

Prof. Carol Silverman
csilverm@uoregon.edu
tel.: 541-346-5114

Winter 2016
Office Hrs: M 2-3 PM, W 1-2 PM & by appt.
321 Condon

ANTH 688: Social Theory I
MW 3:00-4:50 PM
5 credits

ANTH 688 is designed as a historical survey of cultural anthropological theory until the mid-1970s. This course is the first of two graduate courses on social theory/cultural anthropological theory offered by the Department of Anthropology. ANTH 689 continues the chronology to the present. Cultural anthropology students must take both courses. Archaeology and bioanthropology students may take one or the other, although ANTH 688 is strongly suggested.

Theoretical frameworks are the basis of analysis and thus it is important to understand their history. Furthermore, the history of social theory has informed the current disciplines of Anthropology and related sister disciplines (Sociology, Folklore, Geography, etc.). Although this class follows a kind of “intellectual history” approach that categorizes the evolution of anthropological thought as a progression of “schools,” each leading to the next, we hope to avoid the illusion of a single master narrative for cultural anthropology. Rather, different theories may be said to speak to each other across time. One strategy we will continually employ is relating older theories to present anthropological projects.

The class will be run interactively, with discussion and mutual respect. Discussions will foster critique, debate, and some degree of discomfort as we question some of the traditional foundations of theory and analysis. Students will take the lead in discussion (see below). I welcome conversation during office hours, by appointment, or by email or telephone. I have a comment bag available at every class.

Readings are posted on Canvas under Module: Readings. No books are required. However, you might find the five books below useful. The first 3 are the sources of most required readings. Moberg and Candea (in the Duck Store) are useful additional texts. There are also many other books to consult on anthropological theory.

McGee and R. Warms. 1996. *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History* (Mayfield).

Moore, Jerry. 2004. *Visions of Culture: An Annotated Reader* (Altamira).

Moore, Jerry. 2012. *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists* (4th edition, Altamira). Also see http://kulturiskvlebebi.weebly.com/uploads/1/8/3/7/18376403/jerry_d.moore.visions_of_culture.pdf

Moberg, Mark. 2013. *Engaging Anthropological Theory: A Social and Political History*. (Routledge).

Candea, Matei, ed. 2018. *Schools and Styles of Anthropological Theory* (Routledge).

These websites are useful: <http://anthropology.ua.edu/cultures/cultures.php>
<http://www.anthrobase.com/Browse/home/hst/hist-links.htm>

Please turn off mobile devices during class. Computer use is permitted for class related activities.

Academic Integrity:

The University of Oregon's policies on academic honesty and plagiarism can be found at conduct.uoregon.edu. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. For example, students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas). This includes material from the Internet. If you submit plagiarized work, you will be penalized and reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. Additional information is available at <http://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism>.

Learning Outcomes:

- Explain why social theory is important, and what theory explains.
- Trace the major theoretical frameworks in Cultural/Social Anthropology from the 1920s- 1970s, in the framework of intellectual history.
- Analyze specific theoretical frameworks such as evolutionism, cultural relativism, functionalism, structuralism, French structuralism. Marxism, materialism, world-systems theory, cultural ecology, psychological anthropology, feminism, and symbolic and interpretive anthropology.
- Explain how these frameworks dialogue with each other.
- Identify the relevance of early social history to current debates in Anthropology and related sister disciplines (Sociology, Folklore, Geography, etc.).

Course requirements

1. **10%** of the grade is based on attendance. Late arrivals and departures will count as an absence.
2. **25%** of the grade is based on oral participation. Discussion is the mode of the course, and students will lead the class. 10% is based on general participation, and 15% is based on presentations. Students are required to pick at 3-4 dates on which to present and lead discussion in class on the issues raised in the readings. The first date should be during the first 4 weeks of classes. Using Canvas Discussions the presenter is required to post a summary/outline and questions for discussion on the readings prior to the oral presentation (approximately 2-3 pages, double spaced). In your posting, provide a summary of the main points of the reading, including definitions of key terms. In the interest of sharpening critical faculties, students may wish to comment on the strengths and/or the weaknesses of the author's arguments. The oral presentation should also include a profile of the author and the context of the publication. **The deadline is 6 PM of the day previous to the presentation.** Innovative presentations are welcome! All students, not just presenters, are encouraged to use Canvas Discussions to post ideas, responses and questions.

3. **30%** of the grade is based on a take-home essay mid-term, **due Monday Feb 11** in class. Exams will require synthesizing the materials, comparing them, contextualizing them, and critiquing them. You may also bring in other materials if you wish.

