The University of Oregon is situated on Kalapuya Ilihi, the traditional homelands and political territories of the Kalapuya People, the First Peoples of the Willamette Valley, whose descendants are now citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

ANTH 688: Social Theory I, CRN 25945
MW 2:15-3:45 PM PST synchronous, see Canvas Zoom link
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 Anthropology. ANTH 689 (spring 2021) continues the chronology to the present. Cultural anthropology students must take both courses.

Theoretical frameworks are the basis of analysis and thus it is important to understand their history, including their biases and exclusions. 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 changes in anthropological thought as a progression of “schools,” each leading to the next, I 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. In addition, we will question the usual “canon” of theorists who have tended to be white Euro-American males by looking at diverse voices from the margins. One strategy we will continually employ is relating older theories to present anthropological projects. More specifically, we will relate our historical inquiries to the present moment of “decolonizing” Anthropology. Thus, we will pay particular attention to race (in addition to culture, gender, class, sexuality, ethnicity, etc.) and how they have been conceived, treated, studied, or ignored in cultural Anthropology.

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 lead the discussion (see below). I welcome feedback during office hours, and by appointment, email or telephone.

I am committed to creating a vibrant remote learning community that prioritizes interaction. We cannot meet in person, but we can engage in conversations that widen our perspectives and deepen our knowledge of cultural diversity. Learning new concepts and questioning ourselves can be valuable tools, especially in this crisis period. Remote learning may suit some students but I realize it is a challenge for many of us. Thus, I will make my expectations very clear BUT I will need to be in touch with you in
terms of your individual situations. During this unusual time, I encourage you to talk with me about what you are experiencing so we can work together to help you succeed.

Compassion, empathy and respect for each other are the guiding principles in this class. Not only are we fragile due to months of Covid restrictions, but also many of us are facing challenges re: work, study, health, time, income, and family. That’s why compassion is so important (see Basic Needs information in Modules). We will also be dealing with sensitive and controversial topics in this class such as race, identity, religion, gender and sexuality. **It is important that we listen to and respond civilly to one another, even when we don’t agree. I encourage everyone to participate and express their opinions freely.**

**How to reach me:** There are several ways to get in touch with me if you have questions, comments, or feedback about the course content, assignments, or anything related to Anthropology or Folklore. I welcome questions and feedback on the course. You can reach me via email at csilverm@uoregon.edu or through the canvas message function. I check email daily and on weekends. You can also call my phone 541-346-5114 and leave a voice message. I will start our Zoom session several minutes early, and stay on Zoom several minutes after class, so you can check in with me about course related items.

**Office hours:** I will hold drop in office hours Wed, 4-5 pm every week, see Zoom link at the end of this syllabus. As you join the meeting, you will enter a "waiting room" and I will move you into office hours one at a time. If you prefer, we can set up an individual zoom meeting or phone conversation at another time, or else prearrange a time during office hours. Please email me to arrange this.

**Accommodations:** The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of this course structure that result in disability related barriers to your participation. The Office of Accessible Education (346-1155, uoaec@uoregon.edu) can help you acquire a letter verifying your disability.

**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 must 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.

**Readings** are posted on Canvas under Modules, Readings (in order of date) or are available online via the url provided or via ebooks at UO library. Please use the syllabus to distinguish between Required and Optional readings. No books are required to buy. However, you might find the books below useful. The first 3 are the sources of many required readings. Moberg (an ebook) and Candea are useful additional texts. King’s
The book was published recently with wide publicity and is very readable. There are also many other books to consult on anthropological theory.


This article should be consulted throughout the term:

These websites are useful:
https://anthropology.ua.edu/anthropological-theories/
http://www.anthrobase.com/Browse/home/hst/hist-links.htm
http://anthrotheory.pbworks.com/w/page/29518604/About

**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, race, and culture.
- Analyze specific theoretical frameworks such as evolutionism, cultural relativism, functionalism, structuralism, French structuralism. Marxism, materialism, world-systems theory, cultural ecology, psychological anthropology, feminism, symbolic and interpretive anthropology, practice theory, and race.
- 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.).

**Selected Winter term events related to social justice:**
Jan 13: “The Role of Antiracist Research in the Academy and Beyond.” Khalil Gibran Muhammad, History, Race, and Public Policy, Harvard University. 5:30 p.m. Register: ow.ly/lDvQ50CF0Ao. Sponsor: Division of Equity and Inclusion, inclusion.uoregon.edu
Jan 14: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day presentation. Vice President Yvette Alex-Assensoh, Rabbi Meir Goldstein, Jacqueline Cordova-Arrington, flute, and Natalie North, percussion
student; and others. 11 a.m. Register: inclusion.uoregon.edu. Sponsor: Division of Equity and Inclusion, inclusion.uoregon.edu

