

ANTHROPOLOGY 210.01 (22476)
 Development of Anthropological Thought
 Spring 2025
 TR 3:05-4:20, ECTR 114

Dr. Hector Qirko
 Office hours: M 10:00-12:00,
 W 11:00-1:00, TR 1:45-2:45.

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Course description: This course is a survey of major theoretical paradigms used by anthropologists to attempt to understand human social and cultural behavior. While the course is historical in nature, and thus emphasizes the ways anthropological theory has changed over time, it also explores the degree to which different theoretical movements remain relevant to anthropological pursuits today.

Course objectives and student learning outcomes: Students will

- learn major anthropological theories (including their assumptions, functional relationships, operational definitions, and major concepts and predictions) as they have been developed and applied throughout the discipline's history;
- explore the relationship between theory and research methods, data, and data analyses, and their presentation in the anthropological literature;
- examine how anthropological theory relates to taken-for-granted societal assumptions about people and groups; and
- improve active and critical reading, research, analytical, writing, and oral discussion skills.

Textbook: McGee, R. J., & Warms, R. L. (2020). *Anthropological theory: An introductory history (7th^h edition)*. New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN-10: 1538126206 ISBN-13: 978-1538126202

NOTE: This course is part of the College's course material delivery program, [Cougar Complete](#). The College of Charleston Bookstore provides each student with a rental package for physical books and any digital materials that have been integrated into OAKS. You were automatically enrolled in this program when you registered for classes, unless you chose to opt out. However, you cannot opt in or out of classes individually, but must decide for all your classes each semester.

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming your materials and asking you to select how you would like to receive them. If you haven't done so already, please make sure you select your fulfillment preference through that email or the Cougar Complete link so the bookstore can prepare your materials.

Additional readings: All additional required readings and materials will be available either electronically at the course OAKS site or via internet links listed below. Please contact me with any access issues as soon as possible. You are expected to read selections prior to class periods for which they are assigned (see course outline below). Announcements regarding reading updates, revisions, and other relevant topics will be made in class and via email.

Course structure: Class periods will consist of lectures, discussion of topics and readings, and occasional films.

Graded work: Course grade will be based on three exams (20% each), three critical analysis papers (10% each), and class participation (10%).

Grade scale:

A 92-100%; A- 90-91; B+ 88-89; B 82-87; B- 80-81; C+ 78-79; C 72-77; C- 70-71; D+ 68-69; D 62-67; D- 60-61; F 59 or below.

Exams:

There will be three in-class, short essay exams designed to ensure course engagement and understanding of specific materials covered in readings, lectures, class discussion, and films (2/11, 3/20, 4/29). You will be expected to identify specific authors and researchers and relate them to their work as read, viewed, or discussed. Study guides will be provided. Exams missed due to excused and documented absences can be made-up at the end of the semester, dates and location TBA.

Critical analysis papers:

You will be responsible for three short (4-5 page, double-spaced, 12 pt font) papers. One (due 2/4) will be an examination of anthropological theory as used, explicitly or implicitly, in an ethnographic video. The two others will be analyses of academic research articles related to two different topic sections covered in the course (due 3/13, 4/22). Guidelines and related resources will be posted on OAKS and discussed in class. You may submit drafts for content and editorial feedback at any time prior to due dates.

Class participation:

Class attendance, engagement, and participation are essential for success in this course, as much of the material on exams will stem directly from class work. The class participation grade (10% of course grade) will be based on your semester-long attendance and contributions to in-class discussion of course material. While daily attendance will not be taken, you are obviously expected to attend class (and be prepared to do so by having done the relevant readings) and are responsible for all information disseminated in the course. If you must miss a class, obtain notes from classmates and feel free to meet with me during office hours or by appointment to discuss them. Lecture notes will not be posted, although power point slides used in class will be.

You are responsible for reporting absences that require documentation (exam and assignment due dates, as well as extended absences related to health, personal or emergency situations) directly to me. Also remember that the [Student Health Services](#) are always available as needed.

Special needs

If you have (or think you might have) a documented disability that may impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, contact an administrator at the [Center of Disability Services](#) (email: snap@cofc.edu; phone: 843-953-1431; location: Lightsey Center 104). Accommodations will require a Professor Notification letter (PNL) from you and will be approved early in the semester and not during or after exam periods or assignment due dates. Please feel free to discuss related issues with me at any time during office hours or by appointment. Additionally, whether or not you have a documented disability, let me know about anything that can make navigating and learning course materials easier for you.

