

# Syllabus for Anthropological Thought and Praxis I

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ANTH 5010 University of North Texas  
Dr. Christina Wasson  
Fall 2006

## Course Description

This course is an overview of the intellectual history of social and cultural anthropology. As such, it is an account of different authors' ideas, with the emphasis placed on their major contributions to the development of anthropology. Special emphasis is given to the development of anthropological thought in the application of anthropological knowledge.

This course is taught as a seminar. Students will engage in critical analysis and reflection on the development of anthropological theory. Four themes will guide discussions:

- **Ethnographic authority.** How have anthropologists persuaded the readers of their texts that what they wrote was valid and important? How have they created their status as experts?
- **“Us” versus “the other.”** It is common for people to think about their own group (“us”) as separate and different from other groups (“the other”). In what ways have anthropologists implicitly or explicitly defined “us” and “the other” in their writings? How have these definitions changed over time?
- **Using theory to solve social problems.** How do the theoretical frameworks anthropologists use shape their understandings of particular social problems? How do those frameworks shape the approaches anthropologists develop to address social problems?
- **The genealogy of ideas.** In what ways did famous anthropologists build on the ideas of other scholars who came before them? In what ways were their theories a reaction against other scholars?

## Office Hours and Communication with Instructor

My office is Chilton 330D. My office hours are Tu 3-5. I would also be happy to meet at other times. You can make an appointment by calling me at 940 565 2752, or emailing me at [cwasson@unt.edu](mailto:cwasson@unt.edu).

## Online Course Resources

The syllabus and various other course materials are available on the web, at <http://courses.unt.edu/cwasson/atp1-2004> .

There is an email list for the class. Its address is [anth-5010-001@unt.edu](mailto:anth-5010-001@unt.edu).

## Required Texts

In this course, you will be reading 1) an overview book and 2) a set of “classic” articles and book chapters that were written over the last hundred years or so.

1. The book is available at the UNT bookstore. It is:  
Eriksen, Thomas Hylland and Finn Sivert Nielsen. 2001. *A History of Anthropology*.  
London: Pluto Press.

The book is also on 2-hour reserve at Willis Library.

2. The articles are available through the electronic course reserves at the library, at <http://iii.library.unt.edu/screens/course.html> . You will need the following information to access the articles:  
Your UNT ID  
Your library PIN (if you don't have one, you will be assisted in creating one)  
The course password: **anth 5010**

The reading assignments for each week are summarized in the course schedule, below, and they are spelled out in detail at the end of the syllabus. Readings are **not** optional. Students will be thoroughly tested on them.

## Course Requirements

**1. Attendance and participation in classroom discussions (20%).** As a graduate seminar, participation is very important in this course. Your participation grade will be based on the following elements:

- Do you demonstrate that you have completed the assigned readings
- Do you offer thoughtful analyses, reflections, and critiques of the topics discussed in class
- Do your comments build on the comments of other class members
- Are you usually present in class (if you have more than two unexcused absences, your grade will go down)

You are responsible for all materials and announcements presented in class, whether or not you were there.

**2. Midterm (20%) and final (30%).** These exams will test you on your developing understanding of the evolution of anthropological thought. They will cover information contained in the readings and presented in class. Both will be essay exams. The midterm is due October 16 and the final is due December 11. Instructions for the midterm will be made available two weeks before the due date. Instructions for the final will be made available three weeks before the due date.

**3. Leading class discussion (30%).** Once during the semester, you will lead the class discussion of that day's topic. You will receive separate instructions for this activity.

## **Plagiarism Policy**

The department of anthropology considers graduate students to be new members of the community of professional anthropologists, who are thus held to the high ethical standards of practicing professionals. They are expected to follow the American Anthropological Association's code of ethics: "*Anthropological researchers bear responsibility for the integrity and reputation of their discipline, of scholarship, and of science. Thus, anthropological researchers are subject to the general moral rules of scientific and scholarly conduct: they should not deceive or knowingly misrepresent (i.e., fabricate evidence, falsify, plagiarize), or attempt to prevent reporting of misconduct, or obstruct the scientific/scholarly research of others*" (<http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/ethcode.htm>). Any work not meeting this standard will be evaluated in a hearing before the student; infractions will merit dismissal from the master's program.

For more information on paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism, and how to use citations, see <http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm>. For information on the University's policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>.

## **Non-Discrimination Policy**

It is the policy of the University of North Texas not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability (where reasonable accommodations can be made), disabled veteran status or veteran of the Vietnam era status in its educational programs, activities, admissions or employment policies. In addition to complying with federal and state equal opportunity laws and regulations, the university through its diversity policy declares harassment based on individual differences (including sexual orientation) inconsistent with its mission and education goals. Direct questions and concerns to the Equal Opportunity Office, 940 565 2456, or the Dean of Students, 940 565 2648. TDD access is available through Relay Texas, 800 735 2989.

