

Graduate Seminar in Anthropological Theory

ANT 5010A, Fall 2009

Tuesday 6:30-9:15, NAH 401

Teacher: Gordon Mathews

Office: NAH 404

tel. 2609-7718

e-mail: cmgordon@cuhk.edu.hk

Office hours: anytime I'm in the office (I usually am in the office 11-7 Mon-Friday)

Introduction

This course is designed to give M.Phil and Ph.D. students a solid foundation for understanding sociocultural anthropological theory. The readings are sometimes long, but they are all important in coming to understand anthropological theory, in all its complexities. By the end of the class, you should a) have a solid grasp of anthropological and social theory, from the 19th century to the present, and b) be able to apply this theory in a full way to your own prospective research. The course requirements are as follows:

- 1) A 10-12 page paper, due November 17, on this question: "Can anthropological theory be scientific? Or is the effort to be scientific misguided? Explore this in terms of the history of anthropological theory." This will make up 35% of your grade.
- 2) A 16-18 page paper, due December 20. This paper should discuss six of the different approaches to culture that we have considered within the context of your own prospective anthropological research. This will be 55% of your grade.
- 3) Class participation. 10% of the grade will be based on class participation.

Two of the books listed in the syllabus, *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory* edited by Paul A. Erickson and Liam D. Murphy (2006), and Jerry D. Moore's *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists* (2004) are available in the campus bookstore. Because the edition of Erickson and Murphy now in the bookstore is published in 2009, the page numbers offered in this syllabus differ from those; I use the 2006 edition's pagination, which is the edition in the library. But the readings are the same.

Plagiarism

Students are required by university policy to submit all papers to VeriGuide (the Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine System). Please check the website <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/> for more information on how to submit papers through VeriGuide.

Sept. 8: Introduction: Why Anthropological Theory?

--Background Reading: Robert H. Lavenda and Emily A. Schultz, "Theory in Cultural Anthropology," in *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology* (Mountain View CA: Mayfield, 2000), p. 185-203. GN316.L39 2000

--Background Reading: Thomas Hylland Eriksen, "Theories," in *What Is Anthropology?* (London: Pluto 2004), p. 61-81. GN25 .E75 2004

Classical Theory

Sept. 15: Marx and Weber

--Karl Marx, "The German Ideology," in Robert Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1978), p. 146-175. HX39.5.A224 1978

--Max Weber, "Introduction," "Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism," in *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (New York: Charles Scribners' Sons, 1958), p. 13-31, 155-183. BR115.E3W4 1958

--E. C. Cuff, W. W. Sharrock, and D. W. Francis, "Karl Marx, Max Weber" in *Perspectives in Sociology*, (London: Routledge, fourth edition, 1998), p. 15-20, 23-32, 41-50, 56-59, HM586.C84 1998

Sept. 22: Durkheim and Mauss

--Emile Durkheim, "The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life," in W. Lessa and E. Vogt, eds., *Reader in Comparative Religion: An Anthropological Approach* (New York: Harper and Row, 1979), p. 27-35. BL80.2.L44 1979

--Emile Durkheim, "The Evolution of Morality," in Robert N. Bellah, ed., *Emile Durkheim On Morality and Society* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1973), p.63-146 NOT IN LIB.

--E. C. Cuff, W. W. Sharrock, and D. W. Francis, "Emile Durkheim," in *Perspectives in Sociology*, (London: Routledge, fourth edition, 1998), p. 64-71, 75-79. HM586.C84 1998

--Mauss, Marcel, *The Gift: Forms and Functions of Exchange in Archaic Societies* (New York: Norton, 1967), "Introductory," Chapter 1, and Chapter 2, pp. 1-45. GT3050.M313 1967

--Background Reading: Jerry D. Moore, "Durkheim," "Mauss" in *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists* (Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 2004), p. 46-59, 121-133 GN33 .M587 2004

--Background Reading: Thomas Hylland Eriksen, "Four Founding Fathers," *A History of Anthropology* (London: Pluto Press, 2001), p. 36-53 GN17 .E75 2001

