual milieu and understand their impact upon anthropological thought in the past and the present [CITE 1]
- To assist students’ ability to employ analytical skills when evaluating key theoretical perspectives within anthropology such as the tensions between universalism and particularism, objectivity and subjectivity, self and other [CITE 2]
- To develop students’ proficiency in speaking critically and effectively about the history of anthropology [CITE 5]
- To develop students’ ability to research and write cogently and/or persuasively about the anthropological discipline through engagement with its central theoretical and methodological formations [CITE 3 & 4]
- To encourage students to integrate anthropological perspectives into their thinking about their future lives and work
**Required Texts:**
"Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History" by R. Jon McGee and Richard Warms, Published by: McGraw-Hill, Third Edition, 2004 (used copies are available on Amazon for around $3). More readings will be on Sakai. In addition, a few more readings might be added during the course. This syllabus is thus subject to a few minor changes.

**Assignments and Grading Structure (see schedule below for due dates):**

**Attendance and Participation 25%**
Class attendance is required. *No more than two absences will be accepted.* If you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website [https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/](https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Active participation entails contributing thoughtful comments regarding presentations, readings, films, and group discussions during each class meeting.

**Reading Notes 25%**
Without a serious commitment to the readings, you will not learn as much about the history of anthropology as you hoped and deserve. Students are expected to complete *all of the weekly readings before class* and come to class prepared to discuss the material. In addition, students *must bring the weekly readings to each class.* Furthermore, to help your learning, each week you will prepare readings notes that should not be longer than *one page.* These notes can include summaries of readings and main arguments; questions that probe into the author’s arguments and methods and/or draw connections between that week’s readings or the previous week; general questions concerning the readings; reflections. The notes will be used to facilitate class and group discussion. *You are expected to bring the notes to class and submit them at the end of class.* I will grade the reading notes as +√/√/-√.

**Research Paper 30%:**
Beginning in the first few weeks of the course, students are required to think about a final research project to be conducted during the semester. The final paper - which should be around 10 double-spaced pages - is to be a written analysis that illustrates how anthropological approaches for interpreting sexuality can be useful, or not, for further understanding a social issue of interest to you. The paper must demonstrate a grasp of the concepts you engage, contain a clearly stated research question, and provide a discussion of findings in relation to course readings. In addition, the paper must meaningfully cite at least 6 course readings. It is fine if you have no idea of what to explore. *I will help you identify a topic that matches your interests.* On *Tuesday, 10/04,* you will submit a brief research proposal, of no more than one or two paragraphs, in which you present a research topic. *On Tuesday, 11/08,* you will submit a preliminary draft, which should be no longer than 2 pages and will include a clear research question, a rough outline, and an initial list of sources. In addition, *you are encouraged to meet with me at least once to review your research project.* The final paper is due on *December 19th.*

**Presentation 20%:**
You will present in class your research project. The presentation assignment is aimed to allow you to share your project with the rest of the class, further conceptualize your research project, receive critical feedback, and gain the opportunity to develop your public speaking skills. The presentation needs to incorporate visuals or audiovisual elements that enrich and/or support the main argument. The topic of your presentation will be determined and approved along with your research project. More specific instructions will be handed out in class and posted on Sakai.
Course Policies:

Academic integrity: The work you submit must be your own. Cheating and Plagiarism will not be tolerated. It is the students’ responsibility to be familiar with the rights and obligations associated with academic integrity. You are encouraged to read the full policy on academic integrity at the following website: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers and to consult these resources for guidelines on producing academic work: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources.

In Class: Please arrive on time for all class meetings. While in class, all mobile phones, iPods, etc. must be silenced. Laptop usage is permitted only as long as it is not bothersome to other students. For example, do not surf through your private information while sitting in front of other students who may be distracted. If you miss a class, contact another student in the course to find out what you missed and how to prepare for the next meeting.

Submitting work for Evaluation: I will accept late work, but with a one grade reduction for each 24 hours period it is late.

