This course is the first of two graduate courses on social theory/cultural anthropological theory offered by the Department of Anthropology. ANTH 688 is designed as a historical survey of cultural anthropological theory until the mid-1970s. ANTH 689, taught next year, continues the chronology to the present. Cultural anthropology students must take both courses. Archaeology and bio-anthropology students may take one or the other, although ANTH 688 is strongly suggested.

Theoretical frameworks are the basis of analysis and thus it is important to understand their history. Furthermore, the history of social theory has informed the current disciplines of Anthropology and related sister disciplines (Sociology, Folklore, Geography, etc). Although this class follows a kind of “intellectual history” approach that categorizes the evolution of anthropological thought as a progression of “schools,” each leading to the next, we hope to avoid the illusion of a single master narrative for cultural anthropology. Rather, different theories may be said to speak to each other across time.

The class will be run interactively, with discussion and mutual respect. Discussions will foster critique, debate, and some degree of discomfort as we question some of the traditional foundations of theory and analysis. Students will take the lead in discussion (see below). I welcome conversation during office hours, by appointment, or by email or telephone. I have a comment bag available at every class.

**Readings** will be posted on the course blackboard (BB) site. There is no requirement to buy books. However, 3 books have been ordered at the bookstore in case you might find them useful, see below. There are also many other books on anthropological theory to consult.


These websites are useful: http://anthropology.ua.edu/cultures/cultures.php
http://www.anthrobase.com/Browse/home/hst/hist-links.htm

Please turn off hand held digital devices during class.
Plagiarism is not tolerated at the UO. Cases of plagiarism (from other students or published materials) will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Appropriate accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you need accommodation, please make arrangements to meet with me soon.

**Course Objectives:**
- Explain why social theory is important, and what theory explains.
- Trace the major theoretical frameworks in Cultural/Social Anthropology from the 1920s-1970s, in the framework of intellectual history.
- Analyze specific theoretical frameworks such as evolutionism, cultural relativism, functionalism, structuralism, French structuralism, Marxism, materialism, world-systems theory, cultural ecology, psychological anthropology, feminism, and symbolic and interpretive anthropology.
- Explain how these frameworks dialogue with each other.
- Identify the relevance of early social history to current debates in Anthropology and related sister disciplines (Sociology, Folklore, Geography, etc).

**Course requirements**
1. **10%** of the grade is based on attendance. Late arrivals and departures will count as an absence.
2. **25%** of the grade is based on oral participation. Discussion is the mode of the course, and students will lead the class. 10% is based on general participation, and 15% is based on presentations. Students are required to pick approximately 3 dates on which to present and lead discussion in class on the issues raised in the readings. The first date should be approximately during the first 6 classes. Using the Blackboard Discussion Board (under Tools), the presenter is required to post a summary/outline and questions for discussion on the readings prior to the oral presentation (approximately 2 pages, double spaced). In your posting, provide a summary of the main points of the reading, including definitions of key terms; in the interest of sharpening critical faculties, students may wish to comment on the strengths and/or the weaknesses of the author’s arguments. The oral presentation should also include a profile of the author and the context of the publication. **The deadline is 6 PM of the day previous to the presentation.** All students are encouraged to use Discussion Board to post ideas, responses and questions.
3. **30%** of the grade is based on a take-home essay mid-term, **due Monday November 3** in class. Exams will require synthesizing the materials, comparing them, contextualizing them, and critiquing them. You may also bring in other materials if you wish.
4. **35%** of the grade is based on a take-home final, **due Tuesday Dec. 9, 12:15 PM.** The final will concentrate on the second part of the term but there will be opportunities for broad synthesis.

**Grades**
600-level courses in the Department of Anthropology are graded C to A. To pass the course, it is necessary to get at least a B-. If the student does not pass the course, s/he may retake it the following year.
Course Schedule

1. Sept. 29: Introduction to the course. Antecedents to Anthropology.

2. Oct. 1: 19th Century Evolutionism and Boasian Critique/Cultural Relativism


3. Oct. 6: Foundations of Sociological Thought


4. Oct. 8: Functionalism and Structural Functionalism


5. Oct. 13: Functionalism and Structural Functionalism


Optional:


7. Oct. 20: Marxism: Marx, Engels, and Althusser


http://www.iwallerstein.com/intellectual-itinerary/


11. Nov. 3: Psychology and Culture. Midterm Due


12. Nov. 5: Childhood, Gender, and the Individual

Mead, Margaret. Introduction to Coming of Age in Samoa (1928) in P. Erickson and L. Murphy, Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory, Broadview, 155-164.


13. Nov. 10: Lévi-Strauss and French Structuralism


14. Nov 12: Feminism


15. Nov 17: Anthropology of Women: Feminism and Marxism


17. Nov 19: Symbolic Anthropology: Douglas


18. Nov. 24: Interpretive Anthropology: Geertz


18. Nov 26: Interpretive Anthropology: Geertz as Ethnographer


19. Dec 1: Interpretive Anthropology: Beyond Geertz


+TBA

20. Dec 3: Review


Take-home final exam is due Tuesday Dec. 9, 12:15 PM.