Sept. 29: The Birth of Modern Anthropology

--Edward Burnett Tylor, "The Science of Culture"; Lewis Henry Morgan, "Ethnical Periods"; Franz Boas, "The Methods of Ethnology"; Bronislaw Malinowski, "The Subject, Method and Scope of this Inquiry." In Paul Erickson and Liam Murphy, eds., *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory* (Peterborough CA: Broadview, 2006, second edition), p. 29-50, 99-105, 171-186 (2001 Edition: GN33 .R4 2001)

--L.L. Langness, *The Study of Culture*, (Novato, CA: Chandler & Sharp, revised edition, 1987), p. 13-36, 50-58. GN17.L36 1987

--Richard J. Perry, "The Idea of Evolution," "The Idea of Relativism," in *Five Concepts in Anthropological Thinking* (Upper Saddle River NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2003), p. 12-54, 159-188. GN25 .P39 2003

--Background Reading: Jerry D. Moore, "Tylor," "Morgan," "Boas," in *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists* (Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 2004), p. 5-45

Oct. 6: British Social Anthropology

--A. R. Radcliffe-Brown, "On Joking Relationships," "On Social Structure," in *Structure and Function in Primitive Society* (New York: Free Press, 1965), p. 90-104, 188-204. GN490.R3 1965

--E. E. Evans-Pritchard, "Introduction," *The Nuer*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1940), p. 1-15 GN651.E87

--E. E. Evans-Pritchard, "Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events," in William A. Lessa and Evan Z. Vogt, eds., *Reader in Comparative Religion: An Anthropological Approach* (Harper and Row, 1979), p. 362-366 BL80.2.L44 1979

--Meyer Fortes and E. E. Evans-Pritchard, "Introduction," *African Political Systems*, Max Gluckman, "Rituals of Rebellion in Southeast Africa," In Paul Erickson and Liam Murphy, eds., *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory* (Peterborough CA: Broadview, 2006, second edition), p. 187-221

--Background Reading: Jerry D. Moore, "Malinowski," "Radcliffe-Brown," "Evans-Pritchard," in *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists* (Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 2004), p. 134-173

--Background Reading: L.L. Langness, *The Study of Culture*, (Novato, CA: Chandler & Sharp, revised edition, 1987), p. 74-98

Oct. 13: American Cultural Anthropology

--Robert Lowie, "Conclusion," *Primitive Society*, Alfred Louis Kroeber, "What Anthropology is About," Margaret Mead, "Introduction," *Coming of Age on Samoa*, Ruth Benedict, "The Individual and the Pattern of Culture," Edward Sapir, "The Unconscious Patterning of Behavior in Society," in Paul A. Erickson and Liam D. Murphy, eds., *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory* (Peterborough CA: Broadview, 2006, second edition), p. 106-143, 247-258

--Benjamin Lee Whorf, "The Relation of Habitual Thought and Behavior to Language." In Alessandro Duranti, ed., *Linguistic Anthropology: A Reader* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2001), p. 363-381 P35 .L48 2001

--Richard J. Perry, "The Idea of Culture," in *Five Concepts in Anthropological Thinking* (Upper Saddle River NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2003), p. 55-94.

--Background Reading: Jerry D. Moore, "Kroeber," "Benedict," "Sapir," "Mead," in *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists* (Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 2004), p. 65-116

--Background Reading: L.L. Langness, *The Study of Culture*, (Novato, CA: Chandler & Sharp, revised edition, 1987), p. 99-108.

Oct. 20: French Structuralism

--Edmund Leach, "Structuralism in Social Anthropology," in P. Erickson and L. Murphy, eds., *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory* (Broadview, 2006), p. 152-164

--Claude Levi-Strauss, "The Structural Study of Myth," in *Structural Anthropology* (New York: Anchor Doubleday, 1967), p. 202-228. GN320.L453

--Sherry Ortner, "Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?" in *Woman, Culture, and Society*, M. Z. Rosaldo and L. Lamphere, eds. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1974), p. 67-87. HQ1154.R68

--Richard J. Perry, "The Idea of Structure," in *Five Concepts in Anthropological Thinking* (Upper Saddle River NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2003), p. 95-132.

