Course Description and Purpose

Theories structure a discipline’s inquiry and define what is important. This course investigates anthropological ways of knowing, understanding, and explaining humankind. A special focus is on how theories and methods are used by anthropologists to address contemporary issues. Through a comparative analysis of the similarities and differences among major anthropological theories and theorists, we discuss how these have changed or remained consistent over time adapting to the social, political, and economic trends in science, society, and the world. By each student focusing on a contemporary theory we explore the history of ideas and theorists that guide anthropological inquiry, applications and public discourse today. On successful completion of the course students should be able to articulate a theoretical perspective they can use to understand contemporary issues and problems.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:
1. Understand the interpretive and explanatory role of theory for the production of knowledge.
2. Critique the assumptions, questions and preferred methods for major anthropological theories.
3. Apply a theoretical perspective to address a contemporary issue or problem.
4. Articulate:
   - a theoretical explanation for a research question or applied problem.
   - the major theorists credited for the development of the theory
   - how theory is used by contemporary anthropologists.

Prerequisites, Major and Curriculum Objectives

There are no prerequisites for this course. For those who are pursuing the anthropology track for the BA in Anthropology/Sociology, this is a required course.

INSTRUCTOR

Dennis Wiedman, Ph.D. Anthropologist
Associate Professor, Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies.
Office: University Park SIPA 327. 305-348-2262
Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:00 to 5:00, or by appointment.
Email: Wiedmand@fiu.edu Web Page: http://faculty.fiu.edu/~wiedmand/
Email communication should be within Blackboard. I try to respond within three days.

REQUIRED BOOKS AND JOURNAL ARTICLES

Ericson, Paul A. and Liam D. Murphy
ISBN: 9781442636835

Moore, Jerry D.
2012 Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists.

Original Anthropology Theorist Readings: Selected publications written by the original theorists are required readings as noted in the schedule below. All are available free of charge through the FIU Library electronic journals, or as a pdf in Blackboard.
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EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE
As a student in this course, you are expected to:
1. Attend class and complete in-class and out-of-class exercises.
2. Introduce yourself to the class and in the Blackboard discussion forum
3. Complete the Syllabus Quiz.
4. Agree to the Ethics Statement.
5. Become a Theory Spokesperson in one major anthropological theory compared to other theories.
6. Discuss major theory and journal article with group members in Blackboard “Groups.”
8. Produce an “Essay” on one additional journal article related to your major theory.
9. In the “Group Theory Discussion” articulate and be a proponent of your major theory to other groups in the class.
10. Follow the course schedule and submit assignments by the corresponding deadlines
11. Log into Blackboard at least two times per week to review announcements, messages, and discussions.
12. Take two exams and a final examination.
13. Respond to Blackboard Messages within 2 days

Instructor will:
1. Log in to the Blackboard course 7 times per week
2. Respond to Blackboard Messages within 3 days
3. Grade assignments within 14 days of the assignment deadline

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
All course requirements must be completed in order to earn a passing grade. Each course requirement earns points as noted in the grade calculation section. Final grades are non-negotiable; letter grades are assigned based on the points earned. Final grades are released in Panthersoft. Below are brief overviews of the course requirements. Detailed instructions for the “Position Statement,” and “Essay” are in Blackboard: Course Materials.

1) Two Exams and Final Exam enables the student to demonstrate an understanding of the subject by focusing on class lectures, films, readings, and presentations. The Final Exam is cumulative of the entire course. Exams are composed of matching, multiple choice, true & false, word identifications, essays, etc. Bring your fully charged laptop computer to take the exam in class. Legitimate reasons for not taking an exam at the scheduled time must be approved by the instructor prior to that date. Missed exams must be taken prior to the next class meeting. Students with a written medical excuse receive their full exam score; others receive ten points less than their exam score.

