

ANT 2110

Anthropological Theory

Spring 2009

Lecture Time and Venue: Wednesday 9.30 – 11.15 at NAH 11

Tutorial Time and Venue : Friday 8.30 – 9.15 at NAH 11

Instructor: Dr. Saroja Dorairajoo NAH 408 2609-7672 sarojadorairajoo@cuhk.edu.hk

Tutor: Mr. Andrew Wu Liang NAH 412 2609-7663

Course Description:

What is the purpose of studying theory in anthropology? This course is designed to answer this question by introducing you to some of the major theorists in anthropology who have defined the field through their analyses of human societies. Through the theories that these anthropologists and social thinkers have constructed to help them make sense of the societies they have studied, anthropologists address many key issues such as “What is the nature of culture?”, “What is the relationship between the individual and society”, and “How can one study another culture and another people.” By the end of the course, students should have a basic understanding of the major theories and theorists in anthropology and be able to apply these theories to the analysis of society and culture in their own communities and contemporary life.

Course Requirements:

The grade for this course will be based on the following assignments:

Class attendance and presentation 10%

Each student will be required to do an in-class presentation on an assigned reading.

2 short take-home tests 20% each (6-7 pages)

First take home test will be administered on February 20 and should be submitted to the Anthropology Department General Office on February 23 at 10 am

Second take home test will be administered on March 20 and should be submitted to the Anthropology Department General Office on March 23 at 10 am

A Final Take-Home Test 50% (10-12 pages)

The final test will be administered on April 17 and should be submitted to the Anthropology Department General Office on April 20 at 10 am

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week 1 January 7 What is theory? Debating the Case of Captain Cook

Sahlins, Marshall, “Captain James Cook or The Dying God.” In Islands of History. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1985. Pp. 104-135.

Obeyesekere, Gananath, The Apotheosis of Captain Cook. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1992. Pp. 3-22; 49-73; 102-119

Week 2 January 14 The Collective Conscience: Marx, Durkheim, Weber

Durkheim, Emile, "Rules for the Explanation of Social Facts." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 47-57.

Cuff, E.C., W.W. Sharrock, and D.W. Francis, "Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim." In Perspectives in Sociology. London: Routledge, 1998. Pp. 9-83.

Week 3 January 21 Evolutionism: Spencer, Tylor, Marx

Spencer, Herbert, "The Organic Analogy Reconsidered." In Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, eds. Peterborough, ONT: Broadview Press. 2002. Pp. 56-62.

Tylor, Edward, "The Science of Culture." In Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, eds. Peterborough, ONT: Broadview Press. 2002. Pp. 26-42

Morgan, Lewis, "Ethnical Periods." In Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, eds. Peterborough, ONT: Broadview Press. 2002. Pp. 43-55.

Week 4 February 4 Historical Particularism: Boas, Lowie and Kroeber

Boas, Franz, "The Limitations of the Comparative Method of Anthropology." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 58-67.

Lowie, Robert, "Conclusion to *Primitive Society*." In Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, eds. Peterborough, ONT: Broadview Press. 2002. Pp. 130-140.

Kroeber, Alfred, "The Concept of Culture." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 36-40.

Week 5 February 11 Comprehending the Other: Malinowski, E-P and Mead

Malinowski, Bronislaw, "The Subject, Method, and Scope of this Inquiry." In Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, eds. Peterborough, ONT: Broadview Press. 2002. Pp. 206-27.

Meyer, Fortes & Evans-Pritchard, "Introduction to *African Political Systems*." In Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, eds. Peterborough, ONT: Broadview Press. 2002. Pp. 228-46.

Mead, Margaret, "Introduction to *Coming of Age in Samoa*." In Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, eds. Peterborough, ONT: Broadview Press. 2002. Pp. 155-62.

Week 6 February 18 Structures of the Mind and Culture: Benedict, Radcliffe-Brown and Levi-Strauss

Benedict, Ruth, "The Individual and the Pattern of Culture." In Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, eds. Peterborough, ONT: Broadview Press. 2002. Pp. 163-80.

