Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
Anthropology 490: Anthropological Theory

**Class time and location:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:00am – 11:50am
ENC 70 or *online* via Zoom

**Instructor:**
Dr. Sabrina Perić
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**Teaching Assistant:**
Lel Khalesimoghaddam Ghaen, PhD Candidate
narges.khalesimoghad@ucalgary.ca

**Office hours:** Dr. Perić will be holding **virtual** office hours every Tuesday of the semester, from 1-2pm.
You can also make an appointment to meet outside of those hours by sending an email to: speric@ucalgary.ca

**Prerequisite:** ANTH 203

**Land Acknowledgement:**
Oki, Aba-wath-tech, Tansi, Dadanast’ada, Hello! My name is Sabrina Perić, and I am a settler, living as an uninvited guest in beautiful Treaty 7. I want to acknowledge that the University of Calgary is located on the traditional territory of the people of Treaty 7. This includes the Niitsitapi (including the Siksika, Piikani and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut’ina First Nation, and the Iyethka Nakoda (which includes the Wesley, Bearspaw and Chiniki First Nations). Calgary is situated on the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers, the Niitsitapi name for this place is Mohkinstsis, the Iyethka call it Wicispa Oyade, and the Tsuut’ina call this area Gutsistsi. Calgary is also home to the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. It is important for me to trace out these ties – because without them we would not be here. Universities and scholars have benefited greatly from the dispossession of Indigenous people. Territorial acknowledgement is therefore very important for me – it is not only about my accountability as a settler to ongoing processes of colonialism, but as a member of a large immigrant family. I do not want to simply take for granted where I live and where I work. Nor do I want colonial processes to continue with immigrants as key actors – as they have in the past. So I begin by thanking the people on whose territories I continue to live and work as an uninvited guest in the sincere hope that we can go forward together in a good way: Nitsiniiyi’taki, Isniyes, Kinanâskomitin, Siyisgaas, and Thank You!

**Course Description and Objectives:**
Broadly speaking, anthropology is a holistic study of all possible human lifeways. It focuses both on the variation between lifeways, but also their commonalities. In order to explain both the variations and commonalities, anthropologists have formulated *theories* that can be used to critically analyze observations of people in their daily lives. Though *theory* and *ethnography* are invariably separated out in anthropological writings and discussions, they are actually two sides of the same coin. Theory is used to illuminate or explain what happens in ethnography, and ethnography provides explanatory power to theory. In short, theory and ethnography, without one another, are pretty meaningless.

This course aims to introduce students to the fundamentals of anthropological theory through seven of the most important concepts in anthropology since the 19th century: race, history, society, function, structure, gender and discourse. Through lectures and discussions, we will try and understand why theory
is good to think with – how different theories can give us varying insight into the same event or phenomenon, and why certain theories do a better job of explaining than others.

**Statement of Inclusion:**
The topics in this class can sometimes be difficult topics – we talk about race, gender, class, our place in society, and the painful histories and ideas that anthropology has held as a discipline. What makes this class work, and what makes it a place to learn together, is respect and empathy. In this class, all people, with all opinions and beliefs, are welcome. Doing anthropology today means both celebrating our diversity, but also recognizing that our different pathways are what contribute most to new ideas. Speak openly, show respect, share, be bold and be yourself.

**Course Format:**
The class will be held in a blended format; it includes both in person classes and online discussion sections. All Monday and Wednesday classes will be in person, and will be held in ENC 70. Most Friday classes will be online discussion sections on Zoom, where you will be breaking up into smaller groups and discussing the readings for the week by following a set of discussion questions provided in advance. Both the instructor and the TA will be present for Friday discussion sections. You will be required to attend all online discussions sections. More details about the discussion sections can be found on our class D2L page. Please note: there are two Friday classes this term that will be in person: our Friday class in the first week: on Friday, September 10th, and the day of our midterm exam, Friday, October 15th. Please refer to our Course Schedule on D2L or this course outline for a detailed breakdown of in person vs online classes.

**What do I need to prepare for the weekly online discussion section?**
There are two things you have to do in order to prepare for the Friday online discussion sections: 1) you need to complete all of the readings for that week. For example, for your discussion section on Friday, September 24th on the topic of “The Logics of History,” you need to have read all of the readings for that week (ie the readings listed for Monday (September 20), Wednesday (September 22) and Friday (September 24), before the discussion section on September 24th. And 2) you need to read the weekly “Discussion Section Questions” handout before you come to the discussion section. This handout will provide you with an overview of what questions to think about (and that you will discuss in the section), and a description of an activity that you will participate in that Friday in discussion section. The discussion sections are key for helping you understand how to apply theory to contemporary events, and how to evaluate theories. These discussion sections will also be critical for completing your Reading Reflection assignments (more on that later).

**Any other tips for preparing for the discussion section?**
While you are reading: 1) take notes; 2) highlight passages you think are important, and 3) write down any questions you have about the materials. Come to discussion section with an open mind, and a willingness to listen to your peers, and to share your thoughts on the subject matter. The discussion will be student-led and instructor-guided, and is intended to be a true back and forth to help us not only get into the readings, but also understand how to apply theory to real world situations, events and practices.

