SOCIAL THEORY  
Anthropology 304 (CRN 10035)  
MWF 10:15 – 11:20, NH 341  
Fall 2009

Dr. Michele Gamburd  
Phone: (503) 725-3317  
Email: gamburdm@pdx.edu

Office: 141-N Cramer Hall  
Office Hours: MW 11:30-12:30, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This course offers a broad introduction to the study of social structure, from the smallest (family) to the largest (global economy) units of social organization. Beginning with the basic tools for kinship analysis, the class will read contemporary ethnographic essays that provide provocative new theoretical approaches to kinship and gender. We then turn to contemporary issues in the cultural construction of identity (particularly race, ethnicity, class, and nationality). Moving to the global economy, the course provides an introduction to classical social theory (Marx and Weber), followed by an introduction to modernization and dependency theories. Ethnographic examples deal with political economy, migration, and the international division of labor. Designed to give the student exposure to a number of world areas and a series of intellectual tools for analyzing social structure, the course examines patterns of human affiliation from the familial to the global.

COURSE PREREQUISITES  
Before taking Anth 304, students should take Anthropology 103 (Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology) or its equivalent. Anth 304 is designed for anthropology majors and minors only. It will not count for general education requirements, but it will count as general upper-division elective credit.

REQUIRED READINGS  
All class materials are available on Blackboard (see below). You may either read these documents online or print off a copy for personal use.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS  
Students taking this course Pass / No-pass are required to earn at least the equivalent of a ‘C-‘ to pass the class. Anthropology majors and minors must take the class for a grade. Completion of the kinship exercise (5%, P/NP), the first term-test (30%), the second term test (30%) and the third term-test (35%) will form the basis for evaluating student performance.

Policy on illness, emergencies, extensions, and plagiarism  
The H1N1 virus has spread through many colleges and universities across the country. If you feel ill (fever, sore throat, runny nose, headache, cough, aches), please stay home until you have been without fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing
medication. Let the instructor know about your illness. You will not be penalized for illness-related absences, and you will have the opportunity to make up missed assignments.

Whenever possible, requests for extensions on deadlines should be made over email or by telephone message ahead of the due date. Unexcused late papers and exams will lose one letter grade for each day past due except in the event of documented severe illness or emergency. Email submissions will be accepted only under emergency circumstances and then only to document a ‘time stamp.’ Students are responsible for turning in a hardcopy of their work; the instructor only grades on hardcopy. All work must be completed for students to receive a passing grade. Students with a documented disability needing accommodations in this course should immediately inform the instructor.

Plagiarism (intellectual theft) is a very serious academic offense. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will receive a failing grade. You are responsible for reading and understanding the department handout on plagiarism, which is available on Blackboard and on the Anthropology Department web site. Please ask the instructor if you have any questions about this information.

Blackboard

The course syllabus, readings, discussion questions, writing-suggestion documents, plagiarism information, assignment sheets, and test questions will be available on Blackboard. Students can access Blackboard at http://psuonline.pdx.edu/ using their Odin login username and password. If you do not have an Odin account, you can find out how to get one at https://www.account.pdx.edu. Use of Blackboard will be demonstrated on the first day of class. Please contact the instructor if you encounter difficulties in accessing this resource.

Kinship Diagram (5%, Pass/No-pass) due Monday, 12 October.

Students will draw two family trees of their own genealogy. The first diagram should use classical kinship conventions. The second diagram should emphasize more critical, creative, artistic, and innovative conceptualizations of family. Both diagrams will make clear the operative principles and their symbolic representations. Further instructions will be posted on Blackboard. (If you feel at all uncomfortable with the personal nature of this exercise, please ask the instructor for an alternative assignment.)

Term Test #1: Kinship and Family (30%) Take-home test, due Monday, 26 October.

The first term-test will cover material in the first section of the course (Kinship and Family). Students will write two short (2 page) essays. Test questions will be posted on Blackboard. Be sure to follow the formatting, citation, and reference guidelines set forth in the “Guide to writing in anthropology” and “Suggestions for writing short essays” documents posted on Blackboard.

Term Test #2: Power, Politics, and Identity (30%) Take-home test, due Monday, 16 November.
The second term-test will focus on materials from the second section of the course (Power, Politics, and Identity). Students will write two short (2 page) essays. Test questions will be posted on Blackboard. Be sure to follow the formatting, citation, and reference guidelines set forth on Blackboard.

**Term Test #3: Political Economy (35%) Take-home test** due by noon, Weds. 9 December, 141 Cramer Hall.

The third term-test will focus on materials presented in the last section of the class (Political Economy). Students will write two short (2 page) essays. Test questions will be posted on Blackboard. Be sure to follow the formatting, citation, and reference guidelines set forth on Blackboard.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Section 1: Kinship and Family**

The first section of the course provides an introduction to kinship theory, including terminology and kinship diagramming conventions. Readings consist of new approaches to kinship studies that challenge our assumptions about reproduction, personhood, marriage, parenthood, gender roles, and kinship relations.

Ortner, Sherry

Stone, Linda

Collier, Jane and Sylvia Yanagisako

Franklin, Sarah and Susan McKinnon

Weismantel, Mary

Thompson, Charis

Kapadia, Karin
Blackwood, Evelyn

Stack, Carol B.

Stacey, Judith

Edwards, Jane

Read at least 3 of the following 5 short articles on gay marriage:
Stone, Linda

Lancaster, Roger

Peletz, Michael

Sprigg, Peter

American Psychological Association

Section 2: Power, Politics, and Identity
The second section of the course examines contemporary ways of viewing social organization at levels more complex than the family. Students will read theories about identity, with a focus on the cultural construction of race, class, ethnicity, and nationality in relationship with state and colonial power.

Said, Edward

Anderson, Benedict
Section 3: Political Economy

This section addresses economic and political inequalities on the national and global level. We begin with a look at the classical social theorists Marx and Weber and the more recent modernization and dependency theories. We then examine ethnographic cases that focus on the international division of labor and its impact on social relations at the transnational, national, factory, neighborhood, and household levels.

Marx, Karl

Weber, Max

Frank, Andre Gundar

Barnett, Tony
Fernandez-Kelly, Maria Patricia

Harrison, Faye V.

Nicholson, Melanie

Sassen, Saskia
## COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Readings to be discussed, assignments due, films</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Handout: Syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Ortner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>Read: Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Collier and Yanagisako</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Franklin &amp; McKinnon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Weismantel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Due: Kinship diagram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Kapadia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Film: Dadi’s Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Blackwood, Stack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Stacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Edwards, 3 of 5 short articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Review for Term Test #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Due: Term Test #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Film: Cannibal Tours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Anderson (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>Read: Biolsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Ortner, Adams &amp; Gorton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Pelican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>PSU Closed: Veterans Day Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Muehlmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Review for Term Test #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Due: Term Test #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Marx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Weber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Frank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Barnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>PSU Closed: Thanksgiving Day Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Fernandez-Kelly, Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>Read: Nicholson, Sassen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Review for Term Test #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Film: Maquilapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Due: Term-test #3 (Hand in to Anth Dept by noon.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>