

CORE SEMINAR IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Anthropology 511
T-TR 10:00-11:50

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Office Hours: Wed 1:00- 3:00 pm
and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a graduate-level, discussion focused introduction to key areas of contemporary theory in socio-cultural anthropology. The class will cover issues of identity, political economy, practice theory, agency, hegemony, power, resistance, constructions of the environment, political and event ecology. Emphasis will be placed on techniques of critical thinking, such as how to identify paradigmatic statements, read “against the grain” and uncover underlying assumptions. Students will interact with texts through analytic reading journals, facilitated discussions, presentations and essays; students will also have the opportunity to explore theoretical perspectives by writing critical book reviews on works of their own choice.

REQUIRED READINGS

All class readings are available on D2L (see below).

Recommended texts (available at the bookstore):

Strunk, William and E.B. White
2000 The Elements of Style, Fourth Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Hacker, Diana
2011 A Pocket Style Manual, Fifth Edition. Boston: Bedford / St. Martin's.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Policy on illness, emergencies, extensions and plagiarism

During the winter, viruses spread through many colleges and universities across the country. If you feel ill (fever, sore throat, runny nose, headache, cough, aches), please stay home until you have been without fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. *Let the instructor know* about your illness. You will not be penalized for illness-related absences and you will have the opportunity to make up missed assignments.

Unexcused absences count against you and students who have more than three (3) unexcused absences will receive grade deductions for class participation.

Legitimate reasons to miss class are few.

Requests for extensions on deadlines and notification of unavoidable absences should be made in written or electronic media AND should if at all possible be reported to the instructor ahead of the due date and before the start of the class period.

Students with a documented disability needing accommodations in this course should immediately inform the instructor.

All written work must be completed to receive a passing grade in this class. Late work will lose one letter grade for each day past due. In the event of severe illness or other emergency, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange an alternative deadline.

Plagiarism (intellectual theft) is a very serious academic offense. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will receive a failing grade. You are responsible for reading and understanding the department handout on plagiarism, which is posted on the class D2L site. Please ask the instructor if you have any questions.

Desire to Learn (D2L)

Class readings, the course syllabus, the plagiarism document, reading journal format, assignment sheets and discussion questions will be available on D2L. You may read the materials online or print copies for use during class discussions.

All students can access D2L with an Odin account. If you do not have an Odin account, you can sign up to get one at <https://www.account.pdx.edu>. Use your Odin username and password to login to D2L at <http://psuonline.pdx.edu/>. Use of D2L will be demonstrated on the first day of class. Please contact the instructor if you encounter difficulties in accessing this resource.

Assignments (due dates listed in Course Schedule)

Your final grade will be evaluated based on four reading journals (30%); two book reviews (30%); two section essays (30%); and classroom participation, discussion leadership, presentations and attendance (10%).

Reading Journals (30%)

Students will submit to D2L four reading journals that summarize and critically analyze the weekly readings. Reading journals will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. The format will be posted on D2L. Reading Journals will be due roughly one class period after we finish covering the section material.

Section Essays (30%)

Students will write two essays, each 5-6 double-spaced pages long. Essay topics will be assigned for sections 2-7 of the class and will focus on readings in that particular section; instructions will be posted on D2L. Choose two sections and write an essay for each. *To ensure early participation and feedback, each student is requested to write at least one of the two essays on Sections 2, 3 or 4.* Essays will be due roughly a week after we finish covering the section material.

Book Reviews (30%)

You are asked to write two 750-word book reviews. Further instructions will be posted on D2L. Suggested texts for review are listed at the end of each section's readings. You may choose to review alternative readings, but must get approval from the instructor before starting your review. On select days, students will briefly present their critical book reviews to the class.

Discussion Leadership, Presentations and Attendance (10%)

Regular attendance and active participation in class is expected and required (see policy statement above). Students will sign up in advance to lead discussion on particular sections and will present their critical book reviews to the class. Discussions will be student led, with discussion questions prepared in advance to facilitate the dialogue. The discussion questions created by the facilitators must differ from those provided by the professor to help guide the readings. Submission of discussion questions in advance to the assigned facilitation day is required. Submission before class on the day of facilitation is acceptable as long as they are received in advance to the scheduled discussion (before class starts).

