

University of Texas at El Paso
The Department of Sociology and Anthropology

THEORY IN ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTH 4380
CRN 23360
Course Syllabus
Spring 2023

Course Instructor: Olga Lauter, Assistant Professor of Instruction

Email: olauter@utep.edu

Telephone: 915-747-6679

Lecture Location: Liberal Arts Building 211

Class Meeting Times: Tuesday/Thursday, 10:30 am - 11:50 am

Duration: Tuesday 01/17/2023 through Thursday 05/04/2023

Instructor's Office Location: Old Main Building 317

Instructor's Office Hours: email anytime, phone during business hours, office Monday-Thursday 2pm-3pm

TA: Samantha Sanchez, srsanchez4@miners.utep.edu

Course Catalog Description:

A discussion of the goals of anthropology with a critical review of current theory and methodology.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

- To understand and be able to describe major theoretical ideas in anthropology
- To know the social and political contexts in which anthropological theories were developed
- To apply critical thinking to theories, including identifying strengths and weaknesses, and be able to extend theoretical points beyond those directly presented by the author
- To exhibit skill in theoretical thinking as a whole, beyond reciting features of specific theories
- To apply appropriate specific theories and features of theoretical thinking as a whole to critical discussion of specific anthropological evidence and issues

Course Design and Requirements:

We will meet two times a week on Tuesdays/Thursdays to discuss the readings.

Course activities consist of the following:

- Weekly readings (which you should take detailed notes on)
- Weekly writing assignments
- Weekly quizzes
- Active and high quality participation in class discussion activities

Required Texts:

- R. Jon McGee and Richard Warms, eds., Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History (7th Ed.) (McGraw-Hill, 2019)
- Additional readings posted on Blackboard

Reading Guides:

- A reading guide will be available on Blackboard for each reading. It will help you in completing a close and detailed reading.
- Each reading guide consists of specific questions (“study/paper questions”), which are the same as the paper questions for that reading.
- You should review the reading guide and course content before you do the assigned readings, and have the paper assignment questions by your side as you read. Not every topic or question can be answered directly in the reading; some are there to make you think or to point out implications rather than look for direct answers in the text.
- T in the question means that the answers are directly in the assigned reading (but still take intelligent reading); S means that they are thinking questions for or opinions of the student; and M means that they mix qualities of both.
- The introductory section of your required textbook is an additional guideline you may take into consideration for a better understanding of what to look for in the readings.
- The goal is to understand the main ideas and ways of thinking about the human condition and the anthropology, thus, avoid getting distracted by out-of-date language, minor details and debates.

Class Discussions (20%):

- The discussion activities will ensure a better understanding of the reading materials.
- You will receive an individual grade for each discussion. A zero grade will be given for unexcused absences. The two lowest grades during the semester will be dropped.

Quizzes (30%):

- Each week, you will choose one reading on which to take a five question quiz (for the other reading, you will do the paper).
- The lowest two quiz grades during the semester will be dropped.
- The quizzes are open book, but the questions require understanding of the material--so you will need to read and prepare for them.
- Once you start the quiz, you will have two hours to take it. You can access the quizzes on Blackboard. The quiz is always **due on Tuesday 5 PM (El Paso time)** of a given week.

Writing Assignments (50%):

- Each week, you will be asked to choose one reading assignment on which to write a paper (for the other reading, you will take an on-line quiz). Which weekly item you do as a paper and which one you do as a quiz are up to you, but if you do two of one type, I will give you a zero for one of them. The lowest two paper grades during the semester will be dropped.

- The papers will be based on answering the “paper questions” that you can find posted on Blackboard for that assignment.
- Each week, you submit your paper on Blackboard. The paper assignments are always **due on Thursday 5 PM (El Paso time)** of a given reading assignment week.

Grading Criteria for Writing Assignments:

- Excellent analyses (clearly stated and fully developed, at length) in reply to the assignment questions, based on the reading and as appropriate on your own considered opinion.
- Knowledge of all of the relevant material in the assigned readings and lessons/reading guides, as reflected in excellent choice of supporting evidence.
- Use of ideas learned in discussion is encouraged, but plagiarism of another student’s words from the discussion board will result in a referral to the Dean of Students. Learn to rephrase ideas in your own words.
- Papers written in your own words will be given a higher grade than ones made up heavy of direct quotations. Light, relevant use of quotations is acceptable.
- Length depends on what you have to say, and you are expected to have a lot to say after having done careful, thoughtful reading and course content and after participating actively in discussions. The suggested length is 2-3 double-spaced pages, but I grade on content, not length. Papers will be evaluated for content primarily, and also for standard grammar, spelling, and style.

