

ANTH 303

Anthropological Theory

Tuesdays, 12:45-2:05pm & Thursdays, 11:15am-12:30pm, NH345

Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. Christina Holmes

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10am-12noon; Wednesday 1-2 pm & 3:30-5pm; Thursday 1-2pm; Other times by appointment

Course Content: This seminar course will give students an understanding of why and how theory is used. It will present the major trends in anthropological theory over the history of the discipline, including approaches such as historical particularism, structural functionalism, Marxist anthropology, and post-modernism among others. Students will get practice applying theories.

Evaluation:

Midterm Test:	15%
Final Examination:	30%
Presentation	10%
Essay proposal	5%
Essay	30%
Participation assignments	10%

Total: 100%

Required Readings: *Readings for a history of anthropological theory*, 2013. 4th edition. Edited by Paul A. Erickson and Liam D. Murphy. University of Toronto Press ISBN 978-1-4426-0656-2 (pbk.)

Available at the StFX bookstore

Other readings as noted in the course schedule will be available on Moodle.

Moodle site: Go to the StFX Moodle Login Page at <https://moodle.stfx.ca/login/index.php>. Log in using your StFX username and password. Click on the Anth 303 link to access our Moodle site. We will use Moodle throughout this course, so make sure you can connect. If you have problems, talk to me or to TSG.

Exams: will include a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and a short essay question.

Assignments (detailed instructions provided on Moodle):

Participation assignments (10%): This will be made up from exercises done in class (13 in total, 1/week), which may include one minute essays, concept maps, mini-assignments, etc. These exercises will be graded for participation, rather than content, as they are intended to reward class participation. They will also direct learning so that students have practice with skills that will be evaluated in assignments and the final exam. Make ups will not be allowed, except under exceptional circumstances. However, a student only needs to complete 12/13 in order to receive full marks.

Presentation (10%): For the presentation you will analyse the video we are using as a case study to apply the different theoretical frameworks to. You will present on the day AFTER we discuss the theorist. Designation of the day and theorist you are responsible for will be scheduled through class discussion on Sept. 15. You will choose a theorist listed on the schedule between Sept. 20 and Nov. 17. Please have your preferences decided by January 14 as only one person can present on each theorist.

The presentation should be about 10 minutes in length and should first highlight concepts from the theorist that you will then use to analyse the presentation/1st video. You will be marked on the accuracy and clarity of the presentation, as well as on your presentation skills.

Essay proposal, due Oct. 13th (5%): This proposal outlines your intended topic and argument, as well as your main sources. Include:

- a) A **thesis statement** (one sentence of no more than 35 words stating what you will **argue** in your paper). It should take the form “In this paper I argue that [position] because” Your position will be some statement about the advantages &/or disadvantages of the theorist(s) you are evaluating and the ‘because’ will outline the reasons for your position. I will be looking to see that the argument gives me an idea of how you will structure your paper.
- b) A list of the major **sources** that you plan to use in your essay. This will include at least **four additional** source to those which can be found in the course outline. Note that you must use the proper bibliographic form for your list of sources (see style sheet on Moodle).
- c) Must be handed in on paper, in class, Oct. 13th, or will be considered late
- d) **Grading** You will sign up for a 10 minute grading session/consultation in my office during which time we will grade your proposal together using a rubric and discuss your essay.

Essay, due Nov. 24 (30%): The paper should be 2,500-3,000 words in length including references (double-spaced; 12 size). Please put the word count on the first page, underneath the title of your essay and your name.

Use the essay format outline at the StFX library’s Anthropology subject guide, with the Chicago Manual of Style for referencing and citation. Links are found here: <http://stfx.libguides.com/c.php?g=101558&p=658461>

Topic: You can choose your own topic, but here are some suggestions to get started:

1. This is especially recommended to honours students. Choose a theorist that you think you might use in your thesis, and explore how this framework is applied in several anthropological works. Your argument will be based on a critical appreciation of this framework. Thus if you were to choose Bourdieu, you might look at articles in the journal *Ethnography*, especially during the last 10-15 years, choosing some of the articles that use Bourdieuan ideas.
2. Analyse the 2nd /essay course video with two theories from the course (not the one on which you do your presentation) to see if the pros and cons of the analysis hold up across a variety of material.

Alternately, you could analyse both the 1st and 2nd course video with one theory (again, not the one on which you do your presentation) to see if the pros and cons of the analysis hold up across a variety of material.