Anthropology does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The program provides academic adjustments and aid to individuals with disabilities in its programs and activities. If you have a disability, you are

strongly advised to contact the Office of Disability Accommodations (UU 318A) or by telephone at 940 565 4323. **It is the responsibility of the student to make the necessary arrangements with the instructors.**

## Course Schedule

The readings that are available from the library’s electronic course reserves are identified here by author’s last name and year; for full information, see the next section of the syllabus.

The course is organized around the following structure:

- Week 1 deals with administrative and introductory issues
- Weeks 2-3 provide you with tools to analyze the rest of the readings
- Weeks 4-13 cover the history of ideas in anthropology
- Week 14 helps you start to put together your own toolbox of anthropological ideas and theories, that will be useful to you in your career
- Week 15 is a review

For the history of ideas in anthropology (weeks 4-13), I have primarily assigned original materials written by famous anthropologists.

In addition, I have assigned chapters from the textbook. The purpose of the textbook is to provide you with a context for the other readings. The textbook describes broader trends in anthropology; it goes over scholars whose work we don’t have time to cover in depth; and it gives you the political, economical, and cultural contexts that surrounded the writing of your assigned articles.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Lesson</b>
1 Aug 28	N/A	Welcome to the Course
2 Sep 4	Clifford 1983 Narayan 1993	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY
3 Sep 11	Klinenberg 2002a Klinenberg 2002b Klinenberg 2002c	Critical Analysis of Readings and Using Theory to Solve Problems
4 Sep 18	<i>History</i> Ch.2, Ch.3:36-41 Morgan – selections Boas – selections	The Very Model of a Modern Anthropology
5 Sep 25	<i>History</i> Ch.4:54-66, Ch.7:133 (“Just as the sociobiology...”)- 134 Mead 1928 Benedict 1934	Culture and Personality

6 Oct 2	<i>History</i> Ch.3:41-47, 50-53 Malinowski 1922 Radcliffe-Brown – selections	Functionalism, Part 1 <b>Receive Instructions for Midterm</b>
7 Oct 9	<i>History</i> Ch.4:69-73 Evans-Pritchard 1937	Functionalism, Part 2
8 Oct 16	<i>History</i> Ch.6:101 (“After Boas’ death”...)-128 Geertz 1973 Wolf 1982	Interpretive Anthropology and Political Economy <b>Midterm Due</b>
9 Oct 23	<i>History</i> Ch.8:135-143 Foucault 1977	Poststructural Approaches
10 Oct 30	<i>History</i> Ch.7:128-130 Bourdieu 1990a Bourdieu 1990b	Poststructural Approaches
11 Nov 6	Nader 1972 Nader 1997 Nader 2001	Studying Up
12 Nov 13	<i>History</i> Ch.9:169-175 Bestor 1999 Yan 1997	Globalization and Consumption
13 Nov 20	Traweek 1988	Studies of Science and Technology <b>Receive Instructions for Final Exam</b>
14 Nov 27	Schwartzman 1993 Wasson 2000 OR Scheper-Hughes and Lock 1987 Kleinman et al. 1978 OR LeCompte and Preissle 1992 Foley 1991 OR Malkki 1995 Brettell 2000	Your Area of Interest: Business Anthropology OR Medical Anthropology OR Anthropology of Education OR Migration/Border Studies
15 Dec 4	N/A	Review
Finals Dec 11		<b>Final Exam Due</b>