Important: I can only accept assignments done in **Word (.doc or .docx)**. Please name your paper as follows: Last name, first initial, week number.

I strongly suggest that you submit all your work with plenty of time to spare in case of a technical issue. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk.

Late Policy: Assignments that are turned in late will receive a full letter-grade penalty (equivalent to 10%) for each day they are late.

Grading:

900-1000 = A

800-899 = B

700-799 = C

600-699 = D

599 and below = F

The way the assignments and the class discussions will impact the final point score will be explained in Lesson 1, and it can be explained again during office hours.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
Tuesday, 1/17	Course Introduction, 19th Century Evolutionism	Read: The Syllabus
Thursday, 1/19		Read: Textbook – “Introduction” (pg. 1-4) and “Nineteenth Century Evolutionism” (pg. 7-15)
Tuesday, 1/24	19th Century Evolutionism vs. Franz Boas	Read: Textbook – Tylor “The Science of Culture” (34-49), “The Boasians” (127-139), and Boas “The Methods of Ethnology” (140-148)
Thursday, 1/26		Submit Quiz 1 by 5 pm (pick either Tylor or Boas) Submit Paper 1 by 5 pm (must be the author <u>not</u> done as Quiz 1)
Tuesday, 1/31	The Boasian Influence Ethnographic Fieldwork	Read: Textbook – Benedict “The Science of Custom” (160- 169) Blackboard – “Mead Discussing Benedict” and “Malinowski on Fieldwork”
Thursday, 2/2		Submit Quiz 2 by 5 pm (pick either Benedict or Malinowski) Submit Paper 2 by 5 pm (must be the author <u>not</u> done as Quiz 2)
Tuesday, 2/7	Individualism and Collective Social Facts	Read: Textbook – “The Foundations of Sociological Thought” (81-85) and Durkheim “What is a Social Fact?” (86-93) Blackboard – Adam Smith, passage from <i>The Wealth of Nations</i>
Thursday, 2/9		Submit Quiz 3 by 5 pm Submit Paper 3 by 5 pm
Tuesday, 2/14	Social Theory: Power and Inequality	Read: Textbook – review parts about Marx in “Nineteenth Century Evolutionism” (Suggested: Marx & Engels, “Feuerbach: Opposition of Materialist and Idealist Outlook” (63-79)) Weber “Class, Status, Party (109-123), also review parts about Weber in the chapter “Foundations of Sociological Thought” Blackboard – Selection from Marx & Engels <i>Communist Manifesto</i> ; Submit Quiz 4 by 5 pm

Thursday, 2/16		Submit Paper 4 by 5 pm
Tuesday, 2/21	Functionalism and Social Structures	Read: Textbook – “Functionalism” (209-213) and “The Essentials of the Kula” (214-231) Blackboard – Gluckman “The Licence in Ritual” Submit Quiz 5 by 5 pm
Thursday, 2/23		Submit Paper 5 by 5 pm
Tuesday, 2/28	The Return of Scientific Generalizations Culture Change Theory Complex and Unequal Societies Ecological Anthropology	Read: Textbook – “The Reemergence of Evolutionary Thought” (247-251), “Neomaterialism” (289-291), Rappaport “Ritual Regulation of Environmental Relations (308-323), Blackboard – Steward “ Development of Complex Societies” (Suggested: Fried, “On the Evolution of Social Stratification and the State) Submit Quiz 6 by 5 pm
Thursday, 3/2		Submit Paper 6 by 5 pm
Tuesday, 3/7	Evolution Natural Selection Gene-Culture Coevolution (Biocultural Anthropology)	Read: Textbook – “Sociobiology and Behavioral Ecology” (359-369) Blackboard – Barkow “The Elastic Between Genes and Culture” Darwin and Wallace “On the Tendency of Species” Submit Quiz 7 by 5 pm
Thursday, 3/9		Submit Paper 7 by 5 pm
<u>No Class on March 14th and on March 16th (Spring Break)</u>		
Tuesday, 3/21	Archaeology as Anthropology, Structuralism	Read: Textbook – “Structure, Language, and Cognition” (pg. 325-330) and “Four Winnebago Myths” (pg. 331-339) Blackboard – Binford “Archaeology as Anthropology” Submit Quiz 8 by 5 pm
Thursday, 3/23		Submit Paper 8 by 5 pm
Tuesday, 3/28	Symbolic Anthropology, Postmodernism	Read: Textbook – “Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology” (419-422), “Deep Play” (452-474), “Postmodernism (509-513), and “Grief and a Headhunter’s Rage” (514-528) Submit Quiz 9 by 5 pm
Thursday, 3/30		Submit Paper 9 by 5 pm

