

ANTH 488
O'Neil
Fall 2009
tonell@uoregon.edu
MW 4-6pm
203 Chapman
5100

Professor: Theresa
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Anthropology 488:
Foundations of Social Theory

This class introduces the ideas of important early social theorists (Marx, Engels, Freud, Durkheim, Weber) through close readings of their seminal works, paying special attention to the issues that preoccupied these thinkers and the historical conditions in which the study of society emerged in Western thought. Two related goals guide this course:

- 1) to guide students to an accurate understanding of the arguments and concerns of these foundational authors; and
- 2) to foster in students a critical awareness of the social and cultural grounds of early social theorizing.

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Required books

Emile Durkheim and Marcel Mauss	<u>Primitive Classification</u>
Sigmund Freud	<u>The Future of an Illusion</u>
Anthony Giddens	<u>Capitalism and Modern Social Theory</u>
Max Weber	<u>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of</u>
Capitalism	

Required BlackBoard readings

James Frazer	<u>The Golden Bough</u> (George Rainbird Ltd 1978), Ch. 3, "Sympathetic magic" (pp. 34-46).
Edward B. Tylor	<u>The Origins of Culture</u> (Peter Smith 1958), Chs. 1-2, "The science of culture" & "The development of culture" (pp. 1-69).
Herbert Spencer	<u>On Social Evolution</u> (U of Chicago 1972), Chs. 7-8, "The social organism" & "Evolutionism defined" (pp. 53-74), & Ch. 13, "The factors of social evolution" (pp. 121-133)
Karl Marx and F. Engels	"The Communist Manifesto" (1848)
Lewis Henry Morgan	<u>Ancient Society</u> (Peter Smith 1974) Chs. 1-3, "Ethnical periods," "Arts of Subsistence," & "Ratio of Human Progress" (pp. 3-44).
Sigmund Freud	<u>New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis</u> (WW Norton & Co, 1965), Lecture XXXI "The dissection of the psychical personality" (pp. 57-80).

Class format and requirements The class follows a combined lecture and seminar format. Students will be assigned to small discussion groups and in those groups will analyze the assigned readings. Students are expected to participate actively in group and class discussions. Class participation and attendance count for 40% of the final grade.

Over the term, each student will write three 2-3 page essays on the readings, choosing from the four sets of readings listed below. Each essay is worth 10% of the final grade.

- Set 1: Victorian anthropologists Frazer, Tylor, and Spencer, due October 19
- Set 2: Materialists Marx, Engels, and Morgan, due November 2
- Set 3: Psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, due November 16
- Set 4: Sociologists Durkheim and Mauss, due November 30

There will be a comprehensive, take-home final, available for pick-up at the end of class on December 2. The essay exam is due at Condon 372 by noon, Wednesday, December 9.

Final grades The 3 essays contribute 30% toward the final grade; class attendance and participation in discussion groups contribute 40%; and the final exam contributes the remaining 30%.

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SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Introduction

September 30

The Victorians and evolutionism

October 5, 7 Reading: Frazer, Spencer and Tylor (BB)

Historical Materialism

October 12, 14, 19 Reading: Marx and Engels (BB), Giddens (pp. 1-64)

American materialism

October 21 Reading: Morgan (BB)

Psychodynamics

October 26, 28 Reading: Freud (BB)

The psychoanalysis of culture

November 2, 4 Reading: Freud The Future of an Illusion

Social realism

November 9 Reading: Giddens (pp. 65-81, 105-118)

November 11, 16, 18 Reading: Primitive

Classification

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Interpretive Sociology

November 23

November 25, 30

Ethic

Reading: Giddens (pp. 119-184)

Reading: Weber, Protestant

Conclusions
December 2