2) Exercises are in-class and out-of-class assignments that enable students to express their perspectives, course comprehension and research abilities while demonstrating their writing and presentation skills. Best scores are awarded for perfect punctuation, format, and logic written in the style of the American Anthropologist. Missed in-class exercises cannot be made up; a written note from a health practitioner is required in order not to receive reduced points. Out-of-Class exercises include such items as the syllabus quiz, and student introduction.
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3) Theory Spokesperson and Position Statement: Groups of students become advocates, proponents and spokespersons for each of the major anthropological theories. By reading the course texts, original theorist writings, course presentations and additional sources, each student serves as an expert throughout the semester for the theory. Dialog with other students in your Blackboard group to define your unique aspect of the required journal article and major theory. Develop a “Position Statement” on a specific aspect of the article and theory. The Thursday night prior to the week your theory is scheduled to be discussed post in Blackboard: Groups, and in “Assignment Dropbox.

4) Group Theory Class Discussion: During the week following the course presentation on your major theory, the group of spokespersons discuss their theory and responds to questions asked by other theory groups. Every student in class is expected to have read the required journal article and be prepared to discuss it from the perspective of their major theory.

5) Essay: Essay demonstrates the student’s knowledge of anthropological theory and skills in critical analysis and writing. Review one peer-reviewed “research” article discussing how anthropological theories are used to address a research problem or issue. Select one research article published in the past seven years in one of the anthropology journals that is an example of your major theory. Select an article that is different from others in your Theory Group. Group verifies that the article meets selection criteria. How do the authors use anthropology theory and methods to address the research problem? Detailed instructions with required headers and outline are posted in Blackboard: Course Materials: Instructions for Course Essays. Minimum of 500 words of text, not including abstract or “References Cited” section. Papers will be evaluated for their content, as well as grammar and spelling. Papers are submitted electronically in Blackboard: Assignment Dropbox using “turnitin.com.” Accompany essay with a copy of the selected article with your markups indicating the key concepts. Web pages cannot be used as sources unless they are clearly justified as an authoritative sources.

Essay Format, and Line Spacing: Use MS Word, using 1 inch top, bottom, and side margins. Use Times Roman 12 point font. Do not use separate cover page. The single line spaced “References Cited” section immediately follows the text, do not begin on the next page. Do not use footnotes at the bottom of a page. Do not use a cover page. Place topic of paper, student name, and date single-spaced on top of first page. Name should appear on the top right of each page. Bottom center page numbers. For printed papers, simply staple pages together, do not use a binder or fancy cover. For each of the assignments follow the instructions in Blackboard: Course Materials which provides further specifications on the outline to follow, the section headers, page lengths and line spacing.

American Anthropologist Style: All assignments, both electronic or printed, MUST use the source citation format and style of the American Anthropologist. Style guidelines are available in Blackboard: Course Materials, “Writing Papers in the Style of the American Anthropologist.”
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Library Lessons
Lessons contained in a web page designed for this course by Internet Librarian Sarah Hamill guide students through the use of the FIU library to locate anthropology books, journals, databases and AA citation style. See web page at ANT3034 Library Guide.

1. Library Home: Introduces the web page purpose, layout and exercise tabs.
2. Library Lesson 1: Become familiar with the Library: Learn to use the FIU electronic library to locate and access books and journals.
3. Library Lesson 2: Database Comparison: Learn to use the FIU electronic library to locate and access Anthropology publications using the databases AnthroSource and Anthropology Plus.
4. Library Lesson 3: Anthropology Journals: Shows how to locate anthropology journals for this course.

Optional Ways to Get a Better Grade
Instructions for the variety of ways to earn extra credit are in Blackboard:Course Materials:Optional Extra Credit Opportunities.

1. Act the Part: Perform a theatrical representation of a Major Theorist. Become very familiar with the theoretical positions, writings, life and times of a major anthropological theorist. Perform before the class by dressing the part, acting the role, with props. Can be individually, or with other students acting their parts. Choose a theorist from one of the Moore book chapters, or with approval of the instructor. This can be scheduled starting the third week of the course.

2. Optional Applied Anthropologist Presentation:
Produce a PowerPoint presentation (Ideally with a voiceover recording) focusing on the career of a single contemporary anthropologist highlighting how they contributed to the further development of anthropological theories. A contemporary theorist is a Ph.D. Anthropologist who has published in the past ten years. The presentation should be of a length presentable in 10 to 15 minutes, and should be about 10-15 slides. Students must be willing to present the PowerPoint in class. Post the presentation in the course Assignment Dropbox. Be sure to reduce the pixel size of the graphic images so that the file is not too large to submit via Blackboard. Earn up to three extra points.