**Learning Outcomes:**
This is an intensive introductory course to anthropological theory. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Read anthropological theory critically and analytically;
• Identify different anthropological schools of thought and thematic continuities/discontinuities between them;
• Summarize critically the main anthropological theories presented both in class discussion, and also in a coherent manner in writing;
• Evaluate critically the plausibility of claims and theories proposed by scholars;
• Apply anthropological theories to better understand everyday practices, local and global events, and ethnographic evidence;
• Communicate complex anthropological theories and their application to our peers and the broader public.

Learning Technologies and Requirements:
In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students are required to have reliable access to the following technology.

• A computer with a supported operating system
• A current and updated web browser
• Microphone and speaker (built in or external) or headset with microphone
• Broadband internet connection
• A Webcam (built in or external)

If any of this technology is unavailable to you, or you have concerns, please email Dr. Perić as soon as possible.

Course Assignments and Assessment:
In addition to the readings, students are expected to complete 5 reading reflections throughout the course of the semester, take 5 surprise reading quizzes, write one in-class midterm examination, and write one final exam. In the event that a student misses any course work due to illness, please contact the instructor within 24 hours or immediately.

5 Reading Quizzes 5%  
5 Reading Reflections 50%  
Midterm Exam 20% (October 15)  
Final take-home exam 25% (due December 22)

The final mark out of 100, will then be converted to a letter grade as follows:

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<th>Grade</th>
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Assignment details:

Reading Quizzes:

- Students will be administered 5 reading quizzes, without advance warning throughout the semester.
- These reading quizzes will cover details about the readings for that day, to make sure that students have done the readings. For example, if you receive a quiz on the day we will be discussing Durkheim’s *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, then the quiz will cover this same Durkheim text, and no other text.
- The quizzes will consist of five multiple choice questions, handed out at the beginning of class.
- You will get the full points for each quiz (1 % of your total grade) just for being present in class and taking the quiz. Even if you get a question wrong, you will still receive full points. Think of the quizzes as a type of participation grade. If you are in class to do all of the 5 quizzes, you will get a full 5% of your grade.
- The point of the quiz is to both ensure attendance, but also to practice answering multiple choice questions about theory, and to test yourself on your reading. The multiple choice questions on the quizzes will be similar to the multiple choice questions you can expect on your midterm and on your final.

Reading Reflections:

- Students are expected write 5 Reading Reflections that cover 5 weeks worth of reading – that is, they must hand in 5 reflections throughout the course of the semester. You will notice that there are 10 opportunities to hand in reading reflections – you only have to give in reading reflections on 5 of those 10 opportunities. You are given a few extra opportunities to account for weeks that may be really busy and you may not have time to do a reading reflection.
- Reading Reflections must be handed in (on Dropbox) on the Monday following a Friday discussion section. So, for example, the Reading Reflection for the readings on the unit on Race (September 13 – September 17) will be due on Monday, September 20th by 11am. To clarify, if you are doing a reading reflection for the week on race (Week II), you must hand the reading reflection in on the Monday of Week III. You cannot hand in, for example, a reading reflection for Week II on Monday of Week IV. Look at your calendar in advance, pick out the reflections you want to do and hand them in on their due date.
- **No late reflections will be accepted.** Late reflections will automatically receive a grade of zero.

Midterm exam:

- Students will be administered an in-class closed book midterm exam (50 minutes) that will have two sections: multiple choice questions and short answer questions.

Final exam:
Students will be administered an open book final take-home exam at the end of the semester. On the last day of class (December 8, 2021), students will be provided with a set of three questions. Students must pick one question and answer it in the form of a 5-6 page paper (12pt font double-spaced), which will be handed in at the end of the exam period (Wednesday, December 22nd) via Dropbox on our D2L page. The questions will be broad, and will be meant to bring together students’ understandings of the class readings, class lectures and discussion content. Further details will be available on the Assignment Descriptions on the class D2L webpage.

Course Textbook:

- NONE REQUIRED. Because textbooks are too expensive. Required readings (see below) can be accessed via links in our D2L Reading List.

**Week I. Introduction to Theory**

**Wednesday, September 8: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70**

**THERE ARE NO READINGS FOR TODAY, BUT WE WILL DO THE FOLLOWING READINGS TOGETHER IN CLASS and discuss:**


**Friday, September 10: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70**


**Week II. Race, Biology, Politics and the Study of Difference**

**Monday, September 13: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70**


**Wednesday, September 15: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70**
2) Boas, Franz. (1912). Changes in the bodily form of descendants of immigrants. *American Anthropologist, 14*(3), 530-562. (ucalgary link) Please do not read this whole thing. It is very boring, and difficult to follow. Do skim this reading, paying close attention to Boas’ conclusions. We will discuss the details in class.