COURSE OUTLINE

Section 1: Introduction

Lowie, Robert H.

- 1935 Chapter 12: Rites and Festivals. *In* The Crow Indians. Pp. 256-263. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Ortner, Sherry B.

- 1994 [1984] Theory in Anthropology Since the Sixties. *In* Culture/Power/History: A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory. Nicholas B. Dirks, Geoff Eley, and Sherry B. Ortner, eds. Pp. 372-411. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Dirks, Nicholas, Geoff Eley and Sherry B. Ortner

- 1994 Introduction. *In* Culture/Power/History: A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory. Nicholas B. Dirks, Geoff Eley, and Sherry B. Ortner, eds. Pp. 3-46. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Ortner, Sherry B.

- 2006 Introduction: Updating Practice Theory. *In* Anthropology and Social Theory. Pp. 1-18. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press.

Section 2: After Culture: Power, Inequality and Identity

Williams, Raymond

- 1985 Culture. *In* Keywords. Pp. 87-93. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hall, Stuart

- 1992 The Question of Cultural Identity. *In* Modernity and Its Futures. Stuart Hall, D. Held, and T. McGrew, eds. Pp. 274-325. Cambridge: The Open University.

Said, Edward

- 1979 Latent and Manifest Orientalism. *In* Orientalism. Pp. 201-225. New York: Vintage.

Anderson, Benedict

- 1991 Introduction. *In* Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism. Pp. 1-7. London: Verso.
1991 Census, Map, Museum. *In* Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism. Pp. 163-185. London: Verso.

Kuper, Adam

2003 The Return of the Native. *Current Anthropology* 44(3): 389-402.

Li, Tania Murray

2008 [2000] Articulating Indigenous Identity in Indonesia: Resource Politics and the Tribal Slot. *In Environmental Anthropology: A Historical Reader*. M.R. Dove and C. Carpenter eds. Pp. 339-362. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Suggested review options:

Edward Said: *Orientalism* (rest of the book) or another book by Said

Tania Li: *The Will to Improve*

Section 3: Political Economy

Giddens, Anthony

1971 Introduction and Selections on Marx. *In Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. pp. xi-xvi, 1-64. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Marx, Karl

1967 Commodity Fetishism. *In Das Kapital: A Critique of Political Economy*. Abridged version. Friedrich Engels, ed. Pp. 50-63. Chicago: Gateway.

Carrier, James G. and Josiah M. Heyman

1997 Consumption and Political Economy. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 3(2):355-373.

Farmer, Paul

2004 Anthropology of Structural Violence. *Current Anthropology* 45(3): 305-325.

Suggested review options:

Sidney Mintz: *Sweetness and Power*

Paul Farmer: *Pathologies of Power*

Eric Wolf: *Europe and the Peoples Without History*

Section 4: Hegemony and Disciplinary Power

Williams, Raymond

1977 Chapter II.6: Hegemony. *In Marxism and Literature*. Pp. 108-114. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Foucault, Michel

1979 Panopticism. *In Discipline and Punish*. Pp. 195-228. New York: Vintage.

- 1994 Chapter 5: Two Lectures. *In Culture/ Power/ History: A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory*. Nicholas B. Dirks, Geoff Eley, and Sherry B. Ortner, eds. Pp. 200-221. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Rose, Nikolas
1999 *Governing*. *In Powers of Freedom: Reframing Political Thought*. Pp. 15-60 Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1999.
- Ong, Aihwa
1988 The Production of Possession: Spirits and the Multinational Corporation in Malaysia. *American Ethnologist* 15(1):29-42.
- Ngalamulume, Kalala
2004 Keeping the City Totally Clean: Yellow Fever and the Politics of Prevention in Colonial Saint-Louis-du-Sénégal, 1850-1914. *Journal of African History* 45:183-202.

