

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 4400E-001: Anthropological Thought

COURSE OUTLINE

SEPTEMBER 2016

Instructor:	Dan Jorgensen
Time:	M 9:30-11:30, W 9:30-10:30
Place:	SSC 3102
Office:	SSC 3210
Office Hours:	M 1:30-3:30; W 11:30-12:30; <i>or</i> by appointment
Phone:	519-661-2111 ext. 84702
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Prerequisites: ANTH 3301E or 3333F/G, and registration in year 4 in any module.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Introduction

In the anthropology of the '90s the notion of settled schools of thought came to seem wrong-headed or quaint. As Geertz remarked, it was a time when paradigms came and went with astonishing rapidity, when everything seemed to be post-this or post-that – Sahlins called it *afterology*. In this course we will trace themes and issues arising out of the '90s and follow them through to developments in contemporary anthropology. *Recapturing Anthropology* catches something of the spirit of those times and remains influential today, and will serve as our starting point. Aiming to get beyond postmodern uncertainty to lay out an agenda for future work, it signals an anthropology that moves away from what we once thought was our object of study – single societies or cultures.

From the '90s on differences and connections became more important than units or wholes: it soon became as common to talk about transnational ties or global flows of images and information as it had been to talk about gossip, kinship or village politics. Nor were the reorientations confined to placing the local in global context: due in part to the impact of feminism, the idea of shared culture had to make room for profound differences based on gender or generation. Most of the first term will take up the implications of these new perspectives and conclude with an examination of debates about relativism and anthropology's moral context. The second term continues with problems raised by the '90s debates: how to *do* ethnography resituated in a larger world, a task we pursue with a reading of Tsing's *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*.

Another side of the explosion of paradigms in the '90s was that anthropology became more diverse and, inevitably, more fragmented. Many years ago Eric Wolf complained that “they divide and subdivide and call it anthropology,” and instead of a few widely-shared core areas, the discipline seemed to dissolve into numerous niches with less and less in common. *Unwrapping the Sacred Bundle* takes on some of these issues sketched out in stark terms by questioning American anthropology's traditional commitment to a four-field model for the discipline. After assessing this debate, we turn to work on one possible means of finding points of connection between otherwise scattered anthropological interests: a renewed interest in materiality.

It would be easy to paint the last two decades of anthropology as contentious and not a little chaotic. I hope instead to persuade you by way of an unavoidably partial account that we have learned a lot – and do a lot of things better – in a world that looks less simple than it used to. The course concludes with an attempt to step back and ask ourselves what we might look forward to in anthropology in the future.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Provide an overview of recent disciplinary history, identifying and analyzing the significance of shifts in anthropological thinking over the last two decades.
- Place individual works in the context of larger disciplinary conversations.
- Undertake independent library research to develop reasoned arguments on current aims and directions of anthropological work.
- Collaborate with others in gathering, analyzing, and presenting a view of contemporary anthropology by drawing upon diverse sources, including online materials.
- Participate knowledgeably and comfortably in advanced-level seminar discussions of theoretical questions.

Academic Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined (with links to the full policies) at:

http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

Electronic devices in class

Only laptops to take notes are allowed. Please make sure all cell phones and other devices are turned off. No electronic devices of any kind may be used during tests or exams.

Policy on missed assignments

Please note that it is your responsibility to communicate with me about assignments you have missed due to a justifiable reason as determined by Academic Counseling; for missing assignments less than 10% you do not need to get medical documentation. In such cases please make an appointment with me to discuss the reasons, and possible alternatives. For details on late submissions on research essays, see the section discussing the essays below.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

<u>Diagnostic Quiz</u> (no points)	September 19
<u>Participation in discussion</u> (10%)	Throughout the year
<u>Midterm Test</u> (20%)	November 16
<u>Group Projects</u> (25%)	January 30 – February 6
<u>Research Essay</u> (25%)	March 8
<u>Final Examination</u> (20%)	TBA (Examination period)

Diagnostic Quiz

This is not really a quiz, but more of a questionnaire – since I only know a few of you, I will ask you to complete a brief questionnaire about your background and interests in anthropology. There are no wrong answers, but this will help me in tailoring my approach to class needs and interests. This will take place on September 19, when we will also determine assignment to groups for the second-term projects.

