

**ANTHROPOLOGY 210.01**  
 Development of Anthropological Thought  
 Spring 2015  
 TR 12:15-1:30 ECTR 114

Dr. Hector Qirko  
 Office Hours: MW 10:30 am -12:00 pm,  
 TR 10:30-11:00 am and 1:30-2:30 pm, and by appointment

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**Course description:** This course is a survey of major theoretical paradigms used by anthropologists to attempt to understand human social and cultural behavior. While the course is historical in nature, and thus emphasizes the ways anthropological theory have changed over time, it also explores the degree to which different theoretical movements remain relevant to anthropological pursuits today. Therefore its objectives are both to discuss major anthropological theories (including their assumptions, functional relationships, operational definitions, and major concepts and predictions) and to explore the relationship between theory and research methods, data, and data analyses in the anthropological literature. More broadly, the course will provide you an opportunity to work on active and critical reading, research, analytical, writing, and oral discussion skills. Ultimately, one of the most important benefits of an anthropological perspective is that it encourages examination of taken-for-granted assumptions about people and groups. The course's focus on different theoretical perspectives related to human culture and behavior should therefore facilitate this most fundamental area of critical thinking.

**Textbook:** McGee, R. J., & Warms, R. L. (2012). *Anthropological theory: An introductory history* (5<sup>th</sup> edition). New York: McGraw- Hill. ISBN 978-0-07-803488-6. (NOTE: there should be plenty of used copies available.)

**Additional readings:** All additional required readings will be available either electronically at the course Oaks site or via internet links listed below. Please contact me or the Helpdesk ([Helpdesk@cofc.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@cofc.edu), 843 953-5457) with any questions regarding access to Oaks.

You are expected to read selections **prior** to class periods for which they are assigned (see course schedule). Announcements regarding reading updates, revisions, and other relevant topics will be made in class and via email.

**Course structure:** Class periods will consist of lectures, discussion of topics and readings, and occasional films.

**Graded work:** Course grade will be based on three exams (20% each), three critical analysis papers (10% each), class participation (10%), and extra-credit quizzes (up to 5 course grade points).

**Grade scale:**

A 92-100%; A- 90-91; B+ 88-89; B 82-87; B- 80-81; C+ 78-79; C 72-77; C- 70-71; D+ 68-69; D 62-67; D- 60-61; F 59 or below.

**Requirements:**

Exams:

There will be three in-class, short essay exams designed to ensure course engagement and understanding of specific materials covered in readings, lectures, class discussion, and films (on 2/17, 3/26, and 5/5). You will be expected to identify specific authors and researchers and relate them to their work as read, viewed, or discussed. Exams missed due to excused and documented absences can be made-up on 4/28

(Reading Day) at 10:00 a.m., location TBA. You **must** contact me prior to that date if you need to make up a test.

#### Critical analysis papers:

You will be responsible for three short (3-4 page) papers. One (due 2/5) will be an examination of anthropological theory as used, explicitly or implicitly, in an ethnographic video. The others will be analyses of research articles related to two different topic sections covered in the course (due 3/17 and 4/23). Guidelines and related resources will be posted on Oaks and discussed in class.

Papers will be graded for content, organization, and presentation (including clarity of writing, grammar, and spelling). You may submit drafts for content and editorial feedback prior to due dates.

#### Class participation:

Class attendance, engagement, and participation are essential for success in this course, as much of the material on exams will stem directly from class work. The class participation grade (10% of course grade) will be based entirely on your semester-long contributions to in-class discussion of course material. While attendance will not be taken, you are (obviously) expected to attend class, and are responsible for all information disseminated in the course, whether present or not. If you must miss a class, obtain notes from classmates and feel free to meet with me during office hours to discuss them.

For absences that require documentation (exam and assignment due dates, as well as extended absences related to health, personal or emergency situations), you must complete and turn in the appropriate forms to 67 George St. (more information and downloadable forms at <http://studenthealth.cofc.edu/absence-memo/index.php>).

#### Extra-credit quizzes:

In order to reward consistent attendance and the timely reading/viewing of course materials, six short extra-credit quizzes will be given at the beginning of selected class periods. Each quiz will be worth 1% of course grade, for a maximum extra credit of 5 course grade points.

**Honor code:** Violations of the honor code will be taken seriously. If you need reminding, you can find the complete code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>. As plagiarism is a common (and sometimes unintentional) infraction, I recommend that you watch the “You quote it, you note it” tutorial video ([http://www.sunywcc.edu/cms/wp-content/uploads/2013/library\\_files/flash/](http://www.sunywcc.edu/cms/wp-content/uploads/2013/library_files/flash/)) and/or read the material from the Purdue Online Writing Lab (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/1/>).