3. Optional PowerPoint Presentation to the Class: The Instructor will preview the submitted presentations and invite selected students to present their work before the class. Presentations can earn up to five additional points.
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COURSE POINTS

Exam 1, 2, 3  15 points each  45
Theory Spokesperson  10
Position Statement  5
Essay  15
Exercises **  25

TOTAL  100

Optional:  Earn points up to:
Act the Part  10
Individual PowerPoint Presentation to Class  5

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Grand Total Points  120

** At the end of the semester the total number of points for the Exercises may be more or less than the Course Points. Exercise points are calculated using the following formula:  A) Total points received divided by B) Total possible points, multiplied by C) Course Points = D) Course Points Earned.  (A / B) x C = D

BLACKBOARD GRADEBOOK does not accurately total scores

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION

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<th>Grand Total Points</th>
<th>A  =  95 – 100</th>
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<td>D  =  60 – 69.9</td>
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<td>B  =  83 – 86.9</td>
<td>F  =  59.9 or less</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B- =  80 – 82.9</td>
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COURSE TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE

Assigned readings are to be completed by class meeting. All essays, position papers and extra credits are posted in Blackboard Assignment Dropbox. Schedule modifications discussed in class and posted in Blackboard Announcements supersede this schedule.

Week One: August 22, 24.  Introductions and Course Overview
View “Web Content” in Blackboard: Course Materials: Course Videos and Internet Media.
Student Introduction. Post in Blackboard: Discussions by Sunday, August 27 at 11:59 PM.
Syllabus Quiz and Ethic Statement. Complete in Blackboard by Sunday, August 27 at 11:59 PM.

Week Two: August 29, 31.  Anthropology Defined
Erickson & Murphy: Pps.1-32.
Moore: ix – 3; Founders. Tyler, Morgan 5-29.

Week Three: September 5, 7.  Major Theories.
Erickson & Murphy: 33-69.
Moore: Boas, Durkheim 36-54.
Do Library lessons on locating original theorist's publication and journals for essay on applying anthropology.

Week Four: September 12, 14.  American Cultural Patterns and Configurations
Erickson & Murphy: 70-82
Moore: Pps. 55-58; Kroeber, Benedict 59-80, Mead 95-106.

September 12.  Rank order preferred major theories with justification for top three. Bring printed to class.
Exam 1 on Thursday, September 14.

Week Five: September 19, 21.  British Structures and Functions
Moore: Malinowksi, Radcliffe-Brown, Evans-Pritchard 122-156.
Erickson & Murphy: 94-105.

Week Six: September 26, 28.  Structuralism
Erickson & Murphy: 83-93
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Week Seven: October 3, 5. Evolutionism
Erickson & Murphy: 111-116.
Steward, Julian (Cultural Ecology, Materialism)
Article 1: Wilf, Eitan

Week Eight: October 10, 12. Cognitive Theory
Erickson & Murphy: 107-111.
Moore: Sapir 81-94.
Article 2: Wiedman, Dennis, and Iveris Martinez. (Cognitive)
2017 Organizational Cultural Theme Theory and Analysis of the Strategic Planning of a New Medical School. Human Organization. In Press.

Week Nine: October 17, 19. Materialism, Political Economy
Erickson & Murphy: 117-125, 145-156
Moore: Harris 185-195; Leacock 196-204; Wolf 308-326.
Article 3: Joos, Vincent

Week Ten: October 24, 26. Symbolic Interpretive
Erickson & Murphy: 125-134.
Moore: Pps. 205-207; Turner 224-234; Geertz 235-246.
Article 4: Mentore, Laura
Exam 2 on Thursday October 26.

