

Professor: Mussa S. Idris
History of Anthropological Theory
Spring 2012: ANT 361A
9:25 A.M.-10:35 A.M. MWF
Class: Kenan Pavilion-Honors, Room 101
Elon University, North Carolina

Professor: Mussa S. Idris, Elon University
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Office: Lindner Hall- Arts & Sciences- Department of Sociology & Anthropology- Room 212-C

Course Description:

This course on history of anthropological theory is designed to introduce students to some of the major anthropological theories and debates. This course discusses the ways anthropological methods and theories have intertwined, from the early history of anthropology to the later twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, to understand and explain cultural differences and similarities across the world. In this course, students will learn and debate concerning some of the leading anthropological theories and theorists on various topics such as culture, history, structure, agency, subjectivity, social change, power, globalization and the politics of representation.

Anthropological theories attempt to answer questions such as, Why do people behave as they do? and, How do we account for human diversity? These questions guided and inspired anthropological analyses of the past and the present. Thus, by focusing on comparative analysis of the similarities and differences among anthropological theories and theorists, we will see how the historical and classical anthropological inquiries inspire and inform contemporary anthropological investigations.

Course Objectives: Throughout the course students are expected to:

- Learn about major anthropological theories and theorists with emphasis on key concepts, central theses of anthropological writings, and debates over theoretical perspectives and developments across time.
- Identify and debate critically the strengths, contributions, impacts and weaknesses about the major anthropological theories and theorists
- Develop comparative analytical skills of the similarities and differences among anthropological theories and anthropologists who have contributed to the development of anthropological theories through time.
- Work individually and in group projects to evaluate the effectiveness of various anthropological theories and methods used by various theorists to address cultural similarities and differences across the world.
- Develop innovative and critical skills to understand and to apply some of the major anthropological theoretical perspectives and theorists to present day cultural, social, and global issues.

Required Texts:

The reading assignments for this course are primarily based on the following two core textbooks.

Erickson, Paul A., and Liam D. Murphy

2008 A History of Anthropological Theory. Third Edition.

University of Toronto Press Incorporated. ISBN-10: 1442601108

ISBN-13: 978-1442601109

Erickson, Paul and Liam D. Murphy

2010 Reader for a History of Anthropological Theory. Third Edition.

University of Toronto Press Incorporated. ISBN-10: 1442600691

ISBN-13: 978-1442600690

(Book requests have been made at Barnes & Noble at Elon University Bookstore. In addition, ISBN number is provided above to inform students to purchase the correct edition for each required text from alternative online booksellers).

Note: All reading assignments, class discussions, quizzes and exams are based on the 3rd edition of both core textbooks. Earlier editions (1st or 2nd) are not compatible with the 3rd edition. It is the student's responsibility to get the correct edition (3rd) of the required textbooks.

Supplementary lectures and reading materials will be made available on the course Moodle site.

Class Organization and Format:

The course is conducted as a seminar and is highly participatory. It includes lectures, detailed group discussion on student questions and reading critiques, supplementary ethnographic video clip materials, and analyses on the history of anthropological theory and theorists. Attendance, therefore, is required. Each student's regular active participation in class, in individual and group projects, is crucial for successful discussions.

Classroom Procedures and Expectations:

- **BE ON TIME**
- Please turn off all cell phones and pagers. No texting or e-mailing during class.
- Computers should be used only for class-related purposes.
- Do not talk while the professor is lecturing
- *If you break these rules, I will take note and dock the points from your Participation score. I will not discuss this with you or disrupt the class to point it out; I will just do it.*

Course Evaluation: Grading is based on a combination of the following six types of activities and distributions:

1.	Attendance and engaged class participation	20%
2.	1 Individual project	10%
3.	10 short quizzes during class	10%
4.	1 Group project	10 %
5.	2 Mid-term Exams (A&B)	25%
6.	1 Final Exam	25%
	Total Possible points	100%

Course Structure:

The course is divided into three units. Unit I: focuses on the Early History of Anthropological Theory. Unit II: deals with the Early Twentieth Century of Anthropological Theory, and Unit III: discusses the Later Twentieth and Early Twenty-First Centuries of Anthropological Theory. This course attempts to cover classical anthropological theories and theorists at the beginning of the course and more recent theories and theorists toward the end of the course.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Erickson, Paul A., and Liam D. Murphy (Listed in the Readings column below as **HAT**)

2008 **A History of Anthropological Theory**. Third Edition.
University of Toronto Press Incorporated.