--Background Reading: Jerry D. Moore, "Levi-Strauss," in *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists* (Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 2004), p. 231-246

--Background Reading: Edmund Leach, *Claude Levi-Strauss* (London: Fontana, 1970) GN21.L4L4 1970

Contemporary Theory

Oct. 27: The Turn to Interpretation

--Victor Turner, "Symbols in Ndembu Ritual," Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," in Paul A. Erickson and Liam D. Murphy, eds., *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory* (Peterborough CA: Broadview, 2006, second edition), p. 299-336

-- "Ritual and Social Change: A Javanese Example," "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight," in *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic Books, 1973), p.142-170, 412-454. GN315.G36

--"Clifford Geertz: Unabsolute Truths," *New York Times Magazine*, April 9, 1995, p. 44-47

--Background Reading: Jerry D. Moore, "Turner," "Geertz," in *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists* (Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 2004), p. 247-269

Nov. 3: Postmodernism and Critical Advocacy

--James Clifford, "Introduction: Partial Truths," from *Writing Culture*, in Paul A. Erickson and Liam D. Murphy, eds., *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory* (Peterborough CA: Broadview, 2006), p. 422-444

--Renato Rosaldo, "The Erosion of Classic Norms," in *Culture and Truth* (Boston: Beacon, 1989), p. 25-44. GN345.R667 1993b

--Salzman, Philip Carl, "Critical Advocacy: Feminism and Postmodernism," "Reflections on Anthropological Theory," *Understanding Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theory* (Prospect Heights IL: Waveland, 2001), p. 113-125, 127-142 GN357 .S254 2001

--"Objectivity and Militancy: A Debate," articles by Roy Andrade and Nancy Scheper-Hughes; commentary. *Current Anthropology*, vol. 36, no. 3 (1995): 399-441.

Nov. 10: Environmental Determinism / Biology

--Leslie White, "Energy and the Evolution of Culture," in P. Bohannan and M. Glazer, eds., *High Points in Anthropology*, 2d edition (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1988), p. 337-355. GN17.H54 1998

--Marvin Harris, "India's Sacred Cow," in James Spradley and David McCurdy, eds., *Conformity and Conflict* (New York, HarperCollins, eighth edition, 1994), p. 130-139. GN325 .C69 1994

--E.O. Wilson, "The Morality of the Gene," [from *Sociobiology: The New Synthesis*] in R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warmes, eds., *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History* (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield, 2000) p. 395-400. GN33.M33 2000

--Marshall Sahlins, "Introduction," "Critique of the New Sociobiology," "The Use and Abuse of Biology," in Paul A. Erickson and Liam D. Murphy, eds., *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory* (Peterborough CA: Broadview, 2006), p. 289-298.

--Lee Cronk, Preface, "The Blob," "First Contact," "An Infectious Idea," in *That Complex Whole: Culture and The Evolution of Human Behavior* (Boulder CO: Westview, 1999), p. ix-xv, 39-88. GN365.9.C76 1999

Nov. 17: Culture and Globalization

--Robert H. Lavenda and Emily A. Schultz, "Globalization and the Culture of Capitalism," *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology* (Mountain View CA: Mayfield, 2000), p. 169-183. GN316.L39

--Sidney Mintz, "Introduction," "Power," "Eating and Being," in *Sweetness and Power* (London: Penguin, 1985), p. xv-xxx, 151-214. GT2869.M56 1998

--Ulf Hannerz, "The Local and the Global: Continuity and Change," "The Global Ecumene as a Landscape of Modernity," "The Withering Away of the Nation?" in *Transnational Connections* (London: Routledge, 1996), p. 17-29, 44-55, 81-90. CB428.H365 1996