Participation in discussion

We have the luxury this year of a class that is small enough to allow a seminar format. For those of you who are new to this, a seminar differs from a lecture course in many ways – the most important of which is that it provides a context for discussion back and forth, rather than a lecture to an audience that remains largely passive. The payoff for this is big: seminar discussion broadens, deepens, and probes our comprehension of issues, and it means that the participants learn from each other as well as from the prof and the readings. But there is a catch: for this to work, you have to do three things: do the assigned readings *before* each class, show up for class, and be prepared to discuss what is on the agenda for the session. This will form the basis of your participation marks.

Group Projects

Each member of the class will be assigned to work on one of four group projects as indicated below, culminating in a class presentation with visuals and supporting text. *Details on the projects will be provided at the organizational meeting on September 19, when assignments to groups will take place.*

The department's intellectual genealogy

Open-access online journals in anthropology

Anthropology on YouTube

The anthropological blogosphere

(HINT: see links at end of syllabus for ideas)

Research Essays

The research essay will sum the outcome of your research on a topic related to the course, determined in consultation with me. It must include a clear line of argument, drawing on relevant

sources. The paper should be ten to fifteen pages in length, double-spaced, inclusive of bibliography. In general, your work will be evaluated on the basis of several factors, including:

- overall coherence (consistency, logical construction)
- grasp of key issues in the context of disciplinary debate
- insight and originality of thought

Further details about papers and format will be available in due course. In the meantime, if you are wondering how anthropological essays are written, a good guide from Harvard's department can be downloaded here:

http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic1270719.files/anthropology_writing_guide_2010-3.pdf

Essays must be submitted electronically on OWL by the due date, with a corresponding hard copy supplied at that time if you wish written comments. All essays will be submitted to Turnitin for checking originality and detecting plagiarism. Late essays will be assessed a penalty of 5% per day late (including weekends); essays more than a week late will not be accepted and will receive a mark of zero. Please note that this course carries the essay designation, and submitting an essay is a mandatory requirement; if you do not submit an essay, you will not pass the course.

OWL Website

The OWL website for this class will provide electronic access to assigned readings as well as providing announcements over the course of the year. Please be sure to check it periodically for news and information.

Assigned Books

The following books are required reading and are available for purchase in the Bookstore:

Fox, Richard G., ed. (1991) *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present*. Santa Fe: SAR Press.

Tsing, Anna (2005) *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Segal, Daniel and Sylvia Yanagisako, eds. (2005) *Unwrapping the Sacred Bundle: Reflections on the Disciplining of Anthropology*. Durham: Duke University Press.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

The readings listed below are available via OWL or through the library's Course Readings system. See <https://ares.lib.uwo.ca/ares/>.

How we got here: leaving the mid-20th Century behind		
9.12	Silverman 2005	The postmodern development AND American anthropology at the end of the century. In: <i>One Discipline, Four Ways</i> , F. Barth et al., pp. 322-347. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

9.14	Ortner 1984	Theory in anthropology since the Sixties. <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i> 26:126-166.
9.19	No Readings	Diagnostic Quiz; Group Projects Organizational Meeting

It's all texts – right?		
9.21	Vincent 1991	Engaging historicism. In: <i>Recapturing Anthropology</i> , pp. 45-58.
9.26	Fox 1991	For a nearly new culture history. In: <i>Recapturing Anthropology</i> , pp. 93-114.
	Ortner 1991	Rereading America: preliminary notes on class and culture. In: <i>Recapturing Anthropology</i> , pp. 163-190.
9.28	Spencer 1989	Anthropology as a kind of writing. <i>Man</i> (n.s.) 24(1):145-164.