4. **35%** of the grade is based on a take-home final, due **Thurs March 19, 3 PM**. The final will concentrate on the second part of the term but there will be opportunities for broad synthesis.

Grades: 600-level courses in the Department of Anthropology are graded. To pass the course, it is necessary to get at least a B-. If the student does not pass the course, s/he may retake it the following year.

Course Schedule

1. Jan 7: Introduction to the course. Antecedents to Anthropology. I will post my PPT on Canvas.

2. Jan 9: 19th Century Evolutionism and Boasian Critique/Cultural Relativism

Morgan, Lewis Henry. "Ethnical Periods" (1877) in R. McGee and R. Warms, *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. Second Edition, 2000, Mayfield, 41-52.

Boas, Franz. "The Methods of Ethnology" (1920) in R. McGee and R. Warms, *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. Second Edition, 2000, Mayfield, 134-141.

3. Jan 14: Foundations of Sociological Thought

Durkheim, Emil, "What is a Social Fact?" (1895) in R. McGee and R. Warms, *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. Fourth Edition, Mayfield, 73-79.

Weber, Max, "Class, Status, Party" (1922) in R. J. McGee and R. L. Warms, *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. Second Edition, 2000, Mayfield, 117-129.

Moberg, Mark. 2013. "Durkheim and Weber" in *Engaging Anthropological Theory: A Social and Political History*. Routledge, 87-105.

Optional video: sociology Prof. Dan Krier on concepts of mechanical vs. organic solidarity (critique visuals!): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VwoihGP_i8

4. Jan 16: Functionalism and Structural Functionalism (double session)

Barnard, Alan. 2000. "Functionalism and Structural Functionalism" in *History and Theory in Anthropology*, Cambridge University Press, 61-79.

Malinowski, Bronislaw. "Kula: The Circulating Exchange of Valuables in the Archipelagoes of Eastern New Guinea" (1920). Reprinted in *Peoples and Cultures of the Pacific*, edited by Andrew P. Vayda. The Natural History Press, 1968, 406-420.

Radcliffe-Brown, A. R. 1935. "The Concept of Function in the Social Sciences." *American Anthropologist* 37(3): 394-402.

Mauss, Marcel. "Excerpts from *The Gift*" (1925) in R. J. McGee and R. L. Warms, *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. Second Edition, 2000, Mayfield, 104-117. Read 104-113 only.

Moore, Jerry. 2012. "Evans-Pritchard: Social Anthropology, Social History" in *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists*, Fourth edition, Altamira, 146-156.

5. Jan 21:MLK Day

6. Jan 23: Film: *Savage Memory* (78 minutes) about Malinowski directed by Zachary Stuart and Kelly Thomson, 77 minutes, 2012.

7. Jan 28: Marxism: Marx, Engels, and Althusser

Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. "First Premises of Materialist Method." From *The German Ideology* (1845-1846). In R. McGee and R. Warms, *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*, Fourth edition, Mayfield, 57-61. Also found at

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/ch01a.htm#a2>.

For more sources on Marxism, see <http://www.marxists.org/subject/students/index.htm>

Strinati, Dominic. 2004. "Marxism, Political Economy, and Ideology" in *An Introduction to Theories of Popular Culture*, Routledge, 129-176.

[Optional: http://thoughtcatalog.com/doug-lain/2011/06/five-steps-for-understanding-althussers-concept-of-ideology-without-going-insane/](http://thoughtcatalog.com/doug-lain/2011/06/five-steps-for-understanding-althussers-concept-of-ideology-without-going-insane/)

8. Jan 30: Gramsci and Hegemony. Cultural Ecology.

Brooker, Peter. 2002. "Hegemony" in *A Glossary of Cultural Theory*, 2nd ed. Arnold, 119-121

Harris, Marvin. 1966. "The Cultural Ecology of India's Sacred Cattle." *Current Anthropology* 7(1): 261-276. Read 261-269 only.

9. Feb 4: Neo-materialism/Neo-Marxism. World Systems Theory.

Moore, J. 2012. "Marshall Sahlins: Culture Matters" in *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists*, 4th ed. Altamira, 327-345.

Wallerstein, Immanuel. "The Development of an Intellectual Position."
<http://www.iwallerstein.com/intellectual-itinerary/>

Optional: Theory Talk: "Immanuel Wallerstein on World-Systems, The Immanent End of Capitalism and Unifying Social Science."

