

**Anth. 110. Anthropological Theory**  
**Santa Clara University, Winter Term 2009**

Instructor: Luis Calero, S.J.  
Office: O'Connor 315, x 2194  
Office Hours: MW 2:30-4:00 PM  
Class Meetings: MWF 9:15-10:20, O'Connor 209  
Email: [lcalero@scu.edu](mailto:lcalero@scu.edu)

### **Introduction**

The field of anthropology has evolved significantly since its early beginnings in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. It has studied various aspects of human society from a number of different perspectives making far-reaching contributions in the areas of human knowledge and action. The purpose of this class is to acquire an understanding of the development of anthropological theory over time, both in terms of its central ideas and the historical and social context in which it developed. It will study the thinkers and the content of their thought, but also the cultural milieu that shaped their questions and interpretations. By examining the major theoretical schools, students will be exposed to the contributions that have accompanied the development of anthropology as a discipline. After taking this class, students will be sufficiently acquainted with anthropology's theoretical framework as to be able to use it in the formulation of their own research and writing.

### **Learning Objectives**

- To learn about the history and evolution of anthropological thought
- To critically assess the value of different theoretical approaches in anthropology
- To help the student ground his/her research in a theoretical framework
- To be able to assess today's globalized world through the interpretations provided by various anthropological schools of thought

### **Course Format**

This course's format will include class lectures, small-group discussions, films, student presentations, and guest speakers. The textbook "*Vision of Culture*" will introduce the major figures in anthropology. These readings will be supplemented by a thematic reading in the field of anthropology as contained in "*Five Key Concepts in Anthropological Thinking*" where students will study how ideas have evolved in the discipline. Additional readings containing original writings of various authors will be posted on Eres. The course will be organized as a seminar in order to increase students' participation.

## Course Requirements

- **Class participation.** Students should be prepared to participate in class discussions by responding to questions and indicating that they have read the assignments.
- **Class attendance is mandatory.** Students with more than three unexcused absences will see their final grade lowered proportionally. Four absences will lower your final way one full level. Only documented absences (a note from a doctor/nurse, your academic advisor, or school representative) will justify your being away from class.
- **Course work assessment:** your class performance will be evaluated as follows:
  1. **A midterm exam** (25%) to be given on Friday, February 13. This multiple-choice and essay exam will be based on all assigned readings, lectures, and films. Students should be prepared to read a section of an author's original text and critique it in terms of its time frame, theoretical perspective, ethnocentric views, and contribution.
  2. **A final exam** (25%) to be given on Wednesday, March 18 at 9:10 AM. This exam will deal with the second half of the course and will keep the same format as the midterm
  3. **Three short-papers** (25%) of 3-4 pages in length. Students will be required to write up to three short papers making connections between today's world affairs and some of the theoretical frameworks presented in class. Examples of these are conflict and war, cultural evolution and adaptation, environmental questions. The exact format of these papers will be discussed at a later date.
  4. **Other:** quizzes, class participation, and class presentations will constitute the final 25% of your total grade.

A	=	94-100	C	=	74-76
A-	=	90-93	C-	=	70-73
B+	=	87-89	D+	=	67-69
B	=	84-86	D	=	64-66
B-	=	80-83	D-	=	60-63
C+	=	77-79	F	=	below 60

## Required Texts

Moore, Jerry D. *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists*. Altamira Press, 2009.

Perry, Richard J. *Five Key Concepts in Anthropological Thinking*. Prentice Hall, 2003.

Levi-Strauss, *Tristes Tropiques*, Penguin Books, 1992.

