

# Anthropology Department

## History of Anthropological Theories

Fall 2011

**Lecturer:** Rahimov Ruslan, PhD

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**Office hours:** Monday 11-12.20, Wednesday 11-12.20

**Time and venue Monday:** 9.25, room 220

**Wednesday:** 9.25, room 309

### Description of the course

This course is one of the core fields for the curriculum. As any discipline, social anthropology has been developing in connecting with the history and social circumstances. The course seeks to explore the appearance and development of the essential anthropological currents and concepts. We will make an attempt to discuss the evolution of anthropological theories also in terms of national traditions: English, American, French, German and Soviet.

At the end of the course the students will learn precursors of anthropology; evolutionism in all its guises; diffusions and culture area theories, functionalism and structural-functionalism; action-centered theories; processual and Marxist perspectives. This course aims to develop of critical and writing skills, as well as improve reading capacities.

### Key readings

- Alan Barnard, “History and theory in anthropology», Cambridge University Press 2000,
- Salzman Philip Carl, “Understanding culture: an introduction to anthropological theory”, Waveland Press.
- Paul Erickson and Liam Murphy, “A History of anthropological theory”

### Assignments:

<b>Oral Participation:</b>	30 %
<b>6 Short Papers (1-2 pp):</b>	30 %
<b>Mid term exam:</b>	15 %
<b>Final project and presentation (5-6 pp):</b>	25 %

### Attendance

Attendance is required. Attendance will be checked in the beginning of each class period. If you are late you will not be allowed to the class. Or, you can be allowed to the class but will get an absence in the attendance list.

If you got sick, you have to notify an instructor or the office manager in advance, and later submit an official document (spravka) from a physician, especially if you are scheduled to make a class presentation. **Four unexcused absences** will result in “X” for the whole course. Participation will be graded based on active participation, which 1) demonstrates awareness of the subject;2)shows knowledge of the reading;3) shows ability to criticize the topic.

**Moodle system:** Most of readings, texts and presentation can be found on the e-course. Students are expected to participate in the forums as well as uploading different texts. This participation will be also one of the evaluation criteria's.

### **6 Short papers**

*Short reflection paper will be mainly based on reading critique of one of the articles, which will be provided in advance. Student has to discuss author's arguments. Samples will be posted on the Moodle course site (click political anthropology, enrollment key: ANTH 376). Papers should be given in a printed form.*

### **Deadlines**

Papers must be submitted to the office manager of Anthropology Department before the deadline (moodle system can be also used). The time you submit will be recorded by the office manager and confirmed by your signature. Papers and assignments submitted beyond the deadline will not be accepted or graded. Deadlines can only be extended upon prior permission request and for medical reasons. Only those late papers with valid or legitimate excuse will be accepted but penalized that will affect the final grade for the assignment. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade (i. E. A- to B+).

### **Mid Term exam**

Exam will be in-class writing and will be based on 4 questions based on class topics, student should select two of them.

### **Final paper and presentation**

Each student is expected to choose one concept based on class readings (e.g.: cultural evolutionism, relativism, cultural area, practice etc.) and write a paper (5-6 papers, 12, double-spaced) which will be presented in class. It should be an analysis with evaluation, critique of the selected concept, outlining its genesis, meaning, advantages, limitations and your understanding of its importance for contemporary anthropology. Presentation may be limited to: 1) an overview of your analysis, 2) a reflection on the impact of the term on your understanding.

### **Grading scale:**

A =100-95	C =76-73
A-=94-90	C-=72-70
B+=89-87	D+=69-67
B =86-83	D =66-63
B-=82-80	D-=62-60
C+=79-77	F =59 and less

### **Mobile phones**

Mobile phones and other electronic devices must be off while you are attending the class.

### **Plagiarism**

***Plagiarism will not be tolerated during the course.*** Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas and representing them as your own original work. You must either paraphrase the sentence by putting it completely in your own words and citing it with the proper footnote,

endnote or in text citation, or put the quotation marks or make block quotation if you use the direct words of the source without any change with the following footnote, endnote or other citation after the copied words. All information must be cited. Always cite a legitimate source. Wikipedia is not a legitimate source. Books published by university presses and academic papers found on JSTOR are legitimate sources.

**Cheating will not be tolerated during the course** Cheating is the use of unauthorized sources during exams such as books, student's notes, cellular phones, etc.

### **Class presentations**

If you fail to make a class presentation on time, you will not be given a second chance to do it and lose those points assigned for the presentation.

**Note: no laptops are allowed during the class.**

### **Appeals**

If you don't agree with your grade for an assignment, you must submit a written appeal for the name of the Anthropology Department Head explaining the reasons of your disagreement. Oral appeals are not considered.

### **Class Syllabus**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the class outline, exam dates or assignment. It is your responsibility to attend the class and be informed of any changes to the syllabus.

#### **1 week**

Introduction to the anthropological theory

#### **2 week**

##### **Precursors in anthropology, discovery**

Historical factor in anthropology

#### **3 week Historical particularism**

BOAS Frantz, The Methods of Ethnology

KROEBER Alfred, What anthropology is about?

#### **4 week**

##### **Culture and Personality**

RUTH BENEDICT

"Psychological Types in the Cultures of the Southwest",

Anthropological Theory, R. John McGee, Richard L. Warms

216-230,

#### **5 week Functionalism and Structural-functionalism**

A. Barnard (pp.61-79)

BENEDICT Ruth, The individual and the pattern of Culture

#### **6 week**

MEAD Margaret, Introduction (Coming of age in Samoa)

Meyer FORETS and EVANS\_PRITCHARD, Introduction (African Political system)

**7 week**

RADCLIFFE\_BROWN Alfred, Social Structure

MALINOWSKI Bronislaw, The subject, method and scope of this inquiry  
(Argonauts of the Western Pacific), The essentials of Kula

***Recommended reading:***

British Social Anthropology: A Retrospective: Jonathan Spencer

**8 week**

**Mid Term exam! (Essay-4 questions).**

**9 week**

No classes

**10 week Sociological background**

**E.DURKHEIM AND M. MAUSS,**

“What is social fact?”

“The Gift”

**11-week Guest lecturers and films**

Debate: Interaction of sociology and anthropology

Film: The Kawelka of Papua, New Guinea

**12 week Marx and anthropology**

MAX WEBER, The sociology of Charismatic Authority

K.MARX and F.ENGELS, Bourgeois and Proletarians

**13 week**

**Soviet anthropology**

BROMLEY's theory of ethnos

TISHKOV V: US and anthropology in Soviet Union

**14 week Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology**

CLIFFORD GEERTZ – “Thick Description”

VICTOR TURNER – “Symbols in Ndembu Ritual”

**15 week**

National traditions and the future of anthropological theory

A. Barnard, pp. 178-184

December 1-3

**16-week: Presentations**