Radcliffe-Brown, "On Social Structure." In Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, eds. Peterborough, ONT: Broadview Press. 2002. Pp. 196-205.

Levi-Strauss, "Social Structure." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 136-47.

OR

Levi-Strauss, Claude, "Structural Analysis in Linguistics and in Anthropology." In Kinship and Family: an anthropological reader, Robert Parkin and Linda Stone, eds. Malden, MA: Blackwell. 2004. Pp. 145-157

Levi-Strauss, "The Structural Study of Myth." In Structuralism in Myth: Levi-Strauss, Barthes, Dumezil and Propp, Robert Segal, ed. New York: Garland. 1996. Pp. 118-134

Week 7 February 25 Neo-Evolutionism: White and Steward

White, Leslie, "Energy and the Evolution of Culture." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 107-121.

Steward, Julian, "The Concept and Method of Cultural Ecology." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 100-106

Week 8 March 4 Cultural Materialism: Harris

Harris, Marvin, "The Epistemology of Cultural Materialism." In Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, eds. Peterborough, ONT: Broadview Press. 2002. Pp. 408-440.

Rappaport, Roy, "Ritual Regulation of Environmental Relations Among a New Guinea People." Ethnology 6:17-30. 1967.

Gibson, Kathleen, "Customs and Cultures in Animals and Humans: Neurobiological and Evolutionary Considerations." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 193-203.

Week 9 March 11 Symbolic Anthropology: Turner and Geertz

Turner, Victor, "Symbols in Ndembu Ritual." In Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, eds. Peterborough, ONT: Broadview Press. 2002. Pp. 357-82.

Geertz, Clifford, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretative Theory of Culture." In Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, eds. Peterborough, ONT: Broadview Press. 2002. Pp. 332-356.

Keesing, Roger, "Anthropology as Interpretive Quest." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 258-67.

Week 10 March 18 Feminist Anthropology

Mead, Margaret, "Introduction." In Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies. New York: Morrow. 1935.

Gal, Susan, "Language, Gender, and Power: An Anthropological Review." In Linguistic Anthropology: A Reader, Alessandro Duranti, ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell. 2001. Pp. 420-430.

Ortner, Sherry, "So Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 437-442.

Week 11 March 25 Power and Practice: Bourdieu and Foucault

Bourdieu, Pierre, "Structures and the Habitus." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 407-416.

Foucault, Michel, "Two Lectures." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 417-423.

OR

Bourdieu, Pierre, "Structures, Habitus, Power: Basis for a Theory of Symbolic Power." In Culture/power/history: A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory, Nicholas Dirks, George Eley and Sherry Ortner, eds. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1994. Pp. 155-199.

Foucault, Michel, "Two Lectures". In Culture/power/history: A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory, Nicholas Dirks, George Eley and Sherry Ortner, eds. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1994. Pp. 200-221.

Week 12 April 1 Globalization

Arjun Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Economy." In The Anthropology of Globalization: A Reader, Jonathan Inda & Renato Rosaldo, eds. Malden, MA: Blackwell. 2008. Pp. 47-65.

Gupta, Akhil, & James Ferguson, "Beyond "Culture": Space, Identity and the Politics of Difference." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 608-617.

Marcus, George, "What is at Stake – and is not – in the Idea and Practice of Multi-sited Ethnography." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 618-621.

Week 13 April 8 Postcolonialism and Modernity

Comaroff, Jean & John Comaroff, "Introduction to *Of Revelation and Revolution*." In Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology, Henrietta Moore & Todd Sanders, eds. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishers. 2006. Pp. 382-396.

Comaroff, Jean & John Comaroff, "Occult Economies and the Violence of Abstraction.: Notes from the South African Postcolony." American Ethnologist 26(2):279-303. 1999.

Sahlins, Marshall, "What is Anthropological Enlightenment? Some Lessons of the Twentieth Century." Annual Review of Anthropology 28:i-xxiii. 1999.

Silbey, Susan, "Let them Eat Cake: globalization, post-modern colonialism and the possibilities of justice." In Ethnography and Law, Eve Darian-Smith, ed. Aldershot, England: Ashgate. 2007. Pp. 65-94.