

COURSE SYLLABUS II

ANT 3034-U01 Anthropological Theories

Fall 2005

Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30 to 1:45.

University Park PC 426

Florida International University

Version of October 5, 2005

Course web page: <http://www.fiu.edu/~wiedmand/courses/anthrotheory/>

INSTRUCTOR

Dennis Wiedman, Ph.D. Associate Professor. Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

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I try to respond to emails within three days.

Teaching Assistant: Brianne Barclay 724-331-1214

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theories structure a discipline's inquiry and define what is important. This course investigates anthropological ways of knowing, understanding, and explaining humankind. Contemporary research questions, and the theories used to explain them, are based on more than 150 years of anthropological research and theory building.

Through a comparative analysis of the similarities and differences among anthropological theories and theorists, we discuss how these have changed or remained consistent over time adapting to the social, political, and economic trends in science, society, and the world.

What are the research questions that guide anthropological inquiry today? By focusing on contemporary and recurring questions we will explore the history of ideas and theorists that inform the modern discipline of anthropology. On successful completion of the course students should be able to articulate a range of theoretical perspectives that can be used to inform their own research questions.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Erickson, Paul A., and Liam D. Murphy Murphy

2003 A History of Anthropological Theory. Second Edition.

Orchard Park, NY: Broadview Press.

McGee, R. Jon, and Richard L. Warmis

2004 Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History. Third Edition.

New York: McGraw Hill.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Bourdieu, Pierre

2001 Structures, Habitus, and Practices. (Original 1977 Outline of a Theory of Practice). *In* Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory. P.A. Erickson and L.D. Murphy, eds. Pp. 533-542. New York: Broadview Press.

Foucault, Michel

2001 Truth and Power. *In* Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory. P.A. Erickson and L.D. Murphy, eds. Pp. 514-532. New York: Broadview Press.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) **Quizzes** focus on class lectures, films, readings, and special presentations up to prior class meeting. Through quizzes the student can demonstrate an understanding of the subject. They are composed of essays, multiple choice, and word identifications, etc.

2) **Discussions** both in-class and on-line demonstrate the student's interest in the course, understanding of the materials, as well as critical thinking, verbal, and writing skills.

3) **Essays** demonstrate the student's skills in research methods, analysis and writing. Best scores are given to those that integrate the course readings, discussions, and presentations with the student's research and experiences. Three essays are scheduled. Printed version due at beginning of the scheduled class, enter electronic version in WebCT a half hour before class. Must use "Reference Your Sources" in WebCT and the style guide of the American Anthropologist at http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/style_guide.htm.

4) **Final Examination** covers the entire course. Failure to take the final examination at the scheduled time will result in a letter grade deduction from the test result. Legitimate reasons for not taking the exam at the scheduled time must be approved by the instructor prior to that date.

COURSE PROJECTS

Essay One: Anthropology Topic of Interest

What anthropology topic is of greatest interest to you? Why is it of interest to you? What would you like to learn about this topic in this course. 250 words.

Essay Two: Journal Article Critique

Locate an anthropology journal article on your topic of interest published in the past 5 years. Discuss the research question or purpose of the article, the theoretical perspective, the research methods, and its contribution to knowledge. Discuss this article within the context of the history of anthropological theory. Choose the article from the anthropology journals available electronically in "AnthroSource." The journals "Human Organization" and "Current Anthropology" also qualify. Other anthropology journals are possible with instructor's approval. 1000 words.

Essay Three: Course Paper

This 2,500 word paper is based on the journal article critique and annotated bibliography. Demonstrate your ability to articulate the various theoretical perspectives used to understand the topic and the historical development of the theoretical paradigm.

EXTRA CREDIT

Learning Exercises and projects will be issued during the course within WebCT. Extra credit points vary. December 1 is the last date to submit extra credit projects. Print copy in class, electronic copy via WebCT – Essays.

Extra Credit 1: Annotated Bibliography

Read publications pertaining to your selected topic. Compile recent publications that use an alternative theoretical perspective and historical publications that serve as a foundation to understanding the topic. Enter the title and author in American Anthropologist citation style followed by a narrative of how this article represents a particular theoretical perspective and contributes to an understanding of the topic. 6 or more citations. Up to 5 points.