Feb 9: “How Far Do You Have To Go For Justice? Acting beyond the vote.” Kimberly Johnson, Assistant Vice Provost for Advising, Division of Equity and Inclusion. 5:30 p.m. Register: ow.ly/Aesm50CF0Mq. Sponsor: Division of Equity and Inclusion, inclusion.uoregon.edu

Feb 12: “Are We Still Not Saved? Race, Democracy, and Educational Inequality.” Lia Epperson, Law, American University Washington College of Law. Noon. Register: ow.ly/SZKf50CF0Xm. Sponsor: School of Law, law.uoregon.edu

Feb 19: “1619 and the Legacy That Built a Nation.” Nikole Hannah-Jones, lead writer for New York Times Magazine’s “The 1619 Project.” 4:30 p.m. Register: sojc.link/1619project. Sponsor: School of Journalism and Communication, journalism.uoregon.edu

March 2: “The Empowered University: Shared Leadership, Culture Change, and Academic Success.” Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, President, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. 5:30 p.m. Register: ow.ly/BV8F-50CF1c2. Sponsor: Division of Equity and Inclusion, inclusion.uoregon.edu

Course requirements
1. **10%** of the grade is based on attendance. Late arrivals and departures will count as an absence. Please let me know ahead of time (if possible) if you need to miss class. You can make up the points by extra postings in Discussions.

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 (at least 3 per student). Students will present and lead oral discussion for the first time Jan. 6-25. As soon as possible, email me your first and second choice of dates to present Jan 6-25. Also include your first and second choice of dates for Jan 27-March 1 but omit Feb 3. Each presenter will have the full class time to present and lead discussion (rest assured, I will help!). We will take a 10- minute break halfway through class.

Using Canvas **Discussions** each presenter is required to post a summary/outline and 2-3 questions for discussion on the readings prior to the oral presentation (approximately 2 pages, single spaced). In your posting, provide a summary of the main points of the required readings/videos, 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. Innovative presentations are welcome! **The deadline is 6 PM of the day previous to the presentation.** Please email me your PPT after your presentation.

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 an open-book essay mid-term, **due Feb 8, noon** via Canvas. Exams require synthesizing the materials, comparing them, contextualizing them, and critiquing them. You may also bring in other materials if you wish. Exams are distributed at least 5 days before the due date.

4. **35%** of the grade is based on an open-book essay final, due **Wed March 17, 2:45 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, they may retake it the following year.

**Course Schedule**

1. **Jan 4:** **Introduction to the course and to each other. Antecedents to Anthropology.**
   **Canonical texts; Subjects/Objects; “Others: “Exoticizing, collecting, colonizing.**
   I will post my PPT on Canvas.

2. **Jan 6:** **Decolonizing Anthropology: what are the major issues in the discipline? Race, west-centered knowledge, hierarchal methodologies, extraction, etc.**


   Watch Dr. Faye V. Harrison on the Geopolitics of Knowledge Production (12 minutes) Oct 19, 2020. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBxvRY1nZzk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBxvRY1nZzk)

   Ntarangwi, Mwenda. 2010. *Reversed Gaze: An African Ethnography of American Anthropology*. Univ of Illinois. UO library Ebook; also on Canvas as pdf and in Duck Store. Read the preface and/or watch Ntarangwi discuss his work (18 minutes) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y-2DnfnXG4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y-2DnfnXG4)


Optional: Decolonizing Anthropology: Interview with Faye Harrison (2 parts)- also on Canvas https://savageminds.org/2016/04/19/decolonizing-anthropology/  Now: https://anthrodendum.org/


W.E.B. DuBois: Read about his life here and watch the 2-minute video: http://duboiscenter.library.umass.edu/about-du-bois/


Optional: How cultural anthropologists redefined humanity: A brave band of scholars set out to save us from racism and sexism. What happened? Louis Menand Aug 19, 2019

Optional: Interview with Lee Baker, October 2020:
http://folklore.berkeley.edu/conversations (scroll down)

5. Jan 18 MLK holiday


Read the introductory page of this site on Mules and Men:
http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MA01/Grand-Jean/Hurston/Chapters/siteintroduction.html
Read about Boas and Mules and Men:
http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MA01/Grand-Jean/Hurston/Chapters/professor.html
Read Preface and Intro of Mules and Men:
http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MA01/Grand-Jean/Hurston/Chapters/index.html
Read Hurston’s bio:
http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MA01/Grand-Jean/Hurston/Chapters/Zorabio.html

Read at the sample and listen to the audio sample:

Watch Documentary: Zora Neale Hurston: Heart with Room for Every Joy (42 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7k1ozpwiQIM


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


9. Feb 1: Functionalism and Structural Functionalism


Herskovits at the Heart of Blackness (2009, 57 minutes) Transcript in Canvas. https://search-alexanderstreet.com.libproxy.uoregon.edu/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C1859717


Optional: Margaret Mead: *Coming of Age* (53 minutes, 1986) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLkgotALxTg

12. Feb 10: Anthropology of Women: Feminism


13. Feb 15: Marxism: Marx, Engels, Althusser and Gramsci


Optional: sources on Marxism, see [http://www.marxists.org/subject/students/index.htm](http://www.marxists.org/subject/students/index.htm)


15. Feb 22: Cultural Ecology and Marvin Harris


16. Feb 24: Lévi-Strauss and French Structuralism


17. March 1: Symbolic Anthropology: Turner and Douglas


18. March 3: Interpretive Anthropology: Geertz


19. March 8: Interpretive Anthropology: Geertz as Ethnographer: Critiques


Optional interview with Clifford Geertz by Alan Macfarlane, 2004 (59 minutes): https://www.sms.cam.ac.uk/media/1092398


Pierre Bourdieu (podcast): https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b07gg1kb?fbclid=IwAR0II6l6OncwNrela7zN5_6mXqHKBZ_fbo79hXbXu6C4NujciVBia8XLHM


Final exam is due March 17, 2:45 PM
Carol Silverman is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: ANTH 688 Class meeting (Winter 2021: 25945) Social Theory I
Time: Jan 4, 2021 02:15 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
   Every week on Mon, Wed, until Mar 10, 2021, 19 occurrence(s)
   Jan 4, 2021 02:15 PM
   Jan 6, 2021 02:15 PM
   Jan 11, 2021 02:15 PM
   Jan 13, 2021 02:15 PM
   Jan 20, 2021 02:15 PM
   Jan 25, 2021 02:15 PM
   Jan 27, 2021 02:15 PM
   Feb 1, 2021 02:15 PM
   Feb 3, 2021 02:15 PM
   Feb 8, 2021 02:15 PM
   Feb 10, 2021 02:15 PM
   Feb 15, 2021 02:15 PM
   Feb 17, 2021 02:15 PM
   Feb 22, 2021 02:15 PM
   Feb 24, 2021 02:15 PM
   Mar 1, 2021 02:15 PM
   Mar 3, 2021 02:15 PM
   Mar 8, 2021 02:15 PM
   Mar 10, 2021 02:15 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
Weekly: https://uoregon.zoom.us/meeting/tJcud-yhqDoiH9Zyija-8biia92PFyrZ1mqv/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCrrTsvE9KUuByFRowqA4igZ_Pwpn5HvypnhrBvAm0LYAr_N7sQApRmAuKB

Join Zoom Meeting
https://uoregon.zoom.us/j/93305961852

Meeting ID: 933 0596 1852
One tap mobile
+12532158782,,93305961852# US (Tacoma)
+13462487799,,93305961852# US (Houston)

Dial by your location
   +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
   +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
   +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
   +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
   +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
   +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 933 0596 1852
Find your local number: https://uoregon.zoom.us/u/aewS0MwNlD

Join by SIP
93305961852@zoomerc.com

Join by H.323
162.255.37.11 (US West)
162.255.36.11 (US East)
115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)
115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)
213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)
213.244.140.110 (Germany)
103.122.166.55 (Australia)
149.137.40.110 (Singapore)
64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
69.174.57.160 (Canada)
207.226.132.110 (Japan)
Meeting ID: 933 0596 1852

Join by Skype for Business
https://uoregon.zoom.us/skype/93305961852

Office hours:

Carol Silverman is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: ANTH 429/529 office hours Jewish Folklore & Ethn
Time: Jan 6, 2021 04:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
    Every week on Wed, until Mar 17, 2021, 11 occurrence(s)
    Jan 6, 2021 04:00 PM
    Jan 13, 2021 04:00 PM
    Jan 20, 2021 04:00 PM
    Jan 27, 2021 04:00 PM
    Feb 3, 2021 04:00 PM
    Feb 10, 2021 04:00 PM
    Feb 17, 2021 04:00 PM
    Feb 24, 2021 04:00 PM
    Mar 3, 2021 04:00 PM
    Mar 10, 2021 04:00 PM
    Mar 17, 2021 04:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
Weekly: https://uoregon.zoom.us/meeting/tJAoc-GtrTgvG9ErOVEfHyTdBKHOICwhUADn/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCsqz8iH9eWtRiCRowIGY-gWe_ztnZYjfp4jjDTJiZ7ezfyFMIqHb5cB9Dl
Join Zoom Meeting
https://uoregon.zoom.us/j/94548533515

Meeting ID: 945 4853 3515
One tap mobile
+16699009128,,94548533515# US (San Jose)
+12532158782,,94548533515# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: https://uoregon.zoom.us/u/acqpsGx1b8

Join by SIP
94548533515@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323
162.255.37.11 (US West)
162.255.36.11 (US East)
115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)
115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)
213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)
213.244.140.110 (Germany)
103.122.166.55 (Australia)
149.137.40.110 (Singapore)
64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
69.174.57.160 (Canada)
207.226.132.110 (Japan)

Join by Skype for Business
https://uoregon.zoom.us/skype/94548533515