

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 2222G/001

FOUNDATIONS OF ANTHROPOLOGY
JANUARY 2012



Instructor: Dan Jorgensen

Time and Place - Lectures: M 9:30-11:30 (WL 258); W 9:30-10:30 (WL 258)

Time and Place - Tutorials: W 9:30-10:30 on scheduled dates (WL 258 or SSC 3102 – see “**about tutorials**” below)

Office: SSC 7316

Office Hours: T 1:30-3:30

Phone: 85085

Email: dwj@uwo.ca

TAs: Christian Espanol; Catherine Villar

Offices: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Introduction:

This course is an advanced introduction to the history of sociocultural anthropology, and it has two complementary aims. One of these is to provide you with a sense of anthropological theory that will serve as a context for what you will learn in subsequent courses (e.g., 3301E and 4400E). By the time you have completed this course you should have a good roadmap of anthropology’s history up to the 1970s that will help you understand subsequent developments and their significance. The course’s second aim builds upon the first: to acquire a grasp of what it means to “think like an anthropologist.”

I have taught this course several times before, and my usual way of doing so was to go through anthropological theory between 1880 and 1970 in roughly chronological terms, paying attention to differences between major schools of thought. This can work well, but it seems to me that what easily got missed was the sense that theory is about ideas that one puts to work in understanding the world.

Another way of saying this is that this approach neglected theory’s engagement with ethnography, and it is this engagement that I wish to highlight in this course.

A second strategy for this year’s course is to emphasize method as well as theory. One of the arguments that I will be making is that anthropological methods are informed by anthropological theory (*how* you try to figure things out is closely tied to *what* you think needs figuring out) – and vice-versa (*what* you try to figure out is closely tied to *how* you try to figure things out). I will argue that much of the history of 20th Century anthropology is shaped by this feedback or reciprocity between method and theory. If all this works well, by the end of the course you should have a sense of how to formulate anthropological problems – and how to set about tackling them.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

<u>Tutorials</u> (15%)	(See tutorial schedule below)
<u>Short Review Assignment</u> (10%)	February 6 th
<u>Midterm Exam</u> (25%)	February 27 th
<u>Research Essay</u> (25%)	March 14 th
<u>Final Examination</u> (25%)	Final Exam Period – TBA

Note: This course carries the essay designation (the “G” suffix added to 2222), and the essay is a mandatory course requirement. If you fail to submit an essay, you will not be permitted to pass the course (regardless of your marks on other assignments).

Expectations:

My general expectation is that you will attend lectures and prepare for them by doing the appropriate readings according to the topic sequence shown in this syllabus. My lectures often take the readings as a *context* for what I say – in other words, I assume that you know what is going on in the readings as a backdrop for understanding my lectures.

About tutorials:

Tutorials are scheduled on the following Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30:

Date	Location (surnames A-H)	Location (surnames J-Z)
January 18	WL 258	SSC 3102
February 1	WL 258	SSC 3102
February 8	WL 258	SSC 3102
February 15	WL 258	SSC 3102
March 7	WL 258	SSC 3102
March 21	WL 258	SSC 3102
April 4	WL 258	SSC 3102

Tutorial attendance is mandatory, with each tutorial worth 2.5%; I will count the best 6 of the 7 tutorials scheduled, for a total of 15% of your final mark. There will be a brief three-question quiz at the start of each tutorial.

Tutorials missed for any reason may be made up by writing a four-page essay (on a topic assigned by me) for each missed tutorial. I will *not* require medical documentation if you miss tutorials, but I *will* require you to make up work as outlined above.

About the review assignment:

This will be a short assignment based in part on your reading of *Fifty Key Anthropologists* (see below). As part of your preparation for this, you might begin by reading **Appendices 1 and 2** (pp. 267-276). I will provide further instructions on the WebCT site for this course.

About research essays:

The research paper will sum the outcome of your research on a topic related to the course. It must include a clear line of argument, drawing from anthropological sources. The paper should be ten to twelve 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)
- insight and originality of thought
- grasp of key issues
- ability to link ideas with ethnographic material

I will provide further instructions on WebCT on paper format and topics.

Books (available in the bookstore):

Gordon, Robert, Andrew Lyons and Harriet Lyons, eds.
2011 *Fifty Key Anthropologists*. London and New York: Routledge

Salzman, Philip
2001 *Understanding Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theory*. Long Grove: Waveland.

Note: If you purchased a copy of *How to Read Ethnography* – which had originally been planned as a text for this course, but is no longer available – you can take it back to the bookstore for a refund if you do so soon (and without having marked it up).

