

Anthropology 202B | Classical Ethnography: Society & Power
Winter 2014
Professor Keith M. Murphy

Class Time: Mondays 12:00 - 2:50pm
Office Hours: Mondays, 3-4 | Wednesdays 6-7ish
Email:
Course Webpage:

Place:
Office:
Phone:

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 through 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):

- W. G. Runciman, ed., *Weber: Selections in Translation* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978).
- David McLellan, ed., *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2000).
- Edmund R. Leach, *Political Systems of Highland Burma: a Study of Kachin Social Structure* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1964).

- E. E. Evans-Pritchard, *The Nuer: a Description of the Modes of Livelihood and Political Institutions of a Nilotic People* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1940).
- Roy Rappaport, *Pigs for the Ancestors: Ritual in the Ecology of a New Guinea People* (Waveland Press, 2000).
- Pierre Bourdieu, *Outline of a Theory of Practice* (Cambridge: Cambridge U. P., 1977).
- Marshall Sahlins, *Culture and Practical Reason* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978).
- Engels, Friedrich, *Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* (Pathfinder Press, 1972).
- Peggy Reeves Sanday, *Fraternity Gang Rape: Sex, Brotherhood, and Privilege on Campus* (2nd edition; NYU Press, 2007).
- Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction* (Vintage, 1990).
- David Forgacs, ed., *The Antonio Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916-1935*, (New York, New York University Press, 2000).

Recommended: Peter J. Martin et al, *Understanding Classical Sociology: Marx, Weber, Durkheim* (Sage Publications, 1995).

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.**

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.

- William Roseberry, "Marx and Anthropology," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 26, 25–46, 1997.
- Karl Marx, "The German Ideology," in *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, David McLellan, ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).
- Karl Marx, Sections from *Capital, Vol. 1* ("From the Prefaces," "Commodities: Use Value and Exchange Value," "The Fetishism of Commodities," "Exchange and Money," "The Working Day," "Primitive Accumulation," and "The Historical Tendency of Capitalist Accumulation"), in *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, David McLellan, ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).
- Charles F. Keyes, "Weber and Anthropology," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 31, 233–255, 2002.
- Max Weber, "The Nature of Social Action," in *Weber: Selections in Translation*, W. G. Runciman, ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978), pp. 7–32 (also read the introduction on pages 3–6).
- Max Weber, "Basic Categories of Social Organisation" in *Weber: Selections in Translation*, W. G. Runciman, ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978), pp. 33–43.

- Max Weber, “Protestant Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism,” in *Weber: Selections in Translation*, W. G. Runciman, ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. P., 1978), pp. 138–173

REC. Peter J. Martin et al, *Understanding Classical Sociology: Marx, Weber, Durkheim* (Sage Publications, 1995). (If you’re interested, you can borrow my copy)

Week 2: The Early Critique of Structural-Functionalism

- Fredrik Barth, *Models of Social Organisation* (London: Royal Anthropological Institute, 1966), pp. 1–33.
- Talal Asad, “Market Model, Class Structure and Consent: a Reconsideration of Swat Political Organisation,” in *Man* 7(1):74–94, 1972.
- Raymond Firth, *Elements of Social Organisation* (Boston: Beacon, 1963), pp. 30–79.
- Raymond Firth, “Orientations in Economic Life,” in *The Institutions of Primitive Society* (Glencoe, IL: Free Press, 1959), pp. 12–24.
- Edmund R. Leach, *Political Systems of Highland Burma: a Study of Kachin Social Structure* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1964).

REC. Erving Goffman, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (Doubleday, 1959).

- >> **January 17 Friday Seminar: E. E. Evans-Pritchard**, *The Nuer: a Description of the Modes of Livelihood and Political Institutions of a Nilotic People* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1940).

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

- Maurice Bloch, *Marxism and Anthropology: The History of a Relationship* (Oxford: Clarendon Press), Chapter 5 (pp. 124–140), 1983.
- Maurice Godelier, “Anthropology and Economics,” in his *Perspectives in Marxist Anthropology* (New York, Cambridge Press), pp. 15–62, 1977.
- Claude Meillassoux, “From Reproduction to Production: A Marxist Approach to Economic Anthropology,” in *Economy and Society* 1(1):93–105, 1972.
- Olivia Harris and Kate Young, “Engendered Structures: Some Problems in the Analysis of Reproduction,” in *The Anthropology of Pre-Capitalist Societies*, Joel Kahn and Joseph Llobera, eds. (London: MacMillan), pp. 109–147, 1981.
- Louis Althusser, “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses (Notes Towards an Investigation),” in *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*, Ben Brewster, trans. (New York: Monthly Review Press), pp. 121–173, 1971.

Week 4: Colonialism and the Other

- Thomas Gerlholm and Ulf Hannerz, “Introduction: The Shaping of National Anthropologies,” in *Ethnos* 47(1/2):5–35, 1982.
- Talal Asad, “Two European Images of Non-European Rule,” in *Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter*, pp. 103-120, 1973.
- Michel-Rolph Trouillot, “Anthropology and the Savage Slot: The Poetics and Politics of Otherness,” in *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present*, Richard G. Fox, ed. (Santa Fe: School of American Research Press), pp. 17–44, 1991.
- Peter Pels, “The Anthropology of Colonialism: Culture, History, and the Emergence of Western Governmentality,” in *Annual Review of Anthropology* 26:163–183, 1997.
- Kulick, Don, “Theory in Furs: Masochist Anthropology,” in *Current Anthropology* 47(6): 933-952, 2006 [plus commentary]

Week 5: Practice Theory and the Subject

- Sherry B. Ortner, “Theory in Anthropology since the Sixties,” in *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 26(1):126–166, 1984.
- Pierre Bourdieu, *Outline of a Theory of Practice* (Cambridge University Press, 1977).
- Marshall Sahlins, *Culture and Practical Reason* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978).
- Sherry Ortner, “Subjectivity and Cultural Critique,” *Anthropological Theory* 5(1), 31-52, 2005.

