

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Anthropology 631 - Anthropological Theory Winter 2012**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr Alan Smart      **LOCATION:** SS 821    **TIME:** W 1:00-3:30

**Course Description:** Theory can be approached in two main ways. One way is as intellectual history, how those ideas and approaches related to their context and to their past. The second is as contending ways of explaining the world and its people, attempting to see if anything is still “live” about older approaches. While both will be discussed, the emphasis will be on the latter approach. The particular set of theoretical approaches and theorists to be discussed will be generated collaboratively, in relation to the interests and research needs of the participants in the seminar. Instructors have their own theoretical agendas, and the one that I will be pursuing in the context of this session is *posthumanism*, which has the advantage of allowing us to return to classic anthropological issues in a new light.

**Required Readings:**

We will be reading Tim Ingold *Being Alive*. Routledge, 2011. In addition, other readings will be assigned in relation to the topics that we address.

<b>Course evaluation:</b>	<b>Presentations (2)</b>	<b>40%</b>
	<b>Term Paper</b>	<b>50%</b>
	<b>Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>

**PRESENTATIONS:** There will normally be one presentation per week, although scheduling constraints may require two to be presented in certain weeks. The presentation should last thirty to forty minutes (not including interruptions), and will be followed by discussion of points raised in the presentation itself. No later than the Friday preceding the presentation, the presenter should email to each of the students and instructors three PDF files, each containing a relevant reading to accompany the presentation. These readings will form the basis of the discussion the following Friday. At least one should be a key original text (journal article or book chapter). The other two may consist of either additional original texts or more general commentaries on the topic, from secondary sources (e.g. Annual Review of Anthropology articles or monographs). The presenter should also prepare several discussion questions designed to stimulate debate on issues raised in the presentation. The mark for this component of the course will cover the quality and clarity of the presentation itself, the judiciousness of the accompanying reading materials selected, and the chairing of the discussion. Grading for the first two presenters will take into consideration the fact that they have had reduced preparation time.



**GENERAL PARTICIPATION:** This covers overall contribution to the learning experience. Excessive passivity or numerous unexcused absences may be reflected in this component.

**TERM PAPER:** Guidelines will follow.