

SOAN 310
Seminar in Anthropological Theory, Fall 2016

Dr. Kirsten Scheid
Fridays, 2-4:30
Nicely 204

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Session 1, Sept. 2, Opening: The Never-Ending Urgency of Anthropology

To be read before class:

- Marshall Sahlins, *Islands of History*, pp. 104-135

To be read in class:

- Gananath Obeyesekere, "British Cannibals," pp. 630-654

Session 2, Sept. 9, On the Colonial Edge, imagining ways out...

- Lewis Henry Morgan, *Systems of Consanguinity and Affinity*, pp. 3-15
- Karl Marx, "For a Ruthless Criticism of Everything Existing," pp. 12-15, and *Capital, Volume One*, pp. 301-329, "The 18th Brumaire"
- E.B. Tylor, *Primitive Culture*, "The Science of Culture" pp. 1-25
- Franz Boas, "Methods of Ethnology," pp.311-321 and "Race and Progress in America," pp. 1-11

Session 3, Sept. 16, Urban-Primitive Society

- Emile Durkheim, "What Is a Social Fact?" pp. 50-59, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, "The Subject of Our Study," "The Cosmological System of Totemism," "Origin of the Idea of Totemic Principle or Mana"
- Marcel Mauss, *The Gift*, pp. Focus: 1-18 and 66-81
- Marcel Mauss, "Techniques of the Body," pp. 73-77

Session 4, Sept. 23, Totalities in the Field: Function, Structure, Fact, Ethos

- Bronislaw Malinowski, "The Group and the Individual," pp. 275-286, *Crime and Custom in a Savage Society*, pp. 1-45, and "Magic and the Kula" (skim)
- A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, "On Social Science," pp. 304-316 and "On Joking Relationships," pp. 171-188.
- Ruth Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*, "The Diversity of Cultures" and "The Dobu" pp. 21-57, 130-172

Session 5, Sept. 30, "Early Ironies and Anxieties"

- Gregory Bateson, *Naven*, pp. 12-50, 108-122, 173-179, 183-197
- E. E. Evans-Pritchard, *The Nuer*, pp. 16-19, 21-23, 25-26, 28-30, 38-44, 48-50, 261-267, and "Nuer Politics," pp. 34-38
- Edmund Leach, *Political Systems of Highland Burma*, pp. 1-17, 101-107, 197-212, 220-226, 279-283

Oct. 7, NO CLASS

Session 6, Oct. 14, Familiarity of the Strange; Strangeness of the Familiar

- Claude Lévi-Strauss, “Social Structure,” pp. 277-289, 296-299, 303-305, 309-323, and “The Story of Asdiwal,” pp. 1-21, 27-33
- Clifford Geertz, “Thick Description,” pp. 531-552 and “From The Native’s Point of View,” pp. 55-70
- Mary Douglas, *Purity and Danger*, “Preface to the Second Edition,” “Introduction,” Chapters 2 and 6, i.e. pp. x-xxi, 1-9, 36-50, and at least 117-139

Session 7, Oct. 21, In Practice: Following the Blokes About

- Pierre Bourdieu, *Outline of a Theory of Practice*, pp. 78-95, and 171-182
- Bruno Latour, “Give Me a Laboratory and I will Give Me a Laboratory and I Will Raise the World,” pp.141-170
- Victor Turner, “Passages, Margins, and Poverty: Religious Symbols of Communitas,” pp. 96-101 (at <http://documents.mx/documents/victor-witter-turner-passages-margins-and-poverty-religious-symbols-of-communitas.html>)

Session 8 Oct. 28, “You Can’t Eat Your Cake and Freeze It, Too”

- E.E. Evans-Pritchard, “Social Anthropology Past and Present,” pp. 410-421
- Sharon Hutchinson, “Nuer Ethnicity Militarized,” pp. 39-52
- Talal Asad, “The Construction of Religion as an Anthropological Category,” pp. 27-54
- Sidney Mintz, *Sweetness and Power*, pp. 3-39, 74-80, 86-88, 94-100, 151-162, 213-214

Session 9, Nov. 4 & 11, Discours(e) *tout court*

- George Lakoff TBA
- Michel Foucault, *The Order of Things*, pp. 38-46, “The Subject and Power,” pp. 417-434, *Discipline and Punish*, TBA, and *The History of Sexuality*, pp. 17-35 and 133-159
- Jacques Derrida, *Differance*, pp. 278-301
- Nadia Abu El-Haj, “The Genetic Reinscription of Race,” pp. 283-300.

Nov. 18, NO CLASS

Session 10, Nov. 25, Feminist Bodies: Allowing the Women Out

- Sherry Ortner, “Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?” pp. 67-87
- Jane Collier, “From Mary to Modern Woman,” pp. 100-107
- Marilyn Strathern, “Introduction” to *Dealing with Inequality*, pp. 1-32 and “Power: Claims/Counterclaims,” from *The Gender of the Gift* pp. 98-132
- Donna Haraway, “Situated Knowledges,” pp. 575-599

Session 11, Dec. 2, From the Outposts of Modernity and Colony

- Michel-Ralph Trouillot, “Anthropology and the Savage Slot,” pp. 17-44
- Johannes Fabian, *Time and the Other*, TBA
- Talal Asad, “On the Concept of Cultural Translation,” pp. 141-164

Session 12, Dec. 9 (Date to be finalized, Make up session), Folding In, Branching Out

- Gilles Deleuze, *Two Regimes of Madness*, pp. 122-134
- Elizabeth Povinelli, *The Empire of Love*, Chapters 1-3
- Brian Massumi, Parables for the Virtual, pp. 1-44