The main objective is to give you experience with applying and critically evaluating theoretical concepts and frameworks. You will be marked on whether you have presented a clear, appropriate essay that presents and supports an argument about the material, following the guidelines.

Course Policies

All assignments not given directly to me or uploaded to Moodle should be handed into the office and time stamped. Do not slide them under my door.

Students who miss class are responsible for obtaining their own notes. I do not give out my class notes. However, powerpoints for the lecture are available on Moodle.

Academic Integrity Policy

Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with in strict accordance to the St. FX's Academic regulations (as described in the Academic Calendar section 3.8; <http://www.stfx.ca/calendar/>)

Make up exams and late assignments: Students unable to write exams due to illness or serious, unexpected circumstance must contact the instructor. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Late assignments will not be accepted without penalty unless 1) approval is obtained in advance of the deadline, or 2) the student has a last minute sickness or emergency that prevented completion. Extensions will not be permitted for reasons of workload, vacations, etc. If an extension is not provided, the late assignment will **lose 10% per day** that it is late.

Class Equity Policy

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment free from discrimination or harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space—both real and virtual—that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. These values and practices are in accord with the StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy which can be found at <http://www.mystfx.ca/campus/stu-serv/equity/>.

Special Accommodations

Students who require special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications should contact Learning Services (http://sites.stfx.ca/accessible_learning/services) and provide documentation of disability early in the course.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Sept. 6 & 8:

Two videos to which theories will be applied:

Presentation/1st video: Nature Rx video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf5TgVRGND4>

Essay/2nd video : Beyonce's Formation video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMea1UNtdI8>

Reading: E&M, Overview, p. 3-19 – Sept. 8

Week 2: Sept. 13 & 15

Presentation dates to be scheduled on Sept. 15th – come with your top 3 choices of theorists

Readings: E&M Ch. 1 Marx & Engels – Sept. 13th

Ch. 7. Durkheim – Sept. 15th

Week 3: Sept. 20 & 22

Readings: E&M Ch. 8 Weber - Sept. 20,

(Historical particularism) Ch. 10 Boas & Ch. 12 Kroeber – Sept. 22

Week 4: Sept. 27 & 29

Mid term test September 29

Readings: Steward, Julian H. and Demitri B. Shimkin. 1961. Some mechanisms of sociocultural evolution. *Daedalus*, 90(3):477-497. (on Moodle) – Sept. 27

Week 5: Oct. 4 & 6

Readings: (Culture & Personality) E&M Ch. 13 Mead & Ch. 14 Benedict – Oct. 4

Ch. 15 Levi-Strauss – Oct. 6

Friday Oct. 7 – Fall Study Day

Monday Oct. 10 – Thanksgiving

Week 6: Oct. 11 & 13

Essay proposals due in class October 13th

Readings: E&M Ch. 18 Radcliffe-Brown – Oct. 11

Ch. 19 Malinowski – Oct. 13

Week 7: Oct. 18 & 20

Readings: (Symbolic Anthropology) E&M Ch. 24 Turner & Mary Douglas – excerpt from Purity & Danger (on Moodle) – Oct. 18

E&M Ch. 25 Geertz – Oct. 20

Week 8: Oct. 25 & 27

Readings: E&M Ch. 26 Slocum & Ch. 27 Gal – Oct. 25

Ch. 30 Wolf – Oct. 27

Week 9: Nov. 1 & 3

Readings: E&M Ch. 31 Foucault – Nov 1

Ch. 32 Bourdieu – Nov. 3

Week 10: Nov. 8 & 10

Remembrance Day Nov. 11th

Readings: (Postcolonialism) E&M Ch. 28 Said & Ch. 29 Gupta & Sharma – Nov. 8

(Actor Network Theory) Latour: 'Give me a laboratory and I will raise the world' – Nov. 10
(on Moodle)

Week 11: Nov. 15 & 17: **Nov. 15th – Guest lecture – Clare Fawcett – Post processual archaeology**

Readings: Ian Hodder Archaeology in 1984 *Antiquity* (in Moodle) – Nov. 15

E&M Ch. 34 Marcus & Fischer – Nov. 17

Week 12: Nov. 22 & 24

Essay due Nov. 24

Readings: E&M Ch. 37 Appadurai – Nov. 22

Ch. 38 Marcus – Nov. 24

Week 13: Nov. 29 & Dec. 1

Readings: E&M Ch. 41 Boskovic & Eriksen – Nov. 29

Possible essay questions for final exam to be given on Dec. 1st

Final exam: To be scheduled December 7-16.

Do not make travel plans until the Final Exam schedule has been posted.