REC. C. Jason Throop and Keith M. Murphy, “Bourdieu and Phenomenology: A Critical Assessment,” *Anthropological Theory* 2(2), 185-207, 2002.

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

- Gayle Rubin, “The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex,” in *Toward an Anthropology of Women*. Rayna R. Reiter, ed. (Monthly Review Press), pp. 157–210, 1975.
- Friedrich Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*, pp. 51-118.
- Claude Levi-Strauss, *Elementary Forms of Kinship*, selections (“Nature and Culture,” 3-11; “The Problem of Incest,” 12-25; “Endogamy and Exogamy,” 42-51; “The Principle of Reciprocity,” 52-68.)
- Sigmund Freud, selections

- Jean-Joseph Goux, “Numismatics: An Essay in Theoretical Numismatics,” in *Symbolic Economies*, pp. 9-63.

Week 7: Theory in Anthropology since Feminist Practice

- Marilyn Strathern, “No Nature, No Culture: the Hagen Case.” In *Nature, Culture, and Gender*, Carol P. MacCormack and Marilyn Strathern, eds. (Cambridge University Press, 1980), pp. 174–222.
- Michelle Rosaldo, “The Uses and Abuses of Anthropology: Reflections on Feminism and Cross-Cultural Understanding,” in *Signs* 5(3):389–417, 1980.
- Karen Sacks, “Engels Revisited: Women, the Organization of Production, and Private Property.” in *Women, Culture, and Society*. Michelle Zimbalist Rosaldo and Louise Lamphere, eds. (Stanford University Press), pp. 207–222, 1974.
- Peggy Reeves Sanday, *Fraternity Gang Rape: Sex, Brotherhood, and Privilege on Campus* (2nd edition; NYU Press, 2007).

REC. Jane Collier and Sylvia Yanagisako, “Toward a Unified Analysis of Gender and Kinship.” In their edited *Gender and Kinship: Essays Toward a Unified Analysis* (Stanford University Press), pp. 14–52, 1987.

REC. Felicity Edholm, Olivia Harris, and Kate Young, “Conceptualizing Women.” *Critique of Anthropology* 9/10(3):101–130, 1978.

Week 8: Michel Foucault and the Diffusion of Power

- Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality Vol. 1*.
- Michel Foucault, “The Body of the Condemned,” pp. 170-178; “Docile Bodies,” pp. 179-187, in *The Foucault Reader*.
- Michel Foucault, “Panopticism,” in *Discipline and Punish*, pp 195-228.
- Lisa Rofel, “Rethinking Modernity: Space and Factory Discipline in China,” *Cultural Anthropology* 7(1), 93-114, 1992.

REC. Dominic Boyer, “The Medium of Foucault in Anthropology,” *Minnesota Review* 58-60, 265-272, 2002.

REC. Matti Bunzl, “Boas, Foucault, and the “Native Anthropologist”: Notes Toward a Neo-Boasian Anthropology,” *American Anthropologist* 106(3), 435-442, 2004.

>> **February 28 Friday Seminar: Roy Rappaport**, *Pigs for the Ancestors: Ritual in the Ecology of a New Guinea People* (Waveland Press, 2000 [1967]).

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

- *The Antonio Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916–1935*, edited by David Forgacs (New York, New York University Press, 2000), pp. 10–13, 17–25, 32–39, 189–221, 222–245, 275–299, 323–343, 347–349, 420–431.
- Antonio Gramsci, “History of the Subaltern Classes: Methodological Criteria,” in *Selections from the Prison Notebooks* (New York: International Publishers), pp. 52–55, 1971.
- Stuart Hall, “Gramsci’s Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity,” in *Journal of Communication Inquiry* 10(2):5–27, 1986.
- Donald V. Kurtz, “Hegemony and Anthropology: Gramsci, Exegeses, Reinterpretations,” in *Critique of Anthropology* 16(2):103–35, 1996.
- James Brow, “In Pursuit of Hegemony: Representations of Authority and Justice in a Sri Lankan Village,” in *American Ethnologist* 15:311–27, 1988.

Week 10: The Political Economy of Language

- Susan Gal, “Language and Political Economy,” in *Annual Review of Anthropology* 18, pp. 345–367, 1989.
- Judith Irvine, “When Talk Isn’t Cheap: Language and Political Economy,” in *American Ethnologist* 16(2), pp. 248–267.
- Jane Hill, “Language, Race, and White Public Space,” in *American Anthropologist* 100(3), pp. 680–689, 1998.
- Norma Mendoza-Denton, “Pregnant Pauses: Silence and Authority in the Hill-Thomas Hearings,” in Bucholtz and Hall (eds.), *Gender Articulated: Language and the Culturally Constructed Self*. Routledge: New York, 1995, pp. 51–66.
- Janet McIntosh, “Mobile Phones and Mipoho’s Prophecy: The Powers and Dangers of Flying Language,” in *American Ethnologist* 37(2), pp. 337–353, 2010.