

ANT 3034: Anthropological Theories

Fall 2022 - Thursdays 11:00-12:15 in Parking Garage 6, Room 114
and Online (hybrid course)

Dr. Juliet Erazo, SIPA 320

Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30-1:30, and by appointment

E-mail through Canvas Messages or at jerazo@fiu.edu

Phone: I work from home most days so I do not use my office phone very much. If you would like to talk by phone or on Zoom, I am happy to do so -- but please email me and we can set up a time for me to call you.

Goals:

This seminar is designed to provide students with a grounding in cultural anthropology, covering basic issues of perennial relevance to the discipline, major theoretical movements of the past, and current trends in social theory that extend beyond anthropology. The emphasis is on reading short segments from original works rather than relying on secondary histories of the discipline, and pairing those original works with contemporary applications in ethnography. I have had to be selective, but have attempted to present a fair cross-section of important theorists and schools of thought.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- A) Articulate theoretical paradigms in clear language
- B) Understand the process of theory contestation and development
- C) Identify key figures in the development of anthropological thought
- D) Apply anthropological theories to contemporary issues
- E) Have improved skills in writing, oral presentation, and discussion

Format:

This course is a hybrid class, which means students are responsible for logging into Canvas each week and completing required readings, watching required lectures and videos, and completing assignments. Weekly Discussion Board assignments will be graded based on the amount of effort it seems that you invested in the assignment. I will be looking to see if you completed all the readings and watched the lectures and videos, and that you are thinking about areas of overlap and differences among the different materials introduced in them. Class sessions will take diverse forms; sometimes we will discuss readings as a class; sometimes students will work in pairs or small groups and present a summary of their in-class work to the class.

Requirements:

1. Class prep assignments: A short writing assignment on the readings is due before class (no late assignments will be accepted). If Canvas is not functioning properly, you can also email me your assignment or bring in a hard copy to show that you got it done on time, but then you **MUST** go back in later to submit it to Canvas. The Discussion Board topic will vary from week to week, but typically asks students to discuss commonalities and differences among the readings assigned for the week. They will also be excellent resources as you prepare for your midterm exam. 35% of your grade.

2. Seminar participation: You are expected to come to each session having read the assigned material, bring questions, and be ready to identify what you think are important issues in the readings. If you miss class, you can make up 25/30 of the missed points by reading all of your classmate's Discussion Board submissions for that week, and writing a 500-600 word essay summarizing their points and comparing and contrasting them to one another. 35% of your grade.

3. Midterm exam – the midterm will be made up of two parts. Part 1 will be completed at home, and if done correctly, it will help you to prepare for Part 2, which will be completed in class. Both will consist of short segments from readings, and you will be asked to match the theorist or theory to the segment. (Part 1 = 7.5% of your grade and Part 2 = 7.5% of your grade, for a total of 15%).

4. Final Essay or Unessay – students will complete a final essay or creative project that engages with one or more theories covered in the class. More details on the multiple options you have will be given in class (worth 15% of your grade).

5. Extra credit: Forty extra credit points are built into the class. Students will also have the opportunity to gain some extra credit by sharing their final project with the class. The final number of points that you earn will be divided by 1000. So, for example, if you earn 930/1040 points, you will have earned a 930/1000, or 93% in the class, which is an A (NOT 930/1040, which is 89% or a B+).

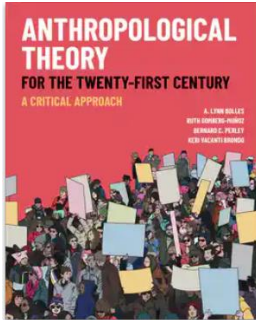
Week #	Class meeting date	Due before class	Points	Due in Class	Points
1	Aug. 25	Discussion Board (DB) 1	10	In class exercise (ICE) 1	10
2	Sept. 1	DB 2	30	ICE 2	30
3	Sept. 8	DB 3	30	ICE 3	30
4	Sept. 15	DB 4	30	ICE 4	30
5	Sept. 22	DB 5	30	ICE 5	30
6	Sept. 29	DB 6	30	ICE 6	30
7	Oct. 6	DB 7	30	ICE 7	30
8	Oct. 13	DB 8	30	ICE 8	30
9	Oct. 20	Midterm Part 1	75	Midterm Part 2	75
10	Oct. 27	DB 9	30	ICE 9	30
11	Nov. 3	DB 10	30	ICE 10	30
12	Nov. 10	Final Project Proposal	30	No class. Successfully schedule and attend a 15-minute Zoom meeting to discuss proposal with Dr. Erazo, and revise it if necessary.	30
13	Nov. 18	DB 11	30	ICE 11	30
14	Nov. 25 - no class	THANKSGIVING	0	No class	0
15	Dec. 1	DB 12	30	ICE 12	30
Finals week	Date TBD	Final Projects	150	Optional in-class presentation	