Week Eleven: October 31, November 2. Transactionalism, Processualism, Agency and Feminism
Erickson & Murphy: 135-144.
Moore: Bourdieu 292-307; Sahlins 327-345.
Article 5: Westermeyer, William H. (Processualism and Agency)

Week Twelve: November 7, 9. Biocultural, Globalization, Feminism
Erickson & Murphy: 171-187.
Moore: Pps. 261-265; Fernandez 267-276; Ort 277-291.
Article 6: Wiedman, Dennis (Biocultural, Globalization)

Week Thirteen: November 14, 16. Post-Modernism
Erickson & Murphy: 156-169, 187-204.
Article 7: Thomas, Todne (Post-Modernism)
Optional Anthropology Theorist PowerPoint, Extra credits and late required items.
Due Tuesday, Nov. 14, 11:59 PM in Blackboard Assignment Dropbox.
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Course summary
Student Extra Credit Presentations

Week Fifteen: November 28, 30
Course Review
Student Presentations

Final Exam Week: As schedule in University Calendar.
Thursday December 7. 9:45 to 11:45 AM.
Student Presentations (If necessary)

WEB ASSISTED COURSE MATERIALS – Blackboard.
Specific information for course assignments is posted in Blackboard throughout the semester. Blackboard supports the student learning experience with instructions, related readings, web page links, study aids, discussions, emails, and extra credit exercises. Student computers should use Mozilla FireFox, MS Word, and Adobe Reader for pdf files. Below is a summary of the primary methods to communicate in the class within Blackboard. It is important to read announcements, messages and discussions as soon as they are posted. Only students enrolled in the course, the instructors, and Blackboard technical support can view messages and discussions. The main Blackboard page does not indicate the posting of a new announcement, message, or discussion. When you sign-on into Blackboard it is recommended to routinely check announcements, messages, and discussions to ensure up-to-date communication. Internet access can be through any computer.

Announcements. Instructor way to communicate to the whole class. Announcements are also automatically sent to your FIU email address.

Messages. Students can send messages to selected individuals in the class using the drop down list. If you want to send to all students then post in Discussion. Blackboard messages is the best method to communicate with instructor privately. Do not use your regular email to communicate with instructor.

Discussion Forums.
Course Issues Forum: Students and the instructor can post any course issues, such as clarification of instructions, problems, issues, or interesting ways to use Blackboard. Help one another by answering questions or issues when they are posted.

Open Discussion Forum: Students and the instructor post interesting ideas related to the course. This is an open discussion facilitating back and forth dialog. Something in the news related to the course? Find an interesting web site? How about your insights connecting things learned in the course, or new ways to implement anthropological concepts. Is there a campus/community event, TV program, etc.? This Forum is to liven up the course and facilitate interactions. (This forum is not for course points or a grade).

Visit our Writing Resources webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.
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Policies

*FIU Policies:* Please review [FIU's Policies](#) webpage containing essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU.

*Classroom Etiquette:* During class time, cell phones and text messaging must be turned off and out of sight. Class discussions demonstrate the student's interest in the course, understanding of the materials, as well as critical thinking and verbal skills. Active, courteous, and informed participation is highly desired.

*Attendance:* In order to succeed in this course, students are expected to attend every class. Avoid arriving late or leaving early since this disrupts the presentation and student concentration. Course materials, exercises, and discussions presented in class are the responsibility of the student. In-class exercises are designed to promote attendance.

*Timeliness.* Exercises and essays are due on the due date. Late Essays receive a letter grade reduction for each week it is late. Exercises are not accepted after the due date. The last dates to submit extra credits and late assignments are posted in the course schedule.

*Academic Misconduct Statement*

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Academic Misconduct includes: **Cheating** – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. **Plagiarism** – The use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.

All sources must be identified with in-text citations and in a "References Cited" section using the style of American Anthropologist. Essays are submitted to Blackboard's Turnitin feature for an assessment of originality. Students who violate these principles could receive a grade of "F" for the course. The instructor has the authority to consider academic misconduct charges that carry considerable penalties.

Learn more about the [academic integrity policies and procedures](#) as well as [student resources](#) that can help you prepare for a successful semester.

You must agree to the **Ethics Statement** in the course content in order to proceed with the course.