

# UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

## Department of Anthropology

ANTHROPOLOGY 4400E/001

*Anthropological Thought*

*September 2011-April 2012*

Professor: Adriana Premat  
Office: SSC 3410 Phone: 519-661-2111, extension 85100  
Office hours: Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 pm  
Email: [apremat@uwo.ca](mailto:apremat@uwo.ca)  
Meeting Times/Place: UC 289  
Mondays, 11:30-12:30 and Wednesday, 10:30-12:30

Teaching Assistant: Bryan Wilson  
Email: [bwilso9@uwo.ca](mailto:bwilso9@uwo.ca)  
TA's office hours: Thursday 11:30-12:30 in SSC 3306

### Introduction

This course is designed to introduce you to contemporary anthropological theory via a select group of ethnographies and supplementary readings that illustrate key concerns and questions that have dominated the field over the last decades. Among the topics covered in the course will be: 1) the production (and products) of anthropological knowledge; 2) the ideal relationship between the anthropologist and those s/he studies; 3) the shifting meanings of agency and the subject in anthropology; 4) the increasingly tenuous links between culture and place; 6) the need to broaden the field beyond traditional subjects and methodologies to better grasp social processes in a "globalizing" world and 7) the emerging interest in multi-species ethnographies.

Understanding both significant shifts and continuities in disciplinary thought will be a central component of the course. In order to emphasize the lack of closure on many of the topics discussed, whenever possible, readings representing counter-arguments are interspersed throughout the reading list and will often be used as a starting point for discussion.

### Course prerequisites

The prerequisites for this course are Anthropology 3301E or 3333F (or the former Anthropology 333E) and registration in Year 4 in any module. Unless the student has either the requisites or special written permission from the Dean to enrol in the course, s/he will be removed from the class list and the course will be deleted from his/her records. This decision may not be appealed. The student will receive no fee adjustment in the event that s/he is dropped from the course for failing to meet the stipulated prerequisites.

### Required Books

Philippe Bourgois and Jeffrey Schonberg (2009) *Righteous Dopefiend*. Berkely: University of California Press.  
Karen Ho (2009) *Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street*. Durham: Duke University Press.  
Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt (2004) *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

### Required Additional Readings

Additional readings, like journal articles, are generally available on line through the Western libraries. All other readings have been compiled in a course pack available at the Western bookstore (these are noted in the outline with two asterisks).

## Course Requirements

Participation in 8 exercises for assigned tutorials, including group summary and questions (2.5% each)	20 %
2 research essays (15 pages each, 15 % each), 1 each semester	30 %
Term Exam	20 %
Final Examination	30%

### About Tutorials and Related Group Assignments

In order to encourage meaningful discussion on course materials, the class will be divided into two main groups of about 20 students each (Group 1 and Group 2), which will be further split into two smaller groups (Groups 1A and 1B, Groups 2A and 2B) during the tutorial. These groups will retain the same membership throughout each term and will meet separately during the tutorial times indicated on the outline. During these meetings, the groups will either engage in a guided debate or work on a range of in-class exercises. After the tutorial, each group is expected to post a four to five sentence statement that will summarize the key insights derived from group discussions and will pose one question to the rest of the class related to the tutorials' topic. The group statement and question must be posted by 4 pm the day after the tutorial. You will be graded on your individual contribution to tutorial discussions, as well as on the merit of the overall group summary and questions. Inadequate or no participation in a tutorial exercise will result in a grade of zero. Note: Students with excused absences can be granted permission to participate in a tutorial exercise with a group other than their own but this should be formally arranged with the professor.

### 2 Short Essays (15 pages each)

Two times during the year, students will be expected to write a short essay on a topic related to class content. A list of general topics to choose from will be discussed in class and posted online at the time indicated in the outline. While for this exercise the student should draw on class discussions and readings, it is expected that s/he will consult and adequately cite at least six additional anthropological journal articles on each subject. The papers will be graded using the following general guidelines. In the writing of the essay, the student should: 1) define key concepts, 2) state the argument clearly at the beginning of the essay, 3) develop the argument with the assistance of concrete examples and adequate citations, 4) write a clear concluding paragraph, and 5) include a properly formatted bibliography at the end. Before submitting the paper, the student should carefully proof read it for spelling and grammatical mistakes. Each paper should be about 15 pages long. Note: The papers are due on December 5 and April 4. The penalty for unexcused lateness is 4 % each day (for example, if a student submitted his or her paper 2 days late and was given a grade of 90 %, this would be reduced by 8 %, thereby leaving the student with a final grade of 82%).