--Arjun Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy," in Paul A. Erickson and Liam D. Murphy, eds., *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory* (Peterborough CA: Broadview, 2006), p. 514-524

--Gordon Mathews, "Chungking Mansions: A Center of 'Low-End Globalization.'" *Ethnology* XLVI (2): 169-183

Nov. 24: Culture, Self, and Self-Presentation

--Clifford Geertz, "From the Native's Point of View": On the Nature of Anthropological Understanding," in *Local Knowledge: Further Essays in Interpretive Anthropology* (New York: Basic Books, 1983), p. 55-70. GN316.G43

--Claudia Strauss and Naomi Quinn, "A Cognitive/Cultural Anthropology," in Robert Borofsky, ed., *Assessing Cultural Anthropology* (New York : McGraw-Hill, 1994), p. 284-297.

--Erving Goffman, "Performances," in *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (London: Penguin, 1959), p. 28-82. HM1051.G6

--Erving Goffman, "On Face-Work," in *Interaction Ritual* (New York: Pantheon, 1967), p. 5-45. HM1111.G59 1982

--Gerald Berreman, "Prologue: Behind Many Masks: Ethnography and Impression Management," in *Hindus of the Himalayas* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1993), xvii-lvii. DS486.S56B4 1993

Dec.1: Culture, Practice, and Power: How We Shape the Society That Shapes Us

--Sherry Ortner, "Theory in Anthropology Since the Sixties," in Paul A. Erickson and Liam D. Murphy, eds., *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory* (Peterborough CA: Broadview, 2006), p. 453-485.

--Pierre Bourdieu, "Structures and the Habitus," in *Outline of a Theory of Practice* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977), p. 72-95. DT298.K2B6

--Richard Jenkins, *Pierre Bourdieu* (London: Routledge, 1992), p. 66-102. H4477.F8J46 1992

--Sherry Ortner, "Updating Practice Theory," "Power and Projects: Reflections on Agency," in *Anthropology and Social Theory* (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2006), 1-18, 129-153 GN345 .O73 2006

--Background Reading: Jerry D. Moore, "Ortner," "Bourdieu," in *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists* (Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 2004), p. 303-337.

Dec. 8: Why We Can't Comprehend the World

--Karl Marx, "The Fetishism of Commodities," in R. Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1978), p. 319-329.

--Michel Foucault, "The Body of the Condemned," "Docile Bodies," "The Means of Correct Training," "Panopticism," "Complete and Austere Institutions," "Illegalities and Delinquency," in *Discipline and Punish*, reprinted in P. Rabinow, ed. *The Foucault Reader* (New York: Pantheon, 1984), p. 170-238. B2430.F68

--Ernest Becker, "Self-Esteem," "Culture: The Relativity of Hero-Systems," in *The Birth and Death of Meaning* (New York: The Free Press, 1971), p. 65-74, 112-129. BD450.B39 1971

--Roy Baumeister, "Epilogue," in *Meanings of Life* (New York: Guilford Press, 1991), p. 357-370. BF778.B32

Dec. 15: Cultural Identity: Who Are We, Anyway?

--Frederick Barth, "Introduction." *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Culture Difference*. (Boston: Little, Brown, 1969).

p. 9-38 GN320.E77 1969b

--Stuart Hall, "The Question of Cultural Identity," in S. Hall, D. Held, and T. McGrew, eds., *Modernity and its Futures* (Cambridge, UK: Polity, 1992), p. 274-316.

HM831.M62 1992

--Akhil Gupta and James Ferguson, "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference," in Gupta and Ferguson, eds., *Culture, Power, Place: Explorations in Critical Anthropology* (Duke: Duke University Press, 1997), p.33-51 GN33. G924 1997

--Gordon Mathews, "On the Meanings of Culture," "Searching for Home in the Cultural Supermarket," in *Global Culture / Individual Identity: Searching for Home in the Cultural Supermarket* (London: Routledge, 2000), p. 1-23, p. 177-197. HM753.M37 2000