Learning differences and support services: Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact me after class, during office hours or by email at the beginning of the semester. In addition, students will need to contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.
Course Schedule

**Week 1 – Introduction**

**Week 1 - Nineteenth Century Forerunners – Tu, 09/06**

Lewis Henry Morgan, *Ethnical Periods*, AT 4
Marx, Karl and Friedreich Engles, *Feuerbach: Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook*, AT 5

Recommended:
Herbert Spencer, *The Social Organism*, AT 2

**Week 2 - Early Sociological Foundations: French and German Traditions – Tu, 09/13**

Emile Durkheim, *What Is a Social Fact?* AT 6
Emile Durkheim, *The Cosmological System of Totemism and the Idea of Class*, AT 7
Marcel Mauss, Excerpts from *The Gift*, AT 8
Max Weber, *Class, Status, Party*, AT 9

Recommended:

**Week 3 - Historical Particularism and American Anthropology – Tu, 09/20**

Franz Boas, *The Methods of Ethnology* AT 10
Alfred L. Kroeber, *Eighteen Professions* AT 11
Paul Radin, Right and Wrong AT 12

Recommended:
Zora Neale Hurston, 1926, *Sweat* [Sakai]
**Week 4 - Functionalism and British Anthropology – Tu 09/27**

Bronislaw Malinowski, The Essentials of the Kula AT 13  
A. R. Radcliffe-Brown, On Joking Relationships AT 14  
E.E Evans-Pritchard, the Nuer of the Southern Sudan AT 15  
Max Gluckman, The Licence in Ritual AT 16

**Week 5 – Psychological Anthropology: Culture and Personality – Tu, 10/04**

Ruth Fulton Benedict, Psychological Types in the Cultures of the Southwest AT 17  
Margaret Mead, Introduction to Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies AT 18  
* Research proposal due

**Week 6 – Structuralism – Tu, 10/11**

Claude Levi-Strauss, Linguistics and Anthropology AT 26  
Claude Levi-Strauss, Four Winnebago Myths: A Structural Sketch AT 27  
Sherry B. Ortner, Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture? AT 28  

**Week 7 – Materialism and its Offshoots – Tu, 10/18**

Leslie White, Energy and the Evolution of Culture AT 20  
Marvis Harris, The Cultural Ecology of India's Sacred Cattle AT 23  
Roy A. Rappaport, Ritual Regulation of Environmental Relations Among a New Guinea People AT 24  

**Week 8 - Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology – Tu 10/25**

Mary Douglass, External Boundaries AT 38  
Victor Turner, Symbols in Ndembu Ritual AT 39  
* Recommended: Victor Turner, Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in Rites of Passage [Sakai]
**Week 9 – Power and Practice – Tu, 11/01**


Sherry B. Ortner. 1984. Theory in Anthropology since the Sixties, Comparative Studies in Society and History 26 (1), Pp. 126-166. [Sakai]

**Week 10 – Gender and Feminist Critiques – Tu, 11/08**

Sally Slocum, Woman the Gatherer: Male Bias in Anthropology AT 35

Eleanor Leacock, Interpreting the Origins of Gender Inequality: Conceptual and Historical Problems AT 36


Recommended:


*Preliminary draft due*

**Week 11 – Post Modernism and the Crisis of Representation Tu, 11/15**


Renato Rosaldo, Grief and a Headhunter's Rage AT 41

Roy D’Andrade, Moral Models in Anthropology AT 43

Recommended:

**Week 12 – The contemporary Moment - Tu, 11/22**


**Recommended:**

**Paul Stoller.** 2014. “Welcome to the Anthropocene: Anthropology and the Political Moment”


**Week 13 Conclusions Tu, 11/29**


**Week 14 Tu, 12/06**

**Presentations** – First panel

**Week 15, Tu, 13**

**Presentations** – First Panel

**Final paper is due on Monday, Dec 19th**