### Plagiarism

Students must write their essays in their own words. Whenever a student takes an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. 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 Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](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 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 licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

### A Word on Films

The films that will be shown in this class have been carefully selected to encourage class discussion and are considered an integral part of course content. They should not be missed and notes on them should be reviewed when preparing for the final exam.

### Participation

Students are expected to participate in class discussions and are encouraged to express differences of opinion while maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect. Although a friendly and relaxed environment is encouraged, this does not mean that students are allowed to disrupt the class, or act in ways that obstruct the learning process. In order to be courteous to the professor and other students, it is expected that, during class time, students will turn off their cell

phones and refrain from using laptops or other electronic devices for unrelated course activities. Unauthorized recording of lectures is not allowed.

Students will be given credit for their participation in tutorial debates, as well as for contributing to online to discussions.

### Term Exam

The term exam on **November 16<sup>th</sup>** will cover course readings, lectures, and films from September 14<sup>th</sup> to November 9<sup>th</sup>. The exam may incorporate multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, short answers and essay questions. Note that the use of electronic devices (cell phones, ipods, etc.) will not be allowed during the writing of exams.

### Final Examination

While the final exam will be cumulative, covering all course material, the emphasis will be placed on readings, films, and lectures from **November 23<sup>rd</sup>** onwards.

### Special Needs

If you have special needs, make sure you have seen Student Services, so I may have a written request from them to help you in arranging for alternative dates, assignments, etc.

### About Accessibility

If you need this or any other course information in a different format, or need any other assistance to make this class accessible to you, please contact the professor as soon as possible so she can accommodate you. Where appropriate, get to know the people in Services for Students with Disabilities - Room 4100 in the Western Student Services Building [phone: 661-3031] since they can provide you with additional assistance.

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	September 12/11
	<b>THE FIELD AND THE OBJECT OF ANTHROPOLOGY</b>	
	<i>Readings for this lecture</i>	September 14/11
	<p>Abu-Lughod, Lila (1991) "Writing Against Culture". In <u>Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present</u>, Richard Fox, ed. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press, pp. 137-162.**</p> <p>Starn, Orin (1991) "Missing the Revolution: Anthropologists and the War in Perú". <u>Cultural Anthropology</u> 6(1): 63-91.</p> <p><i>Film: Edward Said on Orientalism</i> (1998) directed by Sut Jhally, 40 minutes.</p> <p><b>Sign up for tutorial groups</b></p>	
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<i>Tutorial (Group 1)</i> <i>Orientalism and anthropology</i>	September 19/11
	Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.	
	<i>Readings for this lecture</i>	September 21/11
	<p>Gupta, Akhil and James Ferguson (1997) "Discipline and Practice: 'The Field' as Site, Method and Location in Anthropology". In <u>Anthropological Locations: Boundaries and Grounds for a Field Science</u>. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 1-46.**</p> <p>Marcus, G. (2008). "The end(s) of ethnography: Social/cultural anthropology's signature form of producing knowledge in transition." <u>Cultural Anthropology</u> 23(1): 1-14.</p>	

WEEK 3	<i>Tutorial (Group 2)</i> <i>The field, fieldwork, and the Other in anthropology</i>	September 26/11
	Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.	
	<i>Readings for this lecture</i>	September 28/11
	Hannerz, U. (2010). "Diversity is our business." <i>American Anthropologist</i> 112(4): 539-551. Wesch, Michael (2007) "A Witch-hunt in New Guinea: Anthropology on Trial". <i>Anthropology and Humanism</i> 32(1):4-17.	
WEEK 4	<i>Tutorial (Group 1)</i> <i>Re-thinking our mission</i>	October 3/11
	Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.	
	<b>PARTIAL TRUTHS</b>	
	<i>Readings for this lecture</i>	October 5/11
	Haraway, D. (1988). "Situated knowledges: The science question in feminism and the privilege of partial perspective." <i>Feminist Studies</i> 14(3): 575-599. Ortner, Sherry (1995) "Resistance and the Problem of Ethnographic Refusal". <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i> , 37: 173-193.	
WEEK 5	Thanksgiving ( <b>no classes</b> )	October 10/11
	<i>Readings for this lecture</i>	October 12/11
	Clifford, James (1986) "Introduction: Partial Truths". In <i>Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography</i> , Clifford J. and G. Marcus, eds. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp 1-26. Chioni Moore, David (1994) "Anthropology is Dead, Long Live Anthro(a)pology: Poststructuralism, Literary Studies and Anthropology's "Nervous Present". <i>Journal of Anthropological Research</i> . 50 (4): 345-365.	
	<i>Film:</i> <i>Margaret Mead and Samoa</i> (1988) directed by Frank Heimans, 51 minutes.	
WEEK 6	<i>Tutorial (Group 2)</i> <i>Situated knowledges</i>	October 18/11
	Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.	
	<b>EXPERIMENTAL ETHNOGRAPHIES</b>	
	<i>Readings for this lecture</i>	October 20/11
	Bourgois and Schonberg (2009), <i>Righteous Dopefiend</i> Introduction and Chapter 1.	
WEEK 7	( <i>Everyone must be in attendance</i> ) Discussion on <b>upcoming research paper</b>	October 25/11
	<i>Readings for this lecture</i>	October 27/11
	Bourgois and Schonberg (2009), <i>Righteous Dopefiend</i> , Chapters 2 and 3.	
WEEK 8	<i>Tutorial (Group 1)</i> <i>Partial truths and the problem of representation</i>	November 1/11
	Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.	
	<i>Readings for this lecture</i>	November 3/11