Suggested review options:

Michel Foucault: Discipline and Punish (the rest of the book); The History of Sexuality, Volume I; another book by Foucault (check with instructor)

Section 5: Practice Theory and Agency

- Ortner, Sherry
1989 Introduction and Conclusion. *In High Religion: A Cultural and Political History of Sherpa Buddhism*. Pp. 3-18, 193-202. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Bourdieu, Pierre
1994 Chapter 4: Structures, Habitus, Power: Basis for a Theory of Symbolic Power. *In Culture/ Power/ History: A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory*. Nicholas B. Dirks, Geoff Eley, and Sherry B. Ortner, eds. Pp. 155-199. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Ortner, Sherry
1996 Making Gender: Toward a Feminist, Minority, Postcolonial, Subaltern, etc., Theory of Practice. *In Making Gender: The Politics and Erotics of Culture*. Pp. 1-20. Boston: Beacon Press.
2006 Power and Projects: Reflections on Agency. *In Anthropology and Social Theory*, pp. 129-153. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press.
- Ahearn, Laura M.
1999 Agency. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 9(1-2):12-15.

Suggested review options:

Sherry Ortner: Making Gender (the rest of the book)

Laura Ahearn: Invitations to Love: Literacy, Love Letters and Social Change in Nepal

Section 6: Resistance

Scott, James C.

1992 Domination, Acting, and Fantasy. *In* The Paths to Domination, Resistance, and Terror. Carolyn Nordstrom and JoAnn Martin, eds. Pp. 55-84. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Foucault, Michel

1978 Method. *In* The History of Sexuality: An Introduction. Volume 1. Pp. 92-102. New York: Vintage Books.

Abu-Lughod, Lila

1990 The Romance of Resistance: Tracing Transformations of Power Through Bedouin women. *American Ethnologist* 17(1):41-55.

Ortner, Sherry B.

2006 Resistance and the Problem of Ethnographic Refusal. *In* Anthropology and Social Theory. Pp. 42-62. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press.

Suggested review options:

Lila Abu-Lughod: Veiled Sentiments

Jean Comaroff: Body of Power, Spirit of Resistance

Section 7: Constructions of the Environment, Political and Event Ecology

Cronon, William

1996 The Trouble with Wilderness; or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature. *In* W. Cronon (ed.), *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature*. Pp. 69-90. London: Norton and Company.

Haraway, Donna

1993 Teddy Bear Patriarchy: Taxidermy in the Garden of Eden, New York, 1908-1936. *In* *Cultures of United States Imperialism*. Amy Kaplan and Donald E. Pease eds. Pp. 237-254. Durham: Duke University Press.

Escobar, Arturo

1999 After Nature: Steps to an Antiessentialist Political Ecology. *Cultural Anthropology* 40(1):1-30.

Vayda, Andrew P. and Bradley B. Walters. 1999. Against Political Ecology.
Human Ecology 27(1):167-179.

Forsyth, Tim. 2003. *Critical Political Ecology*. New York: Routledge. Chapters 1-4

Suggested review options:

Tim Forsyth: Critical Political Ecology (rest of book) or another book

James Fairhead and Melissa Leach: Misreading the African Landscape

Donna Haraway: Primate Visions

Anna Tsing: Friction

Paige West: Conservation is Our Government Now

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Day	Date	Month	Readings and Assignments
1	T	7	January	Introductions
	TR	9		Read: Lowie, Ortner (1994)
2	T	14		Read: Dirks et al., Ortner (2006)
	TR	16		Read: Williams, Hall Due: Reading Journal 1
3	T	21		Read: Said, Anderson
	TR	23		Read: Kuper, Li
4	T	28		Read: Giddens, Marx
	TR	30		Work on Assignments
5	T	4	February	Read: Carrier and Heyman, Farmer Due: Section 2 Essay option
	TR	6		Read: Williams, Foucault (1979, 1994) Due: Reading Journal 2
6	T	11		Read: Rose, Ong, Ngalamulume Due: Section 3 Essay option
	TR	13		Read: Ortner (1989), Bourdieu
7	T	18		Read: Ortner (1996, 2006), Ahearn Due: Section 4 Essay option
	TR	20		Work on Assignments
8	T	25		Read: Scott, Foucault (1978) Due: Reading Journal 3
	TR	27		Read: Abu-Lughod, Ortner
9	T	4	March	Student Presentations: Book Reviews Due: Book review #1 Due: Section 5 Essay option
	TR	6		Read: Cronon, Haraway Due: Section 6 Essay option
10	T	11		Read: Forsyth, Escobar, Vayda and Walters
	TR	13		Student Presentations: Book Reviews
11	T	18		Work on Assignments
	TR	20		Due: Section 7 Essay option; Book review #2; Reading Journal 4