Erickson, Paul and Liam D. Murphy (Listed in the Readings column below as **RHAT**)

2010 **Reader for a History of Anthropological Theory**. Third Edition.
University of Toronto Press Incorporated.

This schedule is a tentative schedule to guide you about what will be covered each week and may be subject to changes as circumstances warrant during the spring 2012 session. Some weeks we will have more reading than others and thus, students are expected to plan ahead of time and keep up with the readings, accordingly.

DATE:	Topic:	Assignments Due/ Readings Due * Your statement or question regarding the central theses of assigned reading(s) is due on the date listed for the readings below.
W 2/1	Welcome to the Course	Syllabus Introduction
F 2/3	Unit I: The Early History of Anthropological Theory	Overview: Anthropology and Anthropological Theory * HAT pp. 17-20 Explain expectations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Project (1 student per project) • Group Project (3 students per project)

M 2/6		<p>Anthropology in Antiquity, The Middle Ages, The Renaissance, Voyage of Geographical Discovery, The Scientific Revolution, The Enlightenment, The Rise of Positivism * HAT pp. 21-42 * RHAT pp. 1-10</p> <p>Dialectical Materialism, Marx and Engels: *HAT pp. 43-48 *RHAT pp. 10-12, pp.22-29</p>
W 2/8		<p>Classical Cultural Evolutionism, Edward Burnett Tylor: * HAT pp. 48-56 * RHAT pp. 12-21, pp. 30-42</p> <p>Lewis Henry Morgan: *RHAT 43-51</p>
F 2/10		<p>Classic Cultural Evolutionism, & Herbert Spencer: *RHAT pp. 52-56</p> <p>Darwinism, Charles Darwin: * HAT pp. 56-74 * RHAT pp. 57-66</p>
M 2/13		<p>Forerunner of Structuralism & Functionalism, Emile Durkheim: * HAT pp. 75-81 * RHAT pp. 75-88</p>
W 2/15		<p>Forerunner of Anthropological Political Economy and Postmodernism, Max Weber: * HAT pp. 81-84 * RHAT pp. 89-94</p> <p>Historical Linguistics, Ferdinand de Saussure * HAT pp. 84-92 * RHAT pp. 95-100</p>
<p>F 2/17 MID-TERM EXAM (A): on Unit I: The Early History of Anthropological Theory, 9:25-10:35 A.M., In class.</p>		
M 2/20	Unit II: The Early	Overview: American Cultural Historicism, Boas:

	Twentieth Century of Anthropological Theory	* HAT pp. 93-97 * RHAT pp. 105-122
W 2/22		American Cultural Historicism, Lowie and Kroeber * HAT pp. 98-102 * RHAT pp. 123-130 and pp. 131-140
F 2/24		(Topic 1) Individual Project and Class Discussion
M 2/27		Psychological Anthropology, Mead: * HAT pp. 102-105 * RHAT pp. 141-146
W 2/29		Psychological Anthropology, Benedict: * HAT pp. 105-111 * RHAT pp. 147-160
F 3/2		(Topic 2) Individual Project and Discussion
M 3/5		French Structural Anthropology , Marcel Mauss Claude Levi-Strauss: * HAT pp. 111-116 * RHAT pp. 161-173
W 3/7		British Social Anthropology, Radcliffe-Brown: Edmund Leach and Mary Douglas * HAT pp. 116-122 * RHAT pp. 175-187 * HAT pp. 123-125 * RHAT pp. 196- 201 British Social Anthropology, Bronislaw Malinowski: * HAT pp. 126-128 * RHAT pp. 202-217
F 3/9 MID-TERM EXAM (B): on Unit II: The Early Twentieth Century of Anthropological Theory, 9:25-10:35 A.M., In class.		

