

Debates in Cultural Anthropology
Anth 3300-001: Fall 2016: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3: 20 UH 13
<http://www.uta.edu/profiles/dr-ritu-khanduri>

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Objectives

Was anthropology complicit with colonial politics? Does feminist anthropology have an awkward relationship with anthropology? Is ethnography a form of representation? Does globalization render "culture" an obsolete concept? This course explores these key debates in anthropology through ethnographic readings, a selection of classical texts and skype discussions with cultural anthropologists whose works we will be reading in class.

Measurable Learning Outcomes

- Define key anthropological theories and debates
- Analyze theories developed by anthropologists that study human behavior.
- Review ethnographies
- Discuss the way cultural anthropology has been used to work on contemporary problems.

Evaluation

Three Essays:	60
Presentation Book:	10
Presentation Weekly:	10
Social Media:	10
Participation:	10

Grades in the course will be assigned according to the following scale:

100-90 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D 50-59 = F

UTA Email and Blackboard will be used as a means of communication with students. If you are unable to access your email or course website then please contact UTA's OIT Help Desk at (817) 272-2208. You

will be responsible for checking your **UTA e-mail and course website** regularly for class work, electronic readings, assignments, discussions, and announcements.

Attendance is mandatory. If you are absent more than two times for this course, your participation grade will go down for every other day that you are absent (from an A to an A-). It is important to be in class on time and for the entire duration of the class. Tardiness beyond five minutes of class time will count as an absence, after a first warning is given.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study Students should expect to spend nine hours reading, studying, and completing class assignments per week.

The **course website** on Blackboard hosts a copy of the syllabus, supplementary and optional readings, and external links. If you are unable to access your email or course website after the second week of the semester then please contact UTA's OIT Help Desk at (817) 272-2208.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101,

§2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located at the end of the corridor. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

***Class Etiquette:** Please switch off your cell phones and electronic gadgets in class. Laptops may only be

used for designated in-class activities. Professional conduct in class and email is required. No late entries or early exits without Dr. Khanduri's prior permission. Unprofessional conduct will affect your final course grade.

Week 1

Thursday, August 25, 2016: Introduction

Week 2

Tuesday, August 30

Chapter 1, Introduction and Part 1: State and religion in the long run

Thursday, September 1:

Part 2: Publicity and Politics

Week 3

Tuesday, September 6:

Part 3: Philosophy, Media Anxiety

Thursday, September 8: **Anthropology and Gender**

28. Sally Slocum, *Woman the Gatherer: Male Bias in Anthropology* (1975)

29. Eleanor Leacock, *Interpreting the Origins of Gender Inequality: Conceptual and Historical Problems* (1983)

30. David Valentine, *"I Went to Bed with My Own Kind Once": The Erasure of Desire in the Name of Identity* (2003)

Week 4: Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology

Tuesday, September 13

31. Mary Douglas, *External Boundaries* (1966)

32. Victor Turner, *Symbols in Ndembu Ritual* (1967)

Thursday, September 15.

33. Clifford Geertz, *Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight* (1973)

Week 5: Background to Postmodernism

Tuesday, September 20

34. Pierre Bourdieu, *Structures, Habitus, Practices* (1980)

Thursday, September 22

35. Michel Foucault, *The Incitement to Discourse* (1976)

***Essay 1 due online on Discussion Board (Blackboard)**

Week 6: Post Modernism and Its Critics

Tuesday, September 27

36. Renato Rosaldo, *Grief and a Headhunter's Rage* (1989)

37. Lila Abu-Lughod, *A Tale of Two Pregnancies* (1995)

Thursday, September 29

38. Hanson, *The Making of the Maori: Cultural Invention and Its Logic* (1989)

Week 7: Globalization, Power, and Agency

Tuesday, October 4

39. Arjun Appadurai, *Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy* (1990)

40. Philippe Bourgois, *From Jíbaro to Crack Dealer: Confronting the Restructuring of Capitalism in El Barrio* (1995)

Thursday, October 6

41. Theodore Bestor, *Kaiten-zushi and Konbini; Japanese Food Culture in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction* (2006)

