

ANT3034 RVC Anthropological Theories (fully online)

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Online office hours (via zoom): Tuesdays, noon - 1pm; in person in SIPA 332 on Thursdays, 11:15am-12:15pm, and by appointment

Course Description and Purpose

This seminar is designed to provide students with a grounding in theories that have been used or are currently used 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.

No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint, or belief. Once you have done your best to understand a particular theory, you may choose to utilize it as a lens to understand the world differently, or argue against the theory's utility. However, for the purposes of the class, you must demonstrate a reasonable effort to understand each theory before taking a stand on it.

Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate theoretical paradigms in clear language;
2. Understand the process of theory contestation and development;
3. Identify key figures in the development of anthropological thought;
4. Apply anthropological theories to contemporary issues;
5. Have improved skills in writing, oral presentation, and discussion;

Important Information

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [PoliciesLinks to an external site.](#)
- [NetiquetteLinks to an external site.](#)
- [Technical Requirements and SkillsLinks to an external site.](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [\(Panther Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)\)](#)

- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)
- [Inclusivity Statement](#)

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbook and Course Materials

No required textbook. All required readings will be provided in pdf format or through links to books available through the FIU Library.

Expectations of this Course

This course is a fully online class, which means students are responsible for logging into Canvas multiple times each week and completing required readings, watching required lectures and videos, and completing assignments. Weekly 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 trying to think about similarities and differences among the different theorists introduced in them.

Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **log in** to the course at least **2 times** per week;
- **respond to messages** within **3 days**;
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline

The instructor will:

- log in to the course **3 times** per week;
- respond to **messages** within **2 business days**;
- grade assignments within **5 days** of the assignment deadline.

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#)[Links to an external site.](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within **two business days**. Please do not leave me comments in assignments, since I often forget to look for those after I have completed grading the assignment. Just send me a note in Messages and I will see it and respond within two business days.

Policy on Extensions

I am willing to grant extensions, but it is important not to get behind in this class. It moves quickly, and the material near the end of the class can be tougher to get through than the material at the beginning of the class. You do not need to send me doctor's notes or photos of your car accident -- I have no way of judging whether these are authentic or not. Just write me a note in Canvas Messages if you need the quiz re-opened. Once you have an extension for the quiz, you also have an extension for the Discussion Board (due on the same day as the quiz) and the Final Essay (due 3 days later).

Academic Integrity Policy

There are two main ways in which students often break the University's Academic Integrity Policy. One is by forming group chats and sharing information, such as quiz answers (for this class, that means citations to use in the Discussion Board posts). The other way is through copying essay answers from the internet (for example, from Course Hero) OR by taking something written by another person or machine (AI) without specifically citing it. More details are available here: [Types of Plagiarism | College of Arts, Sciences & Education | Florida International University \(fiu.edu\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#). Almost every semester, I unfortunately catch students either cheating or plagiarizing. In response, and depending on the severity, I may give a zero on the assignment, an F in the course, and/or complete an Academic Misconduct Report, which goes in their student file. While the first report often results in the student receiving a warning, more than one report can lead to much more serious consequences (see: [Student Conduct and Academic Integrity - Get Support Student Affairs - Florida International University - FIU](#)[Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)).

Discussion Board Assignments

Discussion Board Assignments are writing assignments that ask you to demonstrate that you have listened to class lectures, done the assigned readings, and (for some lessons), watched the assigned videos. The Discussion Board questions will vary from week to week, but typically ask students to discuss and apply the theories assigned for the week. Discussion Board assignments will be graded primarily on EFFORT. I will be looking to see if you can demonstrate that you reviewed the course materials and thought about them. The primary ways you can demonstrate this are by 1) referencing specific material from course lectures and readings (specific slides from the lecture, specific pages from the reading, or specific minutes from the assigned videos); and 2) inserting something from your own analysis, and sometimes your own experiences, to convince me that the answers were not written by Artificial Intelligence, but a human being. (10 assignments worth 3% of your grade each, for a total of 30% of your final grade).

Pre-Discussion Board "Quizzes"

This assignment is due just prior to the Discussion Board Assignment each lesson, but you will only be able to complete it after you have a draft of your Discussion Board Essays. The quiz asks you to copy and paste the sentences from your DB essay questions that have page-specific cites from the readings, slide-specific cites from the lecture, or minute-specific cites from either lectures or assigned videos. The quiz will be graded for TRUTHFULLNESS. Specifically, did the idea or quoted sentence you are including in your Discussion Board assignment actually appear on the page or slide or minute that you are citing? You can re-take the quiz multiple times for the first few assignments if you need to, until you become accustomed to the format and questions that you will be asked. All quizzes have the same questions, but

your answers will be different each time, since you are expected to insert cites from the lesson's materials. (10 assignments worth 3% of your grade each, for a total of 30% of your final grade).

Post-Discussion Board Final Essays

After posting your Discussion Board essays, you will be able to read the essays submitted by your classmates. After reading those posts, you will select some to use to re-write your Discussion Board post and submit the final draft to Turnitin.com. These final drafts will be graded on your ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE UNDERSTANDING of the module's content and ANALYTICAL INSIGHTFULNESS. I encourage you to read your classmates' posts carefully and to select ones that really engage with class materials so that you can deepen your own understanding of those materials. If you select answers that do not engage with class materials, this will weaken your own final essay drafts and lower your scores (10 assignments worth 3% of your grade each, for a total of 30% of your final grade).

Creative Projects

Students will complete two creative projects that engage with one or more theories covered in the class. More details on the multiple options you have are included in the assignment instructions. (Each project is worth 50 points. The two postings together are worth 100 points, or 10% of the grade).

Extra Credit

Thirty extra credit points are built into the class. You can earn up to 10 points for doing the syllabus quiz, and 10 points each for meeting with me for 5-10 minutes before submitting your creative projects to discuss your ideas for the project. These meetings can occur during my regularly scheduled office hours. There will also be additional time blocks scheduled for these meetings and you will be able to sign up for a time about a week before each project is due.

Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available
Discussion Boards	11 (lowest dropped)	30	300
Pre-DB "quizzes"	11 (lowest dropped)	30	300
Post-DB Final Essays	11 (lowest dropped)	30	300
Creative Projects	2	50	100
Extra credit	3	10	30
TOTAL	38	N/A	1000 + 30 extra credit

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	93 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 93	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less