TOTAL POINTS for the class: 1040. (Plus additional extra credit possible for presentation)

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbook and Course Materials



Anthropological Theory for the Twenty-First Century: **A Critical Approach**

By **A. Lynn Bolles**, **Ruth Gomberg-Muñoz**, **Bernard C. Perley** & **Keri Vacanti Brondo**

2022, University of Toronto Press

ISBN-13: 978-1487526375

Expectations of this Course

Students are expected to:

- **Review the how to get started information** located in the course content
- **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Canvas
- **Review** and follow the course calendar
- **Log in** to the course **two times** per week
- Respond to **messages** within **3 days**
- Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline

The instructor will:

- Log in to the course **four times** per week
- Respond to **messages** within **2 business days**
- Grade assignments within **7 days** of the assignment deadline

Weekly breakdown

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Technical Requirements & Skills](#)
- [Accessibility And Accommodation](#)
- [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)

Week 1: What is theory and why is it important?

Introduction to the class, course content, assignments and expectations

Assignment

Discussion Board 1 due before the class's official start time

Week 2: Evolutionist and Materialist vs. Idealist Approaches

Readings/ Videos

Introduction to Section 1 (pp. 5-9)

Textbook section 1.4 Ethnical Periods (Lewis Henry Morgan, 1877) (pp. 23-27)

Textbook section 1.6 The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (Max Weber, 1905) (pp. 32-35)

Glossary for Section 1 (p. 36)

Assignment: Discussion Board 2 due before the class's official start time

Week 3: Cultural Relativism and Methods of Fieldwork

Readings/ Videos

Introduction to Section 2

3.1 The Essentials of the Kula (Bronislaw Malinowski, 1922)

Holmes, Seth. 2013. [Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States.](#) Chapter 1 (pp. 1-29). (available digitally through the FIU Library).

7.4 La Consciencia de la Mestiza/ Towards a New Consciousness (Gloria Anzaldúa, 1987)

9.2 Anthropology and the Oppressed: A Reflection on "Native" Anthropology (Delmos J. Jones, 1995)

Assignment: Discussion Board 3 due before the class's official start time

Week 4: Historical Materialism and Hegemony

Readings/ Videos

Introduction to Section 4

Short Youtube film on Marxism: [A Brief Introduction to Marxism - YouTube \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Another short Youtube video on Marx's philosophy: [POLITICAL THEORY - Karl Marx - YouTube \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Short Youtube film on Marxist terms, including modes of production and conflict theory: [Karl Marx & Conflict Theory: Crash Course Sociology #6 - YouTube \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

1.3 Bourgeois and Proletarians (Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, 1872)

4.1 The White Worker (W.E.B. Du Bois, 1935)

4.5 An Anthropology of Structural Violence (Paul Farmer, 2004)

[Intersectionality: A Marxist Critique | Black Agenda Report](#)

Assignment: Discussion Board 4 due before the class's official start time

Week 5: From Structuralism to Interpretive Anthropology, Post-Modern Concerns and "Practice Theory"

Readings/ Videos

3.5 Language and the Analysis of Social Laws (Claude Levi-Strass, 1951) -- SKIM

Introduction to Section 5

Video on Geertz's approach: [What Is Thick Description? - YouTube](#)

5.2 Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight (Clifford Geertz, 1973)