M 3/13		Neo Structural-Functionalism, Fortes and Evans-Pritchard: * HAT pp. 128-130 * RHAT pp. 218-231
W 3/14		Neo Structural-Functionalism, Max Gluckman: * HAT pp. 130-136 * RHAT pp. 232-251
F 3/16		(Topic 3) Individual Project and Class Discussion
SPRING BREAK		
	Unit III: The Later Twentieth and Early Twenty-First Centuries of Anthropological Theory	
M 3/26		Cognitive Anthropology on Language and Culture: Edward Sapir: *HAT pp. 137-140 *RHAT pp. 281-292
W 3/28		Neo-Evolutionism: Leslie White: *HAT pp. 142-143 *RHAT pp. 293-310 Cultural Ecology: Julian Steward * HAT pp. 144-145 Historic Structuralism: Marshall Sahlins * HAT pp.145-147 * RHAT pp.188-195
F 3/30		(Topic 4) Individual Project and Class Discussion
M 4/2		Cultural Materialism, Marvin Harris: *HAT pp. 147-150 *RHAT pp. 311-321
W 4/4		British Symbolism, Victor Turner: *HAT pp. 157-162 * RHAT pp. 322-340
F 4/6		(Topic 5) Individual Project and Class Discussion
M 4/9		Easter Holiday
W 4/11		American Interpretivism, Clifford Geertz: *HAT pp. 162-166 *RHAT pp.341-359
F 4/13		*Groups Final Project Outline Due

M 4/16		<p>Feminist Anthropology, Susan Gal: * HAT pp. 168- 173 * RHAT pp. 360-369</p> <p>Marilyn Strathern: *RHAT pp. 370-391</p>
W 4/18		Documentary on Gender and Anthropological Theories
F 4/20		Work on Group Project
M 4/23		<p>Anthropological Political Economy, Eric Wolf: * HAT pp. 173-179 * RHAT pp. 406-422</p> <p>Orientalism, Edward Said: * RHAT pp. 392-405</p>
W 4/25		<p>Postmodernism, Social Historian/ Philosopher, Michael Foucault: *HAT pp. 180-187 * RHAT pp. 435-450</p> <p>Postmodernism, Symbolism and Power: Pierre Bourdieu: * HAT pp. 189-194 * RHAT pp. 451-468</p>
F 4/27		<p>Postmodernism, James Clifford: * RHAT pp.469-490</p> <p>Marcus and Fisher: * RHAT pp. 491-498</p> <p>Sherry Ortner * RHAT pp. 499-529</p>
M 4/30		<p>Critical Interpretivism, Lock and Scheper-Hughes: * HAT pp. 191-193 *RHAT pp. 530-555</p> <p>Helmreich and Heather Paxson * RHAT pp. 565-583</p> <p>Globalization/ Cultural Economy, Arjun Appadurai: * HAT pp. 194-204 *RHAT pp. 556-564</p>
W 5/2		Group Project Class Presentation
F 5/4		Group Project Class Presentation

M 5/7		Group Project Class Presentation Conclusion: *HAT pp. 205-215 *RHAT pp. 601-606
W 5/9 and F 5/11 Reading Days		
M 5/14	Final Exam: 11:30 a.m. to 02:30 p.m., In class, Cumulative, with emphasis on Unit III: The Later Twentieth and Early Twenty-First Centuries of Anthropological Theory	

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Students are expected to do their own work, inside and outside of the classroom. Students are expected to work independently, unless directed otherwise, and they may not claim anyone else's work as their own. Students are also expected to do their own work on quizzes, exams, PowerPoint presentations, and group reaction papers. There is no tolerance for plagiarism or cheating. Students who are caught cheating or using the work of others will receive a zero on the assignment or quiz.

All students are expected to abide by the Elon University Honor Code - "*On my honor, I will uphold the values of Elon University: honesty, integrity, responsibility and respect.*" You can learn more about the honor code, the adjudication process and possible sanctions at <http://www.elon.edu/e-web/students/handbook/judicialhonor.xhtml>. Contact me about any behavior or activity that might be a violation of the code.

DISABILITY POLICY:

Students with special needs or who have learning disabilities or physical handicaps must present a copy of their Eligibility Letter to the instructor within the first weeks of class. Elon provides accommodations to students who have documentation of a disability and works through the Office of Disability Services to arrange accommodations. Contact Susan Wise in Duke 108 (278-6514). Once you've established eligibility, please see me during my office hours so that we can talk about the accommodations you will be using. Requests for accommodations must be made early in the term. Students who notify the professor of a special need after an assignment, exam or quiz cannot make up the assignment or retake the exam or quiz.

Resources: Writing Center (108 Belk Library) – It offers individualized sessions on a walk-in basis for many purposes, among them, to help you revise and edit your papers. The people at the Center will NOT edit the paper for you, but they will point out strengths and weaknesses, and they will assist you in the composing process.

Religious Holidays: According to Elon University policies, students shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith with prior notification to the instructor. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. (http://www.elon.edu/e-web/students/religious_life/ReligiousHolidays.xhtml)