WEB ASSISTED COURSE MATERIALS

WebCT supports class presentations and the student learning experience with learning components such as related readings, web page links, study aids, discussions, emails, and extra credit exercises. Read “Announcements” for course instructions and be sure to regularly check “Content” for course information. Email instructor only within WebCT. It is required that students participate in the on-line email, discussions, and assignments within WebCT. Internet access can be through any computer. Computers in the FIU computer labs and the library are available for those who do not have personal computers. Begin WebCT from bottom of FIU main page, or go directly to:

http://webct.fiu.edu/webct/ticket/ticketLogin?action=print_login&request_uri=/webct/homearea/homearea%3F

Learn how to get started with WebCT or find answers to your questions at:

http://uts.fiu.edu/index.cfm?action=webct_studfaq

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Dates for quizzes, essays and readings. Assigned readings are to be completed by class meeting.

Week One

August 30 – Course Overview

September 1

McGee and Warms: Preface and Introduction ix – 4.

Erickson and Murphy: Introduction and Part 1.

The Early History of Anthropological Theory. Pages 1-72.

Week Two

September 6 Erickson and Murphy: Part Two.

The Early Twentieth Century. Pages 73 - 112.

September 8

Week Three

September 13 Erickson and Murphy: Part Three & Conclusion. Pages 113-180.
September 15 – Essay 1

Week Four

September 20 McGee & Warms: Nineteenth- Century Evolutionism. Pages 5–81.
September 22 Quiz 1

Week Five

September 27 McGee & Warms: Foundations of Sociological Thought. Pages 82-127.
Historical Particularism. Pages 128-152
September 29

Week Six

October 4 McGee & Warms: Functionalism. Pages 153-215.
October 6

Week Seven

October 11 McGee & Warms: Culture and Personality. Pages 216-236
October 13 – Quiz Two

Week Eight

October 18 McGee & Warms: Cultural Ecology and Neoevolutionary Thought.
Pages 237-283.
October 20

Week Nine

October 25 McGee & Warms: Neomaterialism. Pages 284-344.
October 27: Essay Two

Week Ten

November 1 McGee & Warms: Structuralism. Pages 345-384.
November 3

Week Eleven

November 8 McGee & Warms: Ethnoscience and Cognitive Anthropology.
Pages 385-430.
November 10 Quiz Three

Week Twelve

November 15 McGee & Warms: Sociobiology, Evo. Psych & Behavioral Ecology.
Pages 431-472.
November 17

Week Thirteen

November 22: McGee & Warms: Gender and Feminism. Pages 473-523.
November 24: Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class

Week Fourteen

November 29 – McGee & Warms: Symbolic and Interpretive. Pages 524-574
Foucault, Truth and Power
Essay Three - Course Paper
December 1
Last date to submit extra credit projects.

Week Fifteen

December 6 McGee & Warms: Postmodernism and its Critics. Pages 575-626.
Bourdieu, Structures, Habitus, and Practices
December 8

Finals Week

December 13 – Final Examination. At regular class time

CLASS PARTICIPATION

During class and in WebCT students should verbally and in writing demonstrate their comprehension of the class presentations and reading materials.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be taken throughout the term. Three or more recorded absences results in a reduction of the student's Total Points for the course. Students who observe religious holidays should inform the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester.

ACADEMIC ETHICS

It is strictly prohibited to submit as one's own work material provided by a professional research agency, the internet, or other persons. Students who violates these principles receive a grade of 'F' for the course. Instructor may submit essays to "Turn-It-In" for an assessment of originality. The instructor also has the authority to consider academic misconduct charges that carry considerable penalties. Please consult the University student handbook for further information on plagiarism and its consequences.

GRADING

Quizzes (3 @ 5 points each)	15
Discussions/Participation:	
In Class	5
WebCT	5
Essays 1 Topic	5
2 Article Critique	15
3 Course Paper	25
Final Exam	30
Total Points	100
Add Extra Credit	- -
Subtract Attendance	- -
Grand Total	- -

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION

Grand Total Points

A	= 95 - 100	C	= 70 - 72
A-	= 90 - 94	C-	= 67 - 69
B+	= 85 - 89	D+	= 63 - 66
B	= 80 - 84	D	= 60 - 62
B-	= 77 - 79	F	= 59 or less
C+	= 73 - 76		