5.3 Grief and a Headhunter's Rage (Renato Rosaldo, 1989)

5.4 Writing against Culture (Lila Abu-Lughod, 1991)

Assignment: Discussion Board 5 due before the class's official start time

Week 6: Colonialism, Postcolonialism, and Settler Colonialism

Introduction to Section 6

3.4 Facing Mt. Kenya (Jomo Kenyatta, 1938)

Film on YouTube: [Edward Said On Orientalism - YouTube](#)

6.2 Knowing the Oriental (Edward W. Said, 1979)

Short YouTube video: [Postcolonialism: WTF? An Intro to Postcolonial Theory - YouTube](#):

Note: Watch the first 10 minutes only. Do not get confused by the bizarre analysis of Black Panther! (Links to an external site.)

Short YouTube video: [What is Settler Colonialism?| Postcolonial Concepts| Postcolonialism| Postcolonial Theory - YouTube](#)

6.5 Our Sea of Islands (Eveli Hau'ofa, 2008)

Assignment: Discussion Board 6 due before the class's official start time

Week 7: Bourdieu, Social Class, and Distinction

Short YouTube video: [Simple Introduction to Bourdieu - YouTube](#)

[Pierre Bourdieu - Wikipedia](#) Holmes, Seth. 2013. [Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States.](#) Chapter 6 (pp. 155-181). (available digitally through the FIU Library).

Assignment: Discussion Board 7 due before the class's official start time

Week 8: Foucault, Normalizing Power and Biopower

[Foucault's History of Sexuality, Vol. 1, Explained \(Links to an external site.\)](#) – YouTube

8.1 The History of Sexuality (1976)

4.4 – Making Empire Respectable: The Politics of Race and Sexual Morality in 20th Century Colonial Cultures (Ann L. Stoler, 1989)

Holmes, Seth. 2013. [Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States.](#) Chapter 5 (pp. 111-125 is required, the rest of the chapter is optional). (available digitally through the FIU Library).

Assignment: Discussion Board 8 due before the class's official start time

Week 9: Midterm Exam

At home: Part 1, due Monday night at 11:59pm so that I have time to read and grade before you take Part 2 in Class, which will be similar to Part 1.

Week 10: Queer Theory

Introduction to Section 8

8.2 Romancing the Transgender Native: Rethinking the Use of the “Third Gender” Concept (Evan B. Towle and Lynn M. Morgan, 2002)

8.4 One Way or Another: Erotic Subjectivity in Cuba (Jafari Allen, 2012)

8.5 Play Aunties and Dyke Bitches: Gender, Generation, and the Ethics of Black Queer Kinship (Savannah Shange, 2019)

Assignment: Discussion Board 9 due before the class's official start time

Week 11: On State Power

Introduction to Section 12

Short excerpt from James C. Scott's "Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed." 1999, Yale University Press. (pdf on Canvas).

12.3 Seeing Like a Mayor; or, How Local Officials Obstructed Romanian Land Restitution (Katherine Verdery, 2002).

12.5 Strange Fruit: Brazil, Necropolitics, and the Transnational Resonance of Torture and Death (Cristen Smith, 2013)

Assignment: Discussion Board 10 due before the class's official start time

Week 12 (Nov. 10) – No readings and no class (I will be at a conference). Please do the following:

- Submit proposal for final project (30 points)
- Schedule a 15-minute appointment to meet with me over Zoom to discuss your proposal
- Attend the meeting and revise your proposal if necessary (30 points)
- Begin readings for next week

Week 13: On Agency and Social Struggle

Introduction to Section 13

13.1 The Subject of Freedom (Saba Mahmood, 2005)

Erazo, Juliet S. and Ernesto Benitez. 2022. Becoming Politicians: Indigenous Pageants as Training Sites for Public Life. *American Anthropologist* 124 (1): 154-64.

Assignment: Discussion Board 11 due before the class's official start time

Week 14: NO CLASS -- Thanksgiving

Week 15: Recent Trends in Environmental Anthropology and the "Pluriverse"

Introduction to Section 11

2-3 readings from Section 11 (TBA)

Assignment: Discussion Board 12 due before the class's official start time

Finals week (exact date to be determined): Final Project Due. Students who want to earn additional extra credit in the class can do so by presenting their final project in class.