Required Reading:


Additional readings on readings are available for download and printing from the Web based system D2L which students access with their Odin account. Please contact the instructor if you encounter difficulties in accessing this resource.

Course Description. This course explores the development of theories of culture within Sociocultural Anthropology, examining the manner in which these theories have shaped both fieldwork practices and the production of ethnographic texts.

Course Prerequisites. This course is designed for anthropology majors and minors, and requires that students have completed at least one introductory course in sociocultural anthropology before enrolling.

Course Format and Requirements. Class sessions will mostly consist of detailed discussions of assigned readings, although additional materials will also be introduced. It is important to complete class readings before the class in which they are discussed. Student evaluations will be based on class attendance (10%) and four essay exams with the first essay worth 15% and the other three essays worth 25% of the final grade.

Essays must be turned in at the scheduled time unless you have notified me ahead of time of an illness or emergency. All other late essays will be graded down by half a grade per day. You must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in the course.

Students registered with DSS should notify the instructor.

Other Announcements:

Plagiarism (intellectual theft) is a very serious academic offense. You are responsible for reading and understanding the department handout on plagiarism, available on the Anthropology Department web site at http://www.anthropology.pdx.edu/docs/plagiarism.pdf. Please ask the instructor if you have any questions about this information.
Any assignment containing plagiarized material will receive a failing grade, and cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Student Life.

**Academic Advising:** Anthropology majors should seek advising at least twice a year from faculty members in the Anthropology Department for advice related to meeting graduation requirements and achieving career goals.

I. The Historical Construction of the Culture Concept
Jan. 7 Introduction

9 Raymond Williams, "Culture" (*Keywords*, pp. 76-82)
Lewis Henry Morgan, Excerpt from *Ancient Society*

II. Culture as Thematic Pattern
Jan. 11 Franz Boas, "The Limitations of the Comparative Method in Anthropology"
Ruth Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*, chaps. 1-2

14 Benedict, chaps. 3-4

16 Benedict, chaps. 5-6
Be prepared to discuss questions posted on D2L

18 **First essay due.** Benedict, chaps. 7-8

21 No Class, Martin Luther King Holiday

III. Symbol, Structure and Meaning


28 "The Story of Asdiwal" Second half.


Feb. 1 Discussion

Feb. 4 **Second Essay Exam Due**
IV. Power, Gender, History

8 Bourdieu, "Structures . . .", second half.

11 Rosalind Shaw, "Gender and the Structuring of Reality in Temne Divination" in Customs in Conflict, Manning and Philibert, eds. (1990), pp.335-360.


15 Continue discussion of Williams


25 Discussion

Feb. 27 Third Essays Due

V. Culture and Postmodernism


15 Discussion

Final Essays due Wednesday, March 20, Noon in Anthropology Department, Cramer 141

First Essay Assignment (15%) Due Friday, January 18

Based on your readings for this class and drawing also on class lecture and discussion, compare and contrast the theories/models of culture advanced by Lewis Henry Morgan and Franz Boas. What were the major strengths and weaknesses of each approach?

(Suggestions: In a short compare/contrast essay, it usually works best to first summarize the main points of each author, then point out where they are similar and different, and what works best/worst for each approach. Remember also to consider these theories in the context of their times. What questions were they seeking to answer and why were these questions important at this point in time?)

Papers should be three double spaced type-written pages in length with regular margins. Your essay should be written in academic style in your own words, avoiding direct quotation, jargon and slang. Aim for accuracy and clarity in your arguments, which should be supported by carefully chosen examples from the reading. Be sure to reference your examples with (Author year: page number). Include a citation/reference list at the end.

While essays are evaluated primarily on content, papers that are poorly written will be graded down, so proof-read carefully before submitting.

Please do not put your name on the front pages of your essay, but write it on the back of the last page.