	Bourgois and Schonberg (2009), <u>Righteous Dopefiend</u> , Chapters 4 and 5. Additional reading TBA.  <i>Film</i> . Stranger with a camera directed by Elizabeth Barret, 59 minutes.
WEEK 9	<i>Tutorial (Group 2)</i> November 7/11 <i>Experimental ethnographies</i>  Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.
	<i>Readings for this lecture</i> November 9/11  Bourgois and Schonberg (2009), <u>Righteous Dopefiend</u> , Chapters 6 and 7.
WEEK 10	<i>Review for term exam</i> November 14/11 <i>Everyone is encouraged to attend</i>
	<b>Term Exam</b> November 16/11
<b>STRUCTURE, AGENCY, AND POWER</b>	
WEEK 11	<i>Tutorial (Group 1)</i> November 21/11 <i>Social marginality in anthropology</i>  Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.
	<i>Readings for this lecture</i> November 23/11  Bourgois and Schonberg (2009), <u>Righteous Dopefiend</u> , Chapters 8, 9, and conclusion.
WEEK 12	<i>Tutorial (Group 2)</i> November 28/11 <i>The ethics of a public anthropology</i>  Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.
	<i>Readings for this lecture</i> November 29/11  Lamaison, Pierre (1986) "From Rules to Strategies: An Interview with Pierre Bourdieu". <u>Cultural Anthropology</u> 1(1):110-120. Ortner, S. (1984). "Theory in anthropology since the sixties." <u>Comparative Studies in Society and History</u> 26(1): 126-166.
WEEK 13	<i>Everyone is encouraged to attend for class discussion</i> December 5/11 <b>Submit research essay # 1</b>
	<i>Readings for this lecture</i> December 7/11  Foucault, Michel (1980) Truth and power. In <u>Power and Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-1977</u> , Colin Gordon, ed. New York: Pantheon, pp. 109-133. Abu Lughod, Lila (1990) "The Romance of Resistance: Tracing Transformations of Power Through Bedouin Women". <u>American Ethnologist</u> 17 (1): 41-55.
<b>DECEMBER BREAK</b>	

POWER, PEDAGOGICAL OBJECTS AND PERFORMATIVE SUBJECTS	
WEEK 14	<p><i>Tutorial</i> January 9/12  <i>Everyone is encouraged to attend</i>  <i>Graded essays handed back</i></p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> January 11/12  Review readings for <u>week 13</u> (Foucault 1980 and Abu-Lughod 1990)  Holston, James (1991) "Auto-construction in Working-Class Brazil." <u>Cultural Anthropology</u> 6(4):447-465.</p>
WEEK 15	<p><i>Tutorial (Group 1)</i> January 16/12  <i>Power and the production of subjectivities</i></p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> January 18/12  Foucault, Michel (2008) "The Birth of Biopolitics". In <u>Lectures at the Collège de France, 1978-1979</u>. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp.27-50, 291-325. **  Moore, Henrietta (2007) "A Genealogy of the Anthropological Subject". In <u>The Subject of Anthropology: Gender, Symbolism and Psychoanalysis</u>. Pp. 23-42. Cambridge: Polity **</p>
WEEK 16	<p><i>Tutorial (Group 2)</i> January 23/12  <i>Theorizing individual-society relations</i>    Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.</p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> January 25/12  Li, Tania (2005) "Beyond 'the State' and Failed Schemes". In <u>American Anthropologist</u> 197 (3): 383-394.  Ferguson, James (2006) "Transnational Topographies of Power: Beyond 'the State' and 'Civil Society' in the Study of African Politics". In <u>Global Shadows: Africa and the World</u>. London: Duke University Press, pp 89-112.**    <i>Film:</i>  <u>Life and Debt</u> (1990) directed by Stephanie Black, 80 minutes.</p>
WEEK 17	<p><i>Tutorial (Everyone must be in attendance)</i> January 31/12    Finish watching <u>Life and Debt</u>.</p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> February 1/12    Ho, Karen (2009) <u>Liquidated</u>, Introduction and Chapter, pp. 1-121.</p>
WEEK 18	<p><i>Tutorial (Group 1)</i> February 6/12  <i>Transnational Governmentality</i>    Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.</p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> February 8/12    Ho, Karen (2009) <u>Liquidated</u>, Introduction and Chapter, pp. 122-212.</p>