Self-care and finding a healthy life-college balance

Keeping life, school, and often work in balance can be difficult. This [site](#) provides resources to help with some of the many issues that can come up. Also always feel free to discuss with me if you want additional input.

Honor code

Violations of the honor code will be taken seriously. If you need reminding, you can find the complete code and all related processes in the [Student Handbook](#). Obviously, lying, cheating, attempted cheating,

and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when suspected, are investigated. Any acts of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students and addressed through the conduct process.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools may be used for brainstorming, outlining, and generating ideas about a topic. However, they may not be used as a cited source or as a substitute for your own writing in your submitted work. Because plagiarism is sometimes an unintentional infraction, I recommend that you refer to this Elsevier [fact sheet](#) to make sure you know what errors to avoid. And because the use of AI tools is further complicating this issue, use the content of this [video](#) by Brian Doak as a guide for what I expect from you regarding these tools in this course. Don't hesitate to contact me with any doubts or questions you may have.

Inclement Weather or other substantial interruptions

If in-person classes are suspended, I will let you know as soon as possible my plan to keep the class going. Whatever that entails, you will need a computer equipped with internet access.

Additional resources

Any problems with any aspect of the course, don't hesitate to meet with me. Also, there are many good online articles on critical skills that can help you navigate this course and others. For example:

[Critical/objective thinking](#)

[Active reading](#)

[Critical reading](#)

[Effective writing](#)

And don't forget the Writing Lab in the [Center for Student Learning](#) (Addlestone Library, first floor). Trained writing consultants can help with writing for all courses; they offer one-to-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, call 843.953.5635.

As members of the College of Charleston community, we affirm, embrace and hold ourselves accountable to the core values of integrity, academic excellence, liberal arts education, respect for the individual student, diversity, equity and inclusion, student centeredness, innovation and public mission.

COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: Subject to revision. Assigned textbook (M&W) readings are listed by chapter. Additional readings (available from the course OAKS site) are listed by author last name and the last two years of date of publication. Links to assigned online ("U of A" and other) material are found below the course schedule.

1/9	Introduction to course	
1/14	Theory and why it matters	M&W intro, Link A
1/16	Evolutionism, 1 st wave	Link B (UofA "social evolutionism"), M&W 1
1/21	Evolutionism, 1 st wave 2	M&W 2, 3

1/23	Marx and Engels, Durkheim	M&W 4, 5
1/28	Mauss, Weber	Mauss 88, M&W 7
1/30	Historical particularism	UofA “historicism”, M&W 8
2/4	Historical particularism 2	M&W 9, 13 [video analysis 1 due]
2/6	Functionalism	UofA “functionalism”, Radcliffe-Brown 88
2/11	EXAM 1	
2/13	Functionalism 2	M&W 14, Gluckman 55
2/18	Culture and personality	UofA “culture & personality”, M&W 11
2/20	Evolutionism, 2 nd wave	Sahlins 88
2/25	Cultural ecology	UofA “ecological anth”, Steward 88
2/27	Cultural materialism	UofA “cultural materialism”, Harris 88
3/4-6	SPRING BREAK	
3/11	Structuralism	UofA “structuralism”, de Saussure 16
3/13	Structuralism 2	M&W 20, Ortner 74 [research analysis 1 due]
3/18	Ethnoscience and cognitive anth	UofA “cognitive anth”
3/20	EXAM 2	
3/25	Ethnoscience and cognitive anth 2	M&W, Conklin 86, Hunn 75
3/27	Evolutionism, 3 rd wave 1	M&W 23, Buss 89
4/1	Evolutionism, 3 rd wave 2	Qirko 20
4/3	Anthropology and gender	UofA “feminist anth”, M&W 24
4/8	Symbolic and interpretive anth	UofA “symbolic...anth”, M&W 28, Hutson 00
4/10	Symbolic and interpretive anth 2	M&W 26, DaMatta 82
4/15	Postmodernism	UofA “postmodernism...”, M&W 31
4/17	Postmodernism 2	M&W 32, 36
4/22	Globalization	M&W 34, 39 [research analysis 2 due]
4/29	EXAM 3 3:30-5:30 p.m.	

INTERNET LINKS

Link A: Tips for Reading Difficult Texts

<https://qualpage.com/2019/05/02/tips-for-reading-difficult-texts/>

Link B: University of Alabama Anthropology Department: Anthropological Theories (In schedule, noted as “U of A”, followed by topic titles – use website pull-down menu in the “Theories” tab to reach topics.) <https://anthropology.ua.edu/anthropological-theories/>