TOPICS AND READINGS

1. THE ETHNOGRAPHIC REVOLUTION (JANUARY 9-18) 6 HRS

Urry (1972): “Notes and Queries on Anthropology” and the development of field methods in British Anthropology.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3031732>

Malinowski (1921): The primitive economics of the Trobriand Islanders.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2223283>

Fifty Anthropologists: Morgan; Tylor; Boas; Malinowski

FILM: *Off the Veranda* (Bronislaw Malinowski)

Tutorial: Wednesday, January 18



2. FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE (JANUARY 23 – FEBRUARY 1) 6 HRS

Salzman: Interdependence in human life (pp.13-30)

Evans-Pritchard (1935): Witchcraft.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3180590>

Radcliffe-Brown (1940): On joking relationships.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1156093>

Homans (1941): Anxiety and ritual: the theories of Malinowski and Radcliffe-Brown

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/662949>

Bateson (1941): Experiments in thinking about observed ethnological material

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/184365>

Fifty Anthropologists: Firth; Evans-Pritchard; Radcliffe-Brown; Fortes; Goody;
Gluckman

Tutorial: Wednesday, February 1

SHORT REVIEW ASSIGNMENT DUE: February 6

3. CULTURAL CONFIGURATION AND THE INDIVIDUAL (FEBRUARY 6-8) 3 HRS

Salzman: Coherence in culture (first part, pp.67-71)

Benedict (1932): Configurations of culture in North America.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/660926>

Mead (1933): More comprehensive field methods.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/662360>

Mead (1937): Public opinion mechanisms among primitive peoples.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2744663>

Fifty Anthropologists: Lowie; Kroeber; Sapir; Benedict; Mead; Herskovitz

Tutorial: Wednesday, February 8



4. TAKING STOCK AT MID-CENTURY (FEBRUARY 13-15) 3 HRS

Firth (1951): Contemporary British social anthropology.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/664249>

Redfield (1955): Societies and cultures as natural systems.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2844180>

Dozier (1955): The concepts of 'primitive' and 'native' in anthropology.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3031146>

Fifty Anthropologists: White; Wolf; Lewis

Tutorial: Wednesday, February 15

READING WEEK FEBRUARY 20-24

MIDTERM EXAM: February 27

5. THE RETURN OF COMPARATIVE METHOD (FEBRUARY 29 – MARCH 7) 4 HRS

Salzman: Determining factors and Transformation (pp. 49-66; pp. 87-112)

Eggan (1954): Social anthropology and the method of controlled comparison.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/663810>

Sahlins (1963): Poor man, rich man, big-man, chief: political types in Polynesia and Melanesia.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/177650>

Murphy & Steward (1956): Tappers and trappers: parallel process in acculturation.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1151854>

Wolf (1957): Closed corporate peasant communities in Mesoamerica and Java.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3629154>

Fifty Anthropologists: Steward; Sahlins; Murdock

Tutorial: Wednesday, March 7

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE: March 14

6. PROCESS AND SYSTEM IN ETHNOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS (MARCH 12-21) 6 HRS

Salzman: Agency in human action (pp. 31-48)

Rappaport (1967): Ritual regulation of environmental relations among a New Guinea people.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3772735>

Barth (1956): Ecologic relationships of ethnic groups in Swat, North Pakistan.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/666295>

Bohannon (1959): The impact of money on an African subsistence economy.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2115317>

Manners (1965): Remittances and the unit of analysis in anthropological research.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3629227>

Fifty Anthropologists: Barth; Bailey

Tutorial: Wednesday, March 21

7. ETHNOGRAPHY AND MEANING (MARCH 26-APRIL 4) 5 HRS

Salzman: Coherence in culture (pp. 67-86)

Hocart (1937): Kinship systems.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/40447977>

Middleton (1954): Some social aspects of Lugbara myth.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1156423>

Douglas (1957): Animals in Lele religious symbolism.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1156365>

Needham (1976): Skulls and causality.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2800389>

Fifty Anthropologists: Mauss; Van Gennep; Levi-Strauss; Needham; Leach; Douglas; Turner; Geertz

Tutorial: Wednesday, April 4

8. STEPPING BACK (APRIL 9-11) 3 HRS

Salzman: Reflections (pp. 113-142)

Friedman (1987): An interview with Eric Wolf.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2743123>

Sahlins (2010): Infrastructuralism.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/653405>

Fifty Anthropologists: Bourdieu; Ortner; Strathern; Rosaldo; Hannerz; Comaroff; Appadurai



Appendix: Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

The prerequisites for this course are Anthropology 1025F/G or Anthropology 1020E. Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will 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.

Deadlines and missed exams – medical accommodation

Occasionally illness or other medical issues make it impossible to meet deadlines or to take exams as scheduled; in such cases adequate documentation must be submitted to Academic Counseling of your home faculty, according to the terms of the Senate policy regarding medical accommodation as specified at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Providing such documentation is submitted, reasonable effort will be made to accommodate your situation. If such documentation is not provided, I will impose a penalty of 5% per day (including Saturday and Sunday) on late assignments; missed exams will be given a mark of zero. Note that if you are late in handing in an assignment, it is your responsibility to ensure that I receive it.

Use of Electronic Devices (including laptops)

No electronic devices of any kind (including but not limited to cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, other MP3 players, voice recorders, etc.) will be allowed during tests and examinations. Laptops may only be used during lectures for note taking or other course-related purposes; cell phones, iPods, MP3 players and other such devices are not to be used during class. Voice recorders (digital or tape) are not allowed without express permission.

Plagiarism and Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Support Services

Registrar's Services: <http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>