## Readings Available through Library's Electronic Course Reserves

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- WEEK 2** Clifford, James. 1983. On ethnographic authority. *Representations* 1(2):118-146.  
Narayan, Kirin. 1993. How native is a "native" anthropologist? *American Anthropologist* 95(3):671-686.
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- WEEK 3** Klinenberg, Eric. 2002. *Heat wave: a social autopsy of disaster in Chicago (Illinois)*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. The following chapters:
- Prologue: The Urban Inferno, 1-13
  - Introduction: The City of Extremes. 14-36
  - Chapter 2: Race, Place, and Vulnerability, 79-128
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- WEEK 4** Bohannan, Paul and Mark Glazer, eds. 1973. Lewis Henry Morgan. In *High points in anthropology*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 29-60.  
Stocking, George W., ed. 1974. *The shaping of American anthropology 1883-1911: a Franz Boas reader*. New York: Basic Books. The following sections:
- Introduction: The Basic Assumptions of Boasian Anthropology
  - 3. "The Background of My Early Thinking"
  - 8. The Aims of Ethnology
  - Part III. The Pattern of Boas' Fieldwork
  - Part V. The Analytical Study of Language
  - Part VI. The Critique of Formalism in Physical Anthropology
  - 30. Instability of Human Types
  - 47. Scientists as Spies
  - 48. Freedom to Teach
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- WEEK 5** Mead, Margaret. 1973 [1928]. *Coming of age in Samoa: a psychological study of primitive youth for western civilization*. Washington, DC: American Museum of Natural History. The following chapters:
- Introduction, 1-8
  - A day in Samoa, 8-11
  - The education of the Samoan child, 11-21
  - The experience and individuality of the average girl, 73-87
- Benedict, Ruth. 1934. *Patterns of Culture*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. The following sections:
- Acknowledgements, ix-x
  - Dionysian versus Apollonian cultures, 79-81
  - The northwest coast of America, 156-195
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- WEEK 6** Bohannan, Paul and Mark Glazer, eds. 1973. A. R. Radcliffe-Brown. In *High points in anthropology*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 294-316.
- Malinowski, Bronislaw. 1950 [1922]. *Argonauts of the western Pacific: an account of native enterprise and adventure in the archipelagos of Melanesian New Guinea*. New York: E.P. Dutton & Co. The following chapters:
- The subject, method and scope of this inquiry, 1-25
  - The natives of the Trobriand Islands, 49-80
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- WEEK 7** Evans-Pritchard, E.E. 1976 [1937]. *Witchcraft, oracles and magic among the Azande*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. The following chapters:
- Witchcraft is an organic and hereditary phenomenon, 1-17
  - The notion of witchcraft explains unfortunate events, 18-32
  - Sufferers from misfortune seek for witches among their enemies, 33-55
  - The poison oracle in daily life, 120-145
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- WEEK 8** Geertz, Clifford. 1973. *The interpretation of cultures*. New York: Basic Books. The following chapters:
- Deep play: notes on the Balinese cockfight, 412-453
- Wolf, Eric R. 1982. *Europe and the people without history*. Berkeley: University of California Press. The following chapters:
- Introduction, 3-23
  - The new laborers, 354-383
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- WEEK 9** Foucault, Michel. 1977. *Discipline and punish: the birth of the prison*. Trans. Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books. The following chapters:
- Docile bodies, 135-169
  - The means of correct training, 170-194
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- WEEK 10** Bourdieu, Pierre. 1990a. The scholastic point of view. *Cultural Anthropology* 5(4):380-391.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1990b. Symbolic capital. In *The logic of practice*. Trans. Richard Nice. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 112-121.
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- WEEK 11** Nader, Laura. 1972. Up the anthropologist – perspectives gained from studying up. In *Reinventing anthropology*, ed. Dell Hymes. New York: Random House/Vintage, 284-311.
- Nader, Laura. 1997. Controlling processes: tracing the dynamic components of power. *Current Anthropology* 38(5):711-737.
- Nader, Laura. 2001. Breaking the silence – politics and professional autonomy. *Anthropological Quarterly* 75(1):161-169.
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- WEEK 12** Bestor, Theodore C. 1999. Wholesale sushi: culture and commodity in Tokyo's Tsukiji market. In *Theorizing the city: the new urban anthropology reader*, ed. Setha Low. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 201-242.
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Yan, Yunxiang. 1997. McDonald's in Beijing: the localization of Americana. In *Golden arches east: McDonald's in east Asia*, ed. James L. Watson. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 39-76.

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- WEEK 13** Traweek, Sharon. 1988. *Beamtimes and lifetimes: the world of high energy physicists*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. The following chapters:
- Prologue: an anthropologist studies physicists, 1-17
  - Pilgrim's progress: male tales told during a life in physics, 74-105
  - Ground states: distinctions and the ties that bind, 106-125

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**WEEK 14 Business Anthropology**

Schwartzman, Helen. 1993. Studying up and studying down. In *Ethnography in Organizations*. Newbury Park: Sage, 27-46.

Wasson, Christina. 2000. Ethnography in the field of design. *Human Organization* 59(4):377-388.

**Medical Anthropology**

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and Lock, Margaret. 1987. The mindful body: a prolegomenon to future work in medical anthropology. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1(1): 6-41.

Kleinman, Arthur, Leon Eisenberg, and Byron Good. 1978. Culture, illness, and care: clinical lessons from anthropological and cross-cultural research. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 88:251-258.

**Anthropology of Education**

LeCompte, Margaret D. and Preissle, Judith. 1992. Toward an ethnology of student life in schools and classrooms synthesizing the qualitative research tradition. In *The Handbook of Qualitative Research in Education.*, ed. Margaret D.

LeCompte, Wendy L. Millroy, and Judith Preissle. San Diego: Academic Press, 815-860.

Foley, Douglas. 1991. Reconsidering anthropological explanations of ethnic school failure. *Anthropology & Education Quarterly* 22:60-83.

**Migration and Border Studies**

Malkki, Liisa. 1995. Refugees and exile: From "Refugee Studies" to the national order of things. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24:495-523.

Brettell, Caroline B. 2000. Theorizing migration in anthropology: the social construction of networks, identities, communities, and globalscapes. In *Migration theory: talking across disciplines*, ed. C. B. Brettell and J. F. Hollifield. New York: Routledge, 97-135.

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