- Week 1 Founders (Edward Tylor and Lewis Henry Morgan)**
- Jan 5 Introduction to the course, syllabus, roster, class exercise
- Jan 7 Perry's Preface and Chapter 1: *Introduction*, pp. ix-11
- Jan 9 Moore's Introduction (*What's the Point*), and Chapter 1-2 (Edward Tylor: *The Evolution of Culture* and Lewis Henry Morgan: *The Evolution of Society*), pp. 1-17
- Week 2 Founders (Franz Boas and Emile Durkheim)**
- Jan 12 Moore's Chapter 3 (Franz Boas: *Culture in Context*), pp. 33-45
- Jan 14 Moore's Chapter 4 (Emile Durkheim: *The Organic Society*), pp. 46-59
- Jan 16 Movie: Franz Boas
- Week 3 The Nature of Culture (Alfred Kroeber and Ruth Benedict)**
- Jan 19 **Martin Luther King Day**
- Jan 21 Moore's "*The Nature of Culture*" and Chapter 5 (Alfred Kroeber: *Configurations of Culture*), pp. 61-77
- Jan 23 Moore's Chapter 6 (Ruth Benedict: *Patterns of Culture*), pp. 78-87
- Week 4 The Nature of Culture (Margaret Mead)**
- Jan. 26 Moore's Chapter 8 (Margaret Mead: *The Individual and Culture*), pp. 104-116
- Jan 28 Perry's Chapter 2: *The Idea of Evolution*, pp. 12-54
- Jan 30 Movie: Margaret Mead
- Week 5 The Nature of Society (Bronislaw Malinowski, A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, Edward Evans-Pritchard)**
- Feb 2 Moore's "*The Nature of Society*" and Chapter 10 (Bronislaw Malinowski: *The Functions of Culture*), pp. 117-119, 134-146. Film: "*Off the Verandah: Bronislaw Malinoski*."

- Feb 4 Moore's Chapter 11 (A.R. Radcliffe-Brown: *The Structures of Society*), pp. 147-161
- Feb 6 Moore's Chapter 12 (Edward Evans-Pritchard: *Social Anthropology, Social History*), pp. 161-173
- Week 6 Evolutionary, Adaptationist, and Materialist Theories (Leslie White)**
- Feb 9 Moore's Evolutionary, Adaptionist, and Materialist Theories and Chapter 13 (Leslie White: *Evolution Emergent*), pp. 175-193
- Feb 11 Perry's Chapter 3: *The Idea of Culture*, pp. 55-94
- Feb. 13 Midterm exam
- Week 7 Evolutionary, Adaptionist, and Materialist Theories (Julian Steward, Marvin Harris)**
- Feb 16 **President's Day**
- Feb 18 Moore's Chapter 14 (Julian Steward: *Cultural Ecology and Multilinear Evolution*), pp. 194-203
- Feb 20 Moore's Chapter 15 (Marvin Harris: *Cultural Materialism*), pp. 204-216
- Week 8 Structures, Symbols and Meaning (Claude Levi-Strauss, Victor Tuner)**
- Feb 23 Moore's Chapter 17 (Claude Levi-Strauss: *Structuralism*), pp. 227-246
- Feb 25 Moore's Chapter 18 (Victor Turner: *Symbols, Pilgrims and Drama*), pp. 247-258
- Feb 27 Perry's "The Idea of Function," and *Tristes Tropiques*, Parts 1-3, pp. 17-105
- Week 9 Structures, Symbols, and Meaning (Clifford Geertz, Mary Douglas)**
- Mar 2 Moore's Chapter 19 (Clifford Geertz: *An Interpretative Anthropology*), pp. 259-271

Mar 4 Moore's Chapter 20 (Mary Douglas: *Symbols and Structures, Pollution and Purity*), pp. 272-287

Mar 6 *Tristes Tropiques*, Parts 3-6, pp. 107-246

**Week 10 Practice, Agency, Power (Eric Wolf, Marshall Sahlins)**

Mar 9 Moore's Chapter 24 (Eric Wolf: *Culture, History, Power*), pp. 343-363

Mar 11 Moore's Chapter 25 (Marshall Sahlins: *Culture Matters*) and *Postscript* (Current Controversies), pp. 365-392

Mar 13 *Tristes Tropiques*, Parts 7-9, pp. 247-415

**Final Exam: Wednesday, March 18 @ 9:10 AM**

**Academic Integrity Policy:** "The University is committed to academic excellence and integrity. Students are expected to do their work and to cite any sources they use. Engaging in any form of academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism, cheating or acts generally understood to be dishonest by faculty or students in an academic context will subject students to disciplinary action. A student guilty of dishonest acts may receive a grade of F for the course. They will be reported to the Office of Student Life, and may be immediately dismissed from the University." (SCU Undergraduate Bulletin and Community Handbook)

**Disability Accommodation Policy.** "To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in the Drahrman Center in Benson, room 214, (408) 554-4111. Students must provide documentation of a disability to Disability Resources prior to receiving accommodations

**Anthropology Department.** This course is required of all majors and minors in anthropology