Beyond the Savage Slot: culture goes national, transnational, global		
10.03	Trouillot 1991	Anthropology and the Savage Slot: the poetics and politics of otherness. In: <i>Recapturing Anthropology</i> , pp. 17-44.
	Austin-Broos 1998	Falling through the 'Savage Slot': postcolonial critique and the ethnographic task. <i>The Australian Journal of Anthropology</i> 9(3):295-309.
10.05	Foster 1991	Making national cultures in the global ecumene. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 20:235-260.
10.10	THANKSGIVING	
10.12	Spencer 1990	Writing within: anthropology, nationalism and culture in Sri Lanka. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 31(3):283-300.
10.17	Appadurai 1991	Global ethnoscaapes: notes and queries for a transnational anthropology. In: <i>Recapturing Anthropology</i> , pp. 191-210.
10.19	Tsing 2000	The global situation. <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 15(3):327-360.

Difference, perspective, and culture		
10.24	Ardener 1975	Belief and the problem of women AND The problem revisited. In: <i>Perceiving Women</i> , S. Ardener, ed., pp. 1-27. London: Malaby Press.
	Abu-Lughod 1991	Writing against culture. In: <i>Recapturing Anthropology</i> , pp. 137-162.
10.26	Limon 1991	Representation, ethnicity, and the precursory ethnography: notes of a native anthropologist. In: <i>Recapturing Anthropology</i> , 115-136.
10.31	Nadasdy 2012	Boundaries among kin: sovereignty, the modern treaty process, and the rise of ethno-territorial nationalism among Yukon First Nations. <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i> 54(3):499-532.
	Stolcke 1995	Talking culture: new boundaries, new rhetorics of exclusion in Europe. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 36(1):1-24.
11.02	Gupta & Ferguson 1992	Beyond "culture": space, identity, and the politics of difference. <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 7(1):6-23.
11.07	Glick Schiller et al. 2006	Beyond the ethnic lens: locality, globality, and born-again incorporation. <i>American Ethnologist</i> 33(4):612-633.

Beyond culture?		
11.09	Brightman 1995	Forget culture. <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 10(4):509-546.

11.14	Sahlins 1999	Two or three things that I know about culture. <i>Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute</i> 5(3):399-421.
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11.14	REVIEW	
11.16	MIDTERM	

Unfinished business: relativism, difference, continuity		
11.21	Geertz 1984	Anti-anti-relativism. <i>American Anthropologist</i> 86(2):263-278.
	Zechenter 1997	In the name of culture: cultural relativism and the abuse of the individual. <i>Journal of Anthropological Research</i> 53(3):319-347.
11.23	Ortner 1995	Resistance and the problem of ethnographic refusal. <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i> 37(1):173-193.
11.28	Englund & Leach 2000	Ethnography and the meta-narratives of modernity. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 41(2):225-248.
	Robbins 2007	Continuity thinking and the problem of Christian culture. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 48(1):5-38
11.30	Westman 2013	Pentecostalism and Indigenous culture in northern North America. <i>Anthropologica</i> 55(1):141-156.

Militant morality?		
12.05	Scheper-Hughes 1995	The primacy of the ethical: propositions for a militant anthropology. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 36(3):409-440.
	D'Andrade 1995	Moral models in anthropology. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 36(3):399-408.
12.07	Loperena 2016	A divided community: the ethics and politics of activist research. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 57(3):332-346.

12.10	HOLIDAYS	
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Post-millennial ethnography		
1.09	Marcus 1995	Ethnography in/of the world system: the emergence of multi-sited ethnography. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 24:95-117.
1.11	Tsing 2005	<i>Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection</i> , pp. 27-120. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
1.16	Tsing 2005	<i>Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection</i> , pp. 121-170. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
1.18	Tsing 2005	<i>Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection</i> , pp. 171-272. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
1.23	Tsing 2005	<i>Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection</i> , pp. 121-212. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
1.25	Fassin 2013	Why ethnography matters: on anthropology and its publics. <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 28(4):621-646.