Week 8: Nineteenth-Century Evolutionism

Tuesday, October 11

1. Herbert Spencer, *The Social Organism* (1860)

2. Sir Edward Burnett Tylor, *The Science of Culture* (1871)

3. Lewis Henry Morgan, *Ethnical Periods* (1877)

Thursday, October 13

4. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *Feuerbach. Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook* (1845-1846)

Week 9: The Foundations of Sociological Thought

Tuesday, October 18

5. Émile Durkheim, *What is a Social Fact?* (1895)

6. Marcel Mauss, *Excerpts from The Gift* (1925)

Thursday, October 20: **Historical Particularism**

7. Max Weber, *Class, Status, Party* (1922)

8. Franz Boas, *The Methods of Ethnology* (1920)

9. A. L. Kroeber, *Eighteen Professions* (1915)

Week 10: Functionalism

Tuesday, October 25

11. Bronislaw Malinowski, *The Essentials of the Kula* (1922)

12. A. R. Radcliffe-Brown, *On Joking Relationships* (1940)

Thursday, October 27

13. Max Gluckman, *The Licence in Ritual* (1956)

Week 11

Tuesday, November 1: **Culture and Personality**

14. Ruth Fulton Benedict, *Psychological Types in the Cultures of the Southwest* (1928)

15. Margaret Mead, *Introduction to Coming of Age in Samoa* (1928)

***Essay 2 due online on Discussion Board (Blackboard)**

Thursday, November 3: **The Reemergence of Evolutionary Thought**

16. Leslie White, *Energy and the Evolution of Culture* (1943)

17. Julian Steward, *The Patrilineal Band* (1955)

Week 12: Neomaterialism: Evolutionary, Functionalist, Ecological, and Marxist

Tuesday, November 8

18. Morton H. Fried, *On the Evolution of Social Stratification and the State* (1960)
19. Marvin Harris, *The Cultural Ecology of India's Sacred Cattle* (1966)
20. Roy A. Rappaport, *Ritual Regulation of Environmental Relations Among a New Guinea People* (1967)

Thursday, November 10

21. Eric Wolf, *Peasantry and Its Problems* (1966)

Week 13: Structuralism

Tuesday, November 15

22. Claude Lévi-Strauss, *Four Winnebago Myths: A Structural Sketch* (1960)
23. Sherry B. Ortner, *Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?* (1974)

Ethnoscience and Cognitive Anthropology

Thursday, November 17

24. Harold C. Conklin, *Hanunóo Color Categories* (1955)
25. Stephen A. Tyler, *Introduction to Cognitive Anthropology* (1969)

Week 14: Sociobiology, Evolutionary Psychology, and Behavioral Ecology

Tuesday, November 22

26. Edward O. Wilson, *The Morality of the Gene* (1975)
27. Rebecca Bliege Bird, Eric Alden Smith, and Douglas W. Bird, *The Hunting Handicap: Costly Signaling in Human Foraging Strategies* (2001)

Thursday, November 24, 2016: Thanksgiving Holidays

Week 15: *The Mushroom at the End of the World*

Tuesday, November 29

Enabling Entanglements and Prologue

Thursday, December 1

Part 1: What's Left?

Part II: After Progress

Week 16: *The Mushroom at the End of the World*

Tuesday, December 6. Last class day.

Part III: Disturbed Beginnings

Part IV: In the Middle of Things

Essay 3 due online on Discussion Board (Blackboard): December 10

Sign-up sheet

Why the French don't like Headscarves

Chapter 1, Introduction and Part 1: State and religion in the long run

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Part 2: Publicity and Politics

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Part 3: Philosophy, Media Anxiety

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Sign-up sheet

The Mushroom at the End of the World

Part 1: What's Left?

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Part II: After Progress

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Part III: Disturbed Beginnings

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Part IV: In the Middle of Things

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