

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE OUTLINE

Anthropology 631 - Anthropological Theory (1)
Archaeology 601 - Theoretical Foundations

FALL 2008

INSTRUCTORS: Dr Josephine Smart (Anth 631)
Dr Gerald A. Oetelaar (Arky 601)

LOCATION: SS 821 (M)/ES 822 (F)

TIME: MF 9:30-11:00

Course Outline: The objective of this graduate seminar is to discuss and debate the major theoretical perspectives used by researchers in anthropology and, by extension, in archaeology and biological anthropology. Seminar topics will focus on the major schools of thought, most of which persist in contemporary theoretical approaches in anthropology.

Course Mechanics:	Presentation	25%
	Major Paper	40%
	Five short papers	25%
	General participation	10%

PRESENTATION: Normally, presentations will be made on Mondays whereas Fridays will be reserved for extensive discussion of the materials presented and the readings that accompany it. It is suggested that the presentation be made as a PowerPoint talk, with key points outlined on the screen, which the presenter then uses to expand on verbally, as opposed to being read out from a prepared text (this is to afford the student the opportunity to refine his or her presentation skills). The presentation should last forty minutes (without interruption), and will be followed by a short 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 will also serve as moderator of the discussion the following Friday, guiding the discussion along productive lines, and moving it forward if it bogs down in minutiae. No later than the Thursday preceding the

Friday discussion, the presenter should email to all participants a one-page outline of the discussion, along with a half-dozen or so discussion questions.

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 Friday discussion. Grading for the first two presenters will take into consideration the fact that they have had reduced preparation time.

SHORT PAPERS: The five short papers, limited to two pages double spaced, will deal with a theory or school of thought just covered (excepting one's own presentation topic). The papers should show detached thoughtfulness, constructive criticism, and balance (i.e., noting both strengths and shortcomings). The papers should also try to take note of contrasts and resonances with other theoretical schools that have been discussed. For these short papers, the author should adopt a strictly 'objective' stance, such that the reader should ideally not be able to detect the author's personal views on the material being discussed. Both instructors will read all papers and return them with a mark out of five possible points. If all six short papers are handed in, the lowest mark of the six will automatically be dropped. The short papers are due one week after the topic has been discussed in seminar.

MAJOR PAPER: This paper should be a comprehensive essay on theory, with at least some treatment of all the theories covered in the course. Unlike the short papers, the author may, in this paper, indicate his or her theoretical leanings and reasons for preferring some theories over others, but the paper should nevertheless strive for balance and fairness. Suggested length: twenty pages, double-spaced, plus bibliography. This paper is due on DECEMBER 15, 2008.

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

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office @ 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY: Attached to this outline is a set of Guidelines which the student should read and observe in producing written work for this course.

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