

ANTH 688
Fall 2009
TR 4-6 pm
313 Condon

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Anthropology 688:
Social Theory Core I

Anth 688 is the first of a two-course introduction to theory in sociocultural anthropology. Anth 689, to be taught by Professor Lynn Stephen, is the second. Together these two courses provide the framework for graduate students preparing for the comprehensive exam in sociocultural anthropology. The courses are organized around key terms or sets of key terms with a high degree of salience in the field. Anth 688 addresses the following four areas: structure, meaning and representation, materialism, and colonialism/post-coloniality.

Students are expected to attend class and to participate in seminar discussions. At the start of each class, students will submit a summary or critical annotation of the day's readings. Students will take turns leading class discussion. We will arrive at a schedule for the term on the first day of class. Seminar participants will propose topics for the essay assignments at the conclusion of each section of the class. Students will write a 5-6 page essay on each of the four key areas; due dates will be settled in class.

Final grades

- 15% Attendance and participation
- 20% Annotations on assigned readings
- 20% Lead discussant duties
- 40% Four comparative essays

COURSE OUTLINE
PART I: MATERIALISM

October 1

Marx, Karl and Frederick Engels

1848 *The Communist Manifesto*

Giddens, Anthony

1971 "Marx" In *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*

October 6

Marx, Karl

1887 "Commodities" In *Capital*.

1963 "History" In *German Ideology*.

Sahlins, Marshall

1976 "Anthropology and two Marxisms" In *Culture & Practical Reason*. University of Chicago Press.

October 8

Gramsci, Antonio

1971 Selections, *The Prison Notebooks*. International Publishers.

Althusser, Louis

1971 "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses (Notes towards an Investigation)"

October 13

Scott, James

1985 Selected chapters, *Weapons of the Weak*. Yale University Press.

October 15

Taussig, Michael

1980 Parts I & II, *The Devil and Commodity Fetishism*. University of North Carolina Press.

PART II: MEANING AND REPRESENTATION

October 20

Weber, Max

1930 *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Routledge Classics.

Giddens, Anthony

1971 "Weber" In *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge University Press.

October 22

Geertz, Clifford

1964 "Thick description" "Deep play" In *The Interpretation of Culture*. Basic Books.

1983 "Blurred genres" "'From the Native's point of view'" In *Local Knowledge*. Basic Books.

Clifford, James

1986 "Partial truths" In *Writing Culture*. University of California Press.

October 27

Abu-Lughod, Lila.

1991 "Writing Against Culture." In *Recapturing Anthropology*, Richard Fox (ed). Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press, pp. 137-162.

Marcus, George

1995 "Multi-sited Ethnography: Ethnography In/Of the World System." Vol. 24: 95-117, October 1995

"On the Unbearable Slowness of Being an Anthropologist Now: Notes on a Contemporary Anxiety in the Making of Ethnography."

Gupta and Ferguson

1997 "Culture" In *Culture, Power, Place*.

October 29

Hall, Stuart

1997 "The work of representation." In *Representation*, Stuart Hall (ed.). Sage Publications.

1992 "Cultural studies and its Theoretical Legacies."

Wood, Brennan

1998 "Stuart Hall's Cultural Studies and the Problem of Hegemony"

PART III: STRUCTURE

November 3

Durkheim, Emile, and Marcel Mauss

1963 *Primitive Classification*. University of Chicago Press.

Durkheim, Emile

1938 "What is a social fact?" In *Rules of the Sociological Method*

Giddens, Anthony

1971 "Durkheim" In *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge University Press.

November 5

Radcliffe-Brown, A.R.

1965 "On the Concept of Function in Social Science" and "On Social Structure" In *Structure and Function in Primitive Society*. Free Press.

Malinowski, Bronislaw

1948 "Magic, science & religion" In *Magic Science and Religion and other Essays*. Doubleday Anchor Books.

Levi-Strauss, Claude

1965 "Introduction: History and Anthropology" "Structural Analysis in Linguistics and in Anthropology" "The Effectiveness of Symbols" in *Structural Anthropology*. Doubleday Anchor Books.

1966 "The Science of the Concrete" In *The Savage Mind*. University of Chicago Press.

November 10

Bourdieu, Pierre

1977 *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Cambridge University Press.

November 12

Foucault, Michel

1978 *History of Sexuality, Vol.1*. Random House, Inc.

Foucault, Michel

1980 "Truth and Power" In *Power/Knowledge*. Pantheon Books.

PART IV: COLONIALISM AND POST-COLONIALISM

November 17

Fanon, Franz

1963 "The pitfalls of national consciousness" In *The Wretched of the Earth*. Grove Press.

1967 "The so-called dependency complex of colonized peoples" In *Black Skin White Masks*.
Grove Press.

Bhabha, Homi

1986 "Remembering Fanon: Self, psyche and the colonial condition"

1994 "Interrogating identity"

November 19

Memmi, Albert

1991 *The Colonizer and the Colonized*. Beacon Books.

November 24

Nandy, Ashis

1988 *The Intimate Enemy*. Oxford University Press.

November 26 – Thanksgiving break

December 1

DeLoria, Jr., Vine

1969 "Anthropologists and other friends" in *Custer Died for Your Sins*. New York: Avon
Books, pp. 83-104.

1997 "Anthros, Indians, and planetary reality" in *Indians and Anthropologists*, Thomas Biolsi
and Larry J. Zimmerman, eds. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, pp. 209-221.

Rose, Wendy

1992 "The great pretenders: further reflections on whitemaniamism" in *The State of Native
America: Genocide, Colonization and Resistance*, M. Annette Jaimes, ed. Boston: South
End Press, pp. 403-421.

Said, Edward

1978 From *Orientalism*.

Spivak, Gayatri

1988 "Can the subaltern speak?" In *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. Cary Nelson
and Lawrence Grossberg (eds.) Urbana Champagne: University of Illinois Press, pp. 271-
316.

December 3

Smith, Linda

1999 *Decolonizing Methodologies*. Zed Books, Ltd.