

**ANTHROPOLOGY 210.01**  
 Development of Anthropological Thought  
 Spring 2018  
 TR 3:05-4:20 RSS 106

Dr. Hector Qirko  
 Office Hours: MW 10:30 am -12:00 pm,  
 TR 9:00-10:00 am and 1:00-2:30 pm, and by appointment

88 Wentworth, room 105  
 953-8185 (my office), -5738 (dept.)  
[qirkoh@cofc.edu](mailto:qirkoh@cofc.edu)

**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 has changed over time, it also explores the degree to which different theoretical movements remain relevant to anthropological pursuits today.

**Course objectives and student learning outcomes:** Students will

- learn major anthropological theories (including their assumptions, functional relationships, operational definitions, and major concepts and predictions) as they have been developed and applied through the discipline's history;
- explore the relationship between theory and research methods, data, and data analyses, and their presentation in the anthropological literature;
- examine how anthropological theory relates to taken-for-granted societal assumptions about people and groups; and
- improve their active and critical reading, research, analytical, writing, and oral discussion skills.

**Textbook:** McGee, R. J., & Warms, R. L. (2017). *Anthropological theory: An introductory history* (6th<sup>h</sup> edition). New York: McGraw- Hill. ISBN-13: 978-1442257023; ISBN-10: 1442257024

**Additional readings:** All additional required readings and materials will be available either electronically at the course Oaks site or via internet links listed below. Please contact me with any access issues as soon as possible. You are expected to read selections **prior** to class periods for which they are assigned (see course outline below). 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), and class participation (10%).

**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.

**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 2/13, 3/15, and 5/1). You will be expected to identify specific authors and researchers and relate them to their work as read, viewed, or discussed. Study guides will be provided. Exams missed due to **excused and documented absences** can be made-up on 4/24 (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 (ca.4 page) papers. One (due 2/1) 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 3/6 and 4/19). 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 at any time 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 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 (prepared by having done the relevant readings) and are responsible for all information disseminated in the course. If you must miss a class, obtain notes from classmates and feel free to meet with me during office hours or by appointment 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>).

**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 see me as soon as possible, and 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.*

1/9	Introduction to course	
1/11	What is theory, and why does it matter?	M&W intro, Link A
1/16	Evolutionism, 1 <sup>st</sup> wave	Link B (UofA "social evolutionism"), M&W 1
1/18	“	M&W 2, 3
1/23	Marx and Engels, Durkheim	M&W 4, 5
1/25	Mauss, Weber	Mauss 88, M&W 7
1/30	Historical particularism	UofA "historicism", M&W 8
2/1	“	M&W 9, 10 [ <b>critical analysis 1 due</b> ]
2/6	Functionalism	UofA "functionalism", Radcliffe-Brown 88
2/8	“	M&W 11, 13
2/13	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
2/15	Culture and personality	UofA "culture & personality", M&W 15
2/20	Evolutionism, 2 <sup>nd</sup> wave	Sahlins 88
2/22	Cultural ecology	UofA "ecological anth", Steward 88
2/27	Cultural materialism	UofA "cultural materialism", Harris 88
3/1	Structuralism	UofA "structuralism", de Saussure 16
3/6	Structuralism	M&W 22, 23 [ <b>critical analysis 2 due</b> ]
3/8	Ethnoscience and cognitive anthropology	UofA "cognitive anth", M&W 24, 25
3/13	Evolutionism, 3 <sup>rd</sup> wave	M&W 26, Laden 13
3/15	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
<b>3/20-22</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
3/27	Evolutionism, 3 <sup>rd</sup> wave, pt 2	M&W 27, Buss 89
3/29	Anthropology and gender	UofA "feminist anth", M&W 29
4/3	Symbolic and interpretive anthropology	UofA "symbolic...anth", M&W 33, Hutson 00
4/5	<b>No class</b> (hq at conference)	
4/10	Symbolic and interpretive anthropology, pt 2	M&W 31, DaMatta 82

4/12	Postmodernism	UofA “postmodernism...”, M&W 36
4/17	“	M&W 37, 38
4/19	Globalization (and course evaluations)	M&W 39, 40 [ <b>critical analysis 3 due</b> ]
5/1	<b>EXAM 3:</b> 4:00-7:00 pm	

## INTERNET LINKS

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

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

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

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

## **FILMS:**

*We will also view portions of some of the following (and perhaps others) 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