WEEK 19	<p><i>Tutorial (Group 2)</i> February 13/12  <i>Governmentality and the neoliberal logic</i></p> <p>Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.</p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> February 15/12</p> <p>Ho, Karen (2009) <u>Liquidated</u>, Introduction and Chapter, pp. 213-294.</p>
NO CLASSES	<p>February 20-24/12</p> <p><b><i>Family Day and Reading Break</i></b></p> <p><i>Reading</i>  Ho, Karen (2009) <u>Liquidated</u>, Introduction and Chapter, pp. 295-324.</p>
<b>UPROOTED CULTURES AND THE GLOBAL</b>	
WEEK 20	<p><i>Tutorial</i> February 27/12</p> <p>Everyone must be in attendance with prepared question for essay # 2.</p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> February 29/12</p> <p>Appadurai, Arjun (1990) "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Economy", in <u>Public Culture</u>, Vol. 2 (2): 1-24.</p> <p>Gupta, Akhil and James Ferguson (1992). "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference". <u>Cultural Anthropology</u>. 7(1): 6-23.</p> <p>Malkki, Liisa (1992) "National geographic: The Rooting of People and the Territorialization of National Identity among Scholars and Refugees". <u>Cultural Anthropology</u> 7 (1):24-44.</p>
WEEK 21	<p><i>Tutorial</i> March 5/12</p> <p><i>Everyone is expected to attend to view :</i>  Excerpts from <u>Bomb It</u> (2007) directed by John Reiss, 93 minutes.</p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> March 7/12</p> <p>Mintz, Sidney W. (1998) "The Localization of Anthropological Practice: From Area Studies to Transnationalism". <u>Critique of Anthropology</u>. 18 (2): 117-133.</p> <p>Tsing, Anna (2000) "The Global Situation" in <u>Cultural Anthropology</u> 15(3):327-360.</p>
WEEK 22	<p><i>Tutorial (Group 1)</i> March 12/12  <i>Culture unbound</i></p> <p>Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.</p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> March 14/12</p> <p>Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt (2004) <u>Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection</u>. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Introduction, Chapters 1-2, pp. 1-80.</p>
WEEK 23	<p><i>Tutorial (Group 2)</i> March 19/12  <i>Universals and social movements</i></p> <p>Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.</p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> March 21/12</p> <p>Tsing, Anna (2004), Chapters 3-4, pp. 81-170.</p>

NEW MOVEMENTS, NEW ANTHROPOLOGICAL DIRECTIONS	
WEEK 24	<p><i>Tutorial (Group 1)</i> March 26/12  <i>Dissolving conceptual dichotomies</i></p> <p>Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.</p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> March 28/12</p> <p>Tsing, Anna (2004), Chapters 5 and part of Chapter 6, pp. 171-238.</p> <p><i>Film:</i> To be announced</p>
WEEK 25	<p><i>Tutorial (Group 2)</i> April 2/12  <i>Naturecultures</i></p> <p>Wiki debate to be completed and questions posted by Tuesday at 4 pm.</p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> April 4/12</p> <p>Haraway, D. (2008). "Introductions." In <i>When Species Meet</i>. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, pp. 1-42.</p> <p><b>Submit Research Essay # 2</b></p>
WEEK 26	<p><i>Tutorial (Everyone must be in attendance)</i> April 9/12</p> <p><i>Readings for this lecture</i></p> <p>Tsing, Anna (2004), remainder of Chapter 6, Chapter 7 and Coda, pp. 239-272.  Hamilton J. and A. Placas (2010) "Anthropology Becoming...? The 2010 Sociocultural Anthropology Year in Review" in <u><i>American Anthropologist</i></u> 113 (2): 246-261.</p>
	<p><i>Readings for this lecture</i> April 11/12</p> <p>FINAL EXAM REVIEW</p>

Note: The showing of films depends on availability and the titles may be revised.

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