Tuesday, 4/4	Feminist Anthropology	Read: Textbook – “Feminist Anthropology” (pg. 389-391), “Gender” (pg. 603-605), and “Woman the Gatherer” (pg. 392-401) Blackboard – “Anger, Economy, and Female Agency” Submit Quiz 10 by 5 pm
Thursday, 4/6		Submit Paper 10 by 5 pm
Tuesday, 4/11	Political Economy	Read: Textbook – “Facing Power” (pg. 550-564) and “From Jíbaro to Crack Dealer” (pg. 661-677) Submit Quiz 11 by 5 pm
Thursday, 4/13		Submit Paper 11 by 5 pm
Tuesday, 4/18	Engaged, Applied and Public Anthropology Globalization	Read: Textbook – “Globalization” (611-614), “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy” (565- 586) Blackboard – Farmer “An Anthropology of Structural Violence” Submit Quiz 12 by 5pm
Thursday, 4/20		Submit Paper 12 by 5 pm
Tuesday, 4/25	National and Alternative Anthropologies: the Mexican Case	Read: Blackboard – Krotz “Mexican Anthropology’s Ongoing Search for Identity” No quiz this week!
Thursday, 4/27		Submit Paper 13 by 5 pm
Tuesday, 5/2	Decolonization Decolonizing Anthropology	Read: Blackboard – “Fanon in Contemporary Perspective,” Selection from <i>Wretched of the Earth</i> (only read pgs. 33-43) and “Under Western Eyes” Submit Quiz 14 by 5 pm
Thursday, 5/4		Submit Paper 14 by 5 pm

Statement about taking course for graduate credit:

Students may take ANTH 4380 for graduate credit by doing an advanced scholarly research paper, involving extensive additional reading and graduate-level analysis, for the major research paper.

Professionalism: I reserve the right to add or deduct up to 20 points from your final grade based on professionalism. Professionalism includes, but is not limited to, being on time to all class sessions; being respectful of the professor, teaching assistant, and your peers; demonstrating a strong effort and enthusiasm in your work; and actively engaging in class discussion.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner, as prescribed by the Standards of Conduct:

<https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-2/studentconduct-and-discipline.html>.

Submitted work should be unmistakably your own. Professors are required to report academic dishonesty and any other violation of the Standards of Conduct to the Dean of Students. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Avoid plagiarism by giving credit where credit is due, using quotation marks when using words directly from another source, and preferably putting things in your own words. I prefer your own phrasing, even if it is imperfect, to a beautifully phrased statement that is borrowed from some other source.

Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. If academic dishonesty is suspected, the Dean of Students office will be contacted for adjudication. A temporary grade will be issued if their investigation extends beyond the grading period.

Some of your course work may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

Cell phones: Please silence your mobile devices or put them into a vibrate mode for the duration of class - they are disruptive for your fellow students.

Disabilities & Accomodations: If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 915-747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

COVID-19 Statement: Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area. For more information about the current infection rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Title IX Statement: The University of Texas at El Paso is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any

federally funded educational programs or activities. Title IX protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination including sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, and acts of sexual violence. Title IX prohibits institutions from excluding, separating, denying benefits, or otherwise treating individuals differently on the basis of sex. Sex based discrimination is prohibited at UTEP both by law and by University and UT System policies. In accordance with Texas Education Code § 51 (“SB 212”), all UTEP employees who witness or receive information regarding an incident reasonably believed to constitute sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking, and which is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who was a UTEP student or employee at the time of the incident, must promptly report all relevant information of the incident to UTEP’s Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator.

UTEP designated Title IX Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators:

Gabriel Ramirez, J.D.
Title IX Coordinator
915.747.8358
gramirez2@utep.edu

Beatriz Tapia
Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Equal Opportunity Director
915.747.5839
betapia@utep.edu

William Epperson
Deputy Title IX Coordinator
915.747.8358
waepperson@utep.edu

Dr. Catie McCorry-Andalis
Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Associate Vice President
Dean of Students
915.747.5648
cmandalis@utep.edu

Other Related Resources:

UTEP Police Department, 3118 Sun Bowl Drive, 911 Emergency, or 915.747.5611

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, Texas 75201, Tel: 214.661.9600

Course Resources:

Technology Resources

- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance.

Academic Resources

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial, Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.