Friday, September 17: ONLINE DISCUSSION SECTION


**Week III. The Logics of History and their Consequences**

Monday, September 20: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

*Reading Reflection for Week II DUE TODAY*


Wednesday, September 22: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

2) Darwin, Charles (1988[1859]). *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*. New York: Gramercy. Please read "Introduction" and "Recapitulation and Conclusion" (only from pp, 476, beginning with “Looking to geographical distribution...” to the end of pp.490.) [http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?itemID=F373&viewtype=text&pageseq=1](http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?itemID=F373&viewtype=text&pageseq=1)

Friday, September 24: ONLINE DISCUSSION SECTION


**Week IV. What is ‘society’? Part 1: The Collective**
Monday, September 27: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

*Reading Reflection for Week III DUE TODAY*


Wednesday, September 29: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70


Thursday, September 30:

We do not have class today – however, the University of Calgary community recognizes the importance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a federal statutory holiday. This day will, for some be a day to spend with family, with community and on healing. It is also an important day for engagement. If you want to engage the broader questions surrounding reconciliation and Canada’s history and present as a colonial state, I encourage you to leave your schoolwork behind and participate (in person or remotely) in some of the events and lectures planned for this day – I will post a list of resources on our D2L website. I also encourage you take the time familiarize yourself with some of the amazing Indigenous scholars, artists, writers and activists in our Treaty 7 community, and in Alberta as a whole.

Friday, October 1: ONLINE DISCUSSION SECTION


Week V. What is ‘society’? Part 2: Structure

Monday, October 4: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

*Reading Reflection for Week IV DUE TODAY*

1) Marx, Karl. (1978) Selections from The German Ideology. (open online source) Please read Part A only. Marx - German Ideology excerpt.pdf

Wednesday, October 6: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

**In class:** Excerpts from *Metropolis* (1927) dir. Fritz Lang

**Friday, October 8:** ONLINE DISCUSSION SECTION


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**Week VI. Midterm Review and Exam!**

**Monday, October 11:** NO CLASS

**Wednesday, October 13:** IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

*Reading Reflection for Week V DUE TODAY*

In Wednesday’s class, we will be doing a Midterm Review, and a Q&A.

**Friday, October 15:** IN PERSON EXAM, ENC 70

MIDTERM EXAM IS TODAY IN CLASS

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**Week VII. What is ‘society’? Part 3: More than Human**

**Monday, October 18:** IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70


**Wednesday, October 20:** IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

https://dspace.mit.edu/bitstream/handle/1721.1/61970/Helmreich_Human%20nature.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

**Friday, October 22:** ONLINE DISCUSSION SECTION

https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/692559

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**Week VIII. What’s your Function? (and structure?)**
Monday, October 25: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

*Reading Reflection for Week VII DUE TODAY*


Wednesday, October 27: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70


Friday, October 29: ONLINE DISCUSSION SECTION


Week IX: Structuralism

Monday, November 1: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

*Reading Reflection for Week VIII DUE TODAY*


Wednesday, November 3: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70


Friday, November 5: ONLINE DISCUSSION SECTION


Monday November 8 – Friday November 12: NO CLASS – READING WEEK
**Week X: The ‘structure’ of gender**

**Monday, November 15:** IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

*RReading Reflection for Week IX DUE TODAY*


**Wednesday, November 17:** IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70


**Friday, November 19:** ONLINE DISCUSSION SECTION


**Week XI: Post-structure and Post-structuralism**

**Monday, November 22:** IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

*RReading Reflection for Week X DUE TODAY*


**Wednesday, November 24:** IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70


**Friday, November 26:** ONLINE DISCUSSION SECTION


**In class:** *Paris is Burning* (1990) excerpts.
Week XII: Beyond binaries: “Writing Culture” and Representation

Monday, November 29: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

*Reading Reflection for Week XI DUE TODAY*


Wednesday, December 1: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70


Friday, December 3: ONLINE DISCUSSION SECTION


Week XIII: Wrap-Up

Monday, December 6: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

*Reading Reflection for Week XII DUE TODAY*

Wrap Up and Exam Review

Wednesday, December 8: IN PERSON LECTURE, ENC 70

Exam Q&A Session

FINAL EXAM :  due Wednesday, December 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2021 via Dropbox on our class D2L site
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Principles of Conduct: The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct: The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are strongly advised to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student’s work as your own, (2) presenting an author’s work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf


Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, such as outside an instructor’s office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor’s office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they must provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions: Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.
To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published with the instructor’s permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behavior in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your Zoom sessions visit: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

**Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments:** Graded assignments will be returned by the instructor or teaching electronically through the course D2L webpage. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology’s main office.
**Academic Accommodations:** It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations, according to the university policies and procedures listed in the University Calendar. The student accommodation policy can be found at: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: [www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf).

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the Department Head (email: pcdawson@ucalgary.ca).

**Copyright Legislation:** All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright [https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act ([https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplines under the Non-Academic Misconduct Act.

**Support and Resources:**

Please visit the Registrar’s website at: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines) for additional important information on the following:

- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Safewalk