**Additional resources:** Any problems with any aspect of the course, don't hesitate to meet with me. Also, there are many good online articles on critical skills helpful to navigating this course and others. For example:

Critical thinking

[http://www.criticalthinking.org/files/Concepts\\_Tools.pdf](http://www.criticalthinking.org/files/Concepts_Tools.pdf)

Active reading

<http://www.mycollegesuccessstory.com/academic-success-tools/active-reading.html>

<http://www.mycollegesuccessstory.com/academic-success-tools/advanced-reading.html>

Critical reading

[http://www.criticalreading.com/critical\\_reading.htm](http://www.criticalreading.com/critical_reading.htm)

Effective writing

[http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/How\\_to\\_Write\\_a\\_Research\\_Paper.htm](http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/How_to_Write_a_Research_Paper.htm)

And don't forget that you can always make use of the walk-in labs and individualized tutoring for working on your study, writing, and presentation skills at the Center for Student Learning (<http://csl.cofc.edu/about-the-CSL/index.php>).

**Special needs:** If you have a documented disability and have been approved to receive accommodations through SNAP Services (<http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/>), please feel free to discuss related issues with me at any time during office hours or by appointment.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

*Note: Subject to revision. Assigned textbook (M&W) readings are listed by chapter number (you are also responsible for the section introductions to chapters). Additional readings (available from the course Oaks site) are listed by author last name and the last two years of date of publication. Links to assigned online material (including "U of A" and others listed in order) are found below the course schedule.*

1/13	Introduction to course	
1/15	What is theory, and why does it matter?	M&W intro, Link A, B, C
1/20	Evolutionism, 1 <sup>st</sup> wave	Link C (UofA 1), M&W 1
1/22	“	M&W 2, 3
1/27	Marx and Engels, Durkheim	M&W 4, 5
1/29	Mauss, Weber	Mauss 88, M&W 7
2/3	Historical particularism	UofA 2, M&W 8
2/5	“	M&W 9, 10 [video paper due]
2/10	Functionalism	UofA 3, Radcliffe-Brown 88
2/12	“	M&W 11, 13
2/17	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
2/19	Culture and personality	UofA 4, M&W 15
2/24	Evolutionism, 2 <sup>nd</sup> wave	Sahlins 88
2/26	Cultural ecology	UofA 5, Steward 88
3/3, 5	<b>Spring break</b>	
3/10	Cultural materialism	UofA 6, Harris 88
3/12	Structuralism	UofA 7, de Saussure 16
3/17	Structuralism	M&W 22, 23 [research paper 1 due]
3/19	Ethnoscience and cognitive anthropology	UofA 8
3/24	“	M&W 24, 25
3/26	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
3/31	Evolutionism, 3 <sup>rd</sup> wave	M&W 26, Laden 13
4/2	“	M&W 27, Buss 89
4/7	Anthropology and gender	UofA 9, M&W 29
4/9	Symbolic and interpretive anthropology	UofA 10, M&W 33, Hutson 00
4/14	“	M&W 31, DaMatta 82

4/16	Postmodernism	UofA 11, M&W 36
4/21	“	M&W 37, 38
4/23	Globalization (and course evaluations)	M&W 39, 40 [research paper 2 due]
5/5	<b>EXAM 3:</b> 12:00-3:00 pm	

## INTERNET LINKS

### Link A: Study Guides and Strategies: reading difficult material

<http://www.studygs.net/texred1.htm>

### Link B: Anthropological theory timeline

<http://timerime.com/en/timeline/886491/History+of+Anthropological+Theory/>

### Link C: Engaging anthropological theory timeline

<http://www.routledge.com/cw/moberg-9780415809160/s1/timeline/>

**University of Alabama Anthropology Department: Anthropological Theories** (In schedule, noted as “U of A”, followed by number matching topic titles below – use website pull-down menu to reach topics.)

<http://anthropology.ua.edu/cultures/cultures.php>

1. Social Evolutionism
2. Historicism
3. Functionalism
4. Culture and Personality
5. Ecological Anthropology
6. Cultural Materialism
7. Structuralism
8. Cognitive Anthropology
9. Feminist Anthropology
10. Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology
11. Postmodernism and its Critics

## FILMS:

*We will also view portions of some of the following in class – details and scheduling TBA.*

Franz Boas - The Shackles of Tradition  
 Strange Beliefs: Sir Edward Evans-Pritchard  
 Sir Walter Baldwin Spencer: Fieldwork  
 Margaret Mead and Samoa  
 Bronislaw Malinowski: Off the Veranda  
 The Charcoal People  
 Femmes aux Yeux Ouverts