<http://www.iwallerstein.com/wp-content/uploads/docs/THYTLK13.PDF>

10. Feb 6: Lévi-Strauss and French Structuralism

Lévi-Strauss, Claude. "Structural Analysis in Linguistics and in Anthropology" (1945, 1963) in R. McGee and R. Warms, *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. Second Edition, 2000, Mayfield, 332-347.

Moore, Jerry D. 2012. "Claude Lévi-Strauss: Structuralism" in *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists*, Altamira, Fourth Edition, 209-223.

Rothstein, Edward. "Claude Lévi-Strauss, 100, Dies; Altered Western Views of the 'Primitive'" *New York Times*, November 4, 2009

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/04/world/europe/04levistrauss.html?pagewanted=prin>

11. Feb 11: The Nature of Language and Culture: American Approaches. Midterm due.

Kroeber, Alfred. "Disposal of the Dead" (1927); "Eighteen Professions" (1915) in Moore, Jerry. 2009. *Visions of Culture: An Annotated Reader*, Altamira, 51-61.

Moore, Jerry. 2012. "Edward Sapir: Culture, Language and the Individual" in *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists*, Altamira, Fourth Edition, 81-94.

optional: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/does-century-old-linguistic-hypothesis-center-film-arrival-have-any-merit-180961284/>

12. Feb 13: Psychology and Culture.

Benedict, Ruth. "Configurations of Culture in North America" (1932) in Moore, Jerry. 2009. *Visions of Culture: An Annotated Reader*, Altamira, 63-87.

13. Feb 18: Childhood, Gender, and the Individual; Mead/Freeman controversy.

Mead, Margaret. Introduction to *Coming of Age in Samoa* (1928) in P. Erickson and L. Murphy, *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory*, Broadview, 155-164.

Mead, Margaret, *Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies* (excerpt, 1935) in R. McGee and R. Warms, *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. Second Edition, 2000, Mayfield, 219-224.

14. Feb 20: Feminism

Rosaldo, Michelle. 1974. "Woman, Culture, and Society: A Theoretical Overview." In *Woman, Culture and Society*, edited by Louise Lamphere and Michelle Rosaldo, Stanford University Press, 17-42.

Ortner, Sherry B. 1974. "Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture." In *Woman, Culture and Society*, edited by Louise Lamphere and Michelle Rosaldo, Stanford University Press, 68-87.

15. Feb 25: Anthropology of Women: Feminism and Marxism

Rubin, Gayle. 1975. "The Traffic in Women." In *Toward an Anthropology of Women*, edited by Rayna R. Reiter. Monthly Review Press, 157-210; but read 157-177 only.

Leacock, Eleanor. 1978. "Women's Status in Egalitarian Society: Implications for Social Evolution." *Current Anthropology* 19(2): 247-275. Read 247-255 only; the responses are optional.

16. Feb 27: Symbolic Anthropology: Turner and Douglas

Turner, Victor. 1967. "Symbols in Ndembu Ritual" in *The Forest of Symbols*, 19-47. Cornell University Press. Read quickly for the analysis, not the content.

Turner, Victor. 1990. "Are there Universals of Performance in Myth, Ritual, and Drama?" In *By Means of Performance: Intercultural Studies of Theater and Ritual*. eds. Richard Schechner and Willa Appel. Cambridge, 8-18.

Douglas, Mary. 1966. "Powers and Dangers" in *Purity and Danger*, Praeger, 94-113.

17. March 4: Interpretive Anthropology: Geertz

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture" in *The Interpretation of Cultures*, Basic Books, 3-30.

Darnton, Robert. 2007. "On Clifford Geertz: Field Notes from the Classroom," *New York Review of Books*, January 11, 2007 (obituary).

18. March 6: Interpretive Anthropology: Geertz as Ethnographer

Geertz, Clifford. 1972. "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight." *Daedalus* 101(1) (Winter, 1972): 1-37. Reprinted in *The Interpretation of Cultures* (1973).

19. March 11: Beyond Geertz: Critique

Roseberry, William. 1982. "Balinese Cockfights and the Seduction of Anthropology." *Social Research*, Vol. 49, No. 4, pp. 1013-1028.

Ortner, Sherry. 1999. "Introduction." In *The Fate of Culture: Geertz and Beyond*, edited by S. Ortner. University of California Press, 1-13.

20. March 13: Beyond Geertz: Bourdieu and Practice Theory. Review

Ortner, Sherry. 1984. "Theory in Anthropology Since the Sixties." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 26(1): 126-166. **This article should be consulted throughout the term.**

Take-home final exam is due Tuesday March 19, 3 PM