Course description

This is the second quarter of the three-quarter proseminar sequence required for graduate students in the Ph.D. program in anthropology. In this quarter students will explore ethnographies and analytic articles with an eye toward theories of power, inequality and difference, as well as changing modes of ethnographic practice. The course will be in explicit dialogue with Proseminar A. That is, topics presented in the first quarter will be revisited in the second quarter. Responses and reactions to the works presented in the first quarter will be an important element of this quarter’s seminar. Because it is designed to link up to Proseminar A (and prepare the way for Proseminar C), this course is open only to students who have taken Proseminar A in the Fall of 2013 (not in an earlier year). There will be no exceptions to this requirement.

Rather than present a different time period or national tradition than Proseminar A, this quarter we will “return to the beginning.” The most demanding week of the course is probably Weeks 1, in which we’ll read a number of primary and secondary sources by and about Marx and Weber. We’ll form an overview of Marx and Weber’s anthropology and compare this with the anthropology of Durkheim discussed in Proseminar A. The course then moves though a series of intellectual currents in the history of anthropology, including feminist and Marxist anthropologies, the critique of structural functionalism, language and political economy, and the influence of Gramsci on anthropology.

The course is reading-intensive and writing-intensive, and thus will place rather large demands on your time — you will need to learn to skim productively. The course also requires attendance at two Friday evening seminars, at locations to be announced in class, which aim to provide an opportunity to talk in a more relaxed, informal setting, and hopefully to lay the groundwork for future productive collaborations.

You will need to obtain the following books (listed in the order we’ll be reading them):

Course requirements

**Attendance and participation (16% of your final grade):** Weekly attendance is absolutely vital. The class will be run as a seminar, and you will be generating the bulk of the work for each meeting, which means your attentive and engaged participation in class discussions is required. While the assigned reading will sometimes be a challenge, you should attend class and participate in discussions regardless of how much of the reading you’ve finished. I will only accept absences in cases of dire emergency. **NOTE:** This part of your grade will be based not just on your analysis of the readings, but how well you link your discussion to readings and themes from Proseminar A.

**Weekly seminars (10%):** You will be responsible for helping to facilitate part of a seminar meeting three (3) times during the quarter. Starting with Week 2, readings will be divided between two groups of two members each. These groups are responsible for leading the entire class through their assigned readings. On the first day of class I will give specific instructions for how to organize your presentations and facilitations, however bear in mind that each should include a brief (5 minute) introduction to the authors, their intellectual biographies, and how they relate to themes from the course.

**Friday seminars (6%):** In addition to our regular weekly seminars there will be two (2) Friday seminars during the quarter, at times and locations to be announced. As during Fall Quarter, we will have dinner and you will read the ethnography assigned for that seminar and be prepared to talk about it. Teams of six (6) students will be responsible for facilitating
discussion for these meetings. Facilitators should be prepared with a list of questions designed to generate discussion.

- **Three (3) short essays (54% of your final grade):** You are responsible for turning in three (3) short essays during the quarter (each 2,500 words max, including all references, notes, etc., and worth 18% of your final grade). These will be due in the course's EEE dropbox by 5pm the Sunday night before the listed course meeting date. Your paper can either address one or more of the prompts that I will distribute for each week's readings, or reflect your own critical and analytical questions about the assigned readings. **No late papers will be accepted.** Note that here, too, your paper grade will be based not just on your analysis of the readings, but how well you link your discussion to readings and themes from Proseminar A.

- **Final Assignment (30% of your final grade):** The final assignment will be distributed during Week 9 and is due in our EEE dropbox by **5pm on Wednesday, March 19. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

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**Schedule of Readings**

**Week 1: Late 19th C. Social Thought on Society and Power: Marx & Weber**

**NOTE:** We'll be jumping right into the original texts. Read the Roseberry and Keyes pieces for grounding and reference, but concentrate more on the primary sources.


**Week 2: The Early Critique of Structural-Functionalism**

- Fredrik Barth, Models of Social Organisation (London: Royal Anthropological Institute, 1966), pp. 1–33.
- Raymond Firth, Elements of Social Organisation (Boston: Beacon, 1963), pp. 30–79.


**Week 3: Althusser and French Structural Marxism (Short essay #1 due)**

Week 4: Colonialism and the Other


Week 5: Practice Theory and the Subject


Week 6: Diving Deep — The Traffic in Women (Short Essay #2 due)


- *Sigmund Freud*, selections

Week 7: Theory in Anthropology since Feminist Practice


• Peggy Reeves Sanday, Fraternity Gang Rape: Sex, Brotherhood, and Privilege on Campus (2nd edition; NYU Press, 2007).


Week 8: Michel Foucault and the Diffusion of Power

• Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality Vol. 1.


• Michel Foucault, “Panopticism,” in Discipline and Punish, pp 195-228.


**Week 9: Gramsci and Hegemony (Short essay #3 due)**


**Week 10: The Political Economy of Language**