Special Section: Group Projects		
1.30		<i>Intellectual Genealogies; Open-Access Journals in Anthropology</i>
2.01		<i>Anthropology on YouTube</i>
2.06		<i>The Anthropological Blogosphere</i>

Revisiting the four-field model		
2.08	Segal & Yanagisako 2005	Introduction. In: <i>Unwrapping the Sacred Bundle</i> , D. Segal and S. Yanagisako, eds., pp. 1-23. Durham: Duke University Press.
2.13	Hodder 2005	An archaeology of the four-field approach in anthropology in the United States. In: <i>Unwrapping the Sacred Bundle</i> , D. Segal and S. Yanagisako, eds., pp. 126-140. Durham: Duke University Press.
	Clifford 2005	Reararticulating anthropology. In: <i>Unwrapping the Sacred Bundle</i> , D. Segal and S. Yanagisako, eds., pp. 78-99. Durham: Duke University Press.
2.15	Lederman 2005	Unchosen grounds: cultivating cross-subfield accents for a public voice. In: <i>Unwrapping the Sacred Bundle</i> , D. Segal and S. Yanagisako, eds., pp. 49-77. Durham: Duke University Press.
2.20	READING WEEK	
2.27	Harkin 2010	Uncommon ground: holism and the future of anthropology. <i>Reviews in Anthropology</i> 39(1):25-45

Materiality: things and stuff		
3.01	Fontein 2010	Between tortured bodies and resurfacing bones: the politics of the dead in Zimbabwe. <i>Journal of Material Culture</i> 15(4):423-448.
3.06	Downey 2016	Being human in cities: phenotypic bias from niche construction. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 57:S52-S64.
	De Leon 2013	Undocumented migration, use wear, and the materiality of habitual suffering in the Sonoran Desert. <i>Journal of Material Culture</i> 18(4):321-345.
3.08	Hansen 2004	The world in dress: anthropological perspectives on clothing, fashion and culture. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 33:369-392.
3.13	Pickles 2013	Pocket calculator. <i>Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute</i> 19:510-526.
	Pfaff 2010	A mobile phone: mobility, materiality, and everyday Swahili trading practices. <i>Cultural Geographies</i> 17(3):341-357.
3.15	Dalsgaard 2016	The ethnographic use of Facebook in everyday life. <i>Anthropological Forum</i> 26(1):96-114.
3.20	Burrell 2012	The materiality of rumor. In: <i>Materiality and Organizing</i> , P. Leonardi et al., eds., pp. 315-332. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
	Stammler 2009	Mobile phone revolution in the tundra? <i>Folklore-Tartu</i> 41:47-78.
3.22	Beaton et al 2015	Keewaytinook mobile: an indigenous community-owned mobile phone service in Canada. In: <i>Indigenous People and Mobile Technologies</i> , Dyson, et al. eds., pp. 109-124. Sydney: Routledge.
3.27	Sopranzetti 2014	Owners of the map: mobility and mobilization among motorcycle taxi drivers in Bangkok. <i>City & Society</i> 26(1):120-143.
	Trovalla & Trovalla 2015	Infrastructure turned suprastructure: unpredictable materialities and visions of a Nigerian nation. <i>Journal of Material Culture</i> 20(1):43-57.

Is that all there is?		
3.29	Crapanzano 2003	Reflections on hope as a category of social and psychological analysis. <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 18(1):3-32.
4.03	Ortner 2016	Dark anthropology and its others: theory since the eighties. <i>HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory</i> 6(1):47-73.
	Robbins 2013	Beyond the suffering subject: toward an anthropology of the good. <i>Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute</i> 19:447-462.
4.05	REVIEW	

Some useful links

Anthropology News <http://www.anthropology-news.org/>

Anthropology of This Century <http://aotcpres.com/>

HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory <http://www.haujournal.org/>

Savage Minds: Notes and Queries in Anthropology <http://savageminds.org/>

Culture <https://cascacultureblog.wordpress.com/>

Open Anthropology Cooperative <http://openanthcoop.ning.com/>

Zero Anthropology <https://zeroanthropology.net/>

Anthropology Ancestors (Alan Macfarlane)
<http://www.alanmacfarlane.com/ancestors/anthropology.htm>

On YouTube: Ayabaya <https://www.youtube.com/user/ayabaya>