

Anthropology 500D

Theory and Method in Sociocultural Anthro.

Spring 2007

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Required Books (available at local bookstores):

Gananath Obeyesekere *The Apotheosis of Captain Cook*

Marshall Sahlins *How Natives Think*

Paul Connerton *How Societies Remember*

David Graeber *Toward an Anthropological Theory of Value*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

2 Mid-Term Take-Home Exams (each worth 25% of your grade)

2 Book Reviews (each worth 10% of your grade)

1 Final 8-10 page paper (worth 25% of your grade)

Class Participation and Class Presentations (worth 10% of your grade!!!!)

Week 1: Introduction

Read:

R. Rosaldo "Subjectivity in Social Analysis" (1989)

R. Rosaldo "The Erosion of Classical Norms" (1989)

Weeks 2-3 Texts and other symbols

Read:

P. Ricoeur "The Model of the Text: Meaningful Action Considered as Text." (1970)

C. Geertz "Thick Description." (1973)

C. Geertz "Notes on the Balinese Cockfight" (1973)

C Geertz "From the Native's Point of View." (Selection-1981)

W. Roseberry "Balinese Cockfights and the Seduction of Anthropology." (1982)

J. Nash "Interpreting Social Movements: On Bolivian Resistance to economic conditions imposed by the IMF." (1992)

Week 4 The Post-Modern Critique

Read:

J. Clifford , " Introduction" *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography* (1986)

V. Crapanzano "Hermes' Dilemma" in McGee and Warm's.

R. Rosaldo "Grief and a Headhunter's rage" in McGee and Warm's.

Nancy Lutkehaus "Margaret Mead and the 'Rustling of the wind in the palm trees' School of Ethnographic Writing" (1996)

Week 5: Meaning, Theory and Method

Read:

J. Fabian "On ethnographic misunderstanding." (1999)

M. Bourdillon "Reflections on Participation." (1997)

Robin Kelley “Check the Technique” (2001)

Webb Keane “Estrangement, Intimacy and the Objects of Anthropology” (2005)

Karla Slocum “Negotiating Identity and Black Feminist Politics in Caribbean Research” (2001)

NEW APPROACHES TO OLD TOPICS

Weeks 6-7 Gender & Kinship

Read:

Michelle Rosaldo "Intro to *Woman, Culture and Society*" (1974)

Sherry Ortner "Nature/Culture" in McGee and Warms.

Eleanor Leacock "Women's Status in Egalitarian Societies." in McGee and Warms.

S. Franklin “Conception among the Anthropologists.” (1997)

Yanagisako and Delaney "Introduction to Naturalizing Power." (1995)

Anna Tsing “Reflections on Bee Culture” (1995)

David Sutton "Local Names, Foreign Claims." (1997)

Barbara Bodenheim “He Used to Be My Relative” (2000)

Kath Weston “Forever is a Long Time” (1995)

Weeks 8-9 Money, Gifts and Commodities

Read:

Annette Weiner “Inalienable Possessions” & "Reconfiguring Exchange Theory: The Maori Hau." (1992)

Pierre Bourdieu “Marginalia” (1997 [1987?])

James Carrier “Abstraction in Western Economic Practice.” (1998) (SKIM, OPTIONAL)

James Carrier "Gifts and the ideology of Commodities.." (1990)

David Graeber chs. 1-4

Daniel Miller "Alienable Gifts and Inalienable Commodities"

Weeks 10-11 Ritual, "Modernity" and the Body.

Read:

Paul Connerton *How Societies Remember*

Michael Jackson "Knowledge of the Body" (1983)

David Parkin "Ritual as Spatial Division." (1992)

J & J. Comaroff "Modernity and its Malcontents" Intro. (1991)

Week 12-13 Power, Resistance, Practice

Jackson Lears "The Concept of Cultural Hegemony." (1985)

Eric Wolf "Facing Power; Old Insights, New Questions." (1990)

Sidney Mintz "Time, Sugar and Sweetness." (1979)

P. Bourgois "From Jibaro to Crack Dealer" in McGee and Warms.

Ann Stoler "Making Empire respectable" in McGee and Warms.

Sherry Ortner "On Resisting Resistance" (1995)

Week 14 Rethinking Nature, the Environment and Animals

Tim Ingold "Culture, nature, environment: steps to an ecology of life." and "Making Things, Growing Plants, Raising Animals" (2000)

Augustin Fuentes "The Humanity of Animals and the Animality of Humans" (2006)

John Knight "Feeding Mr. Monkey" (2006)

Katja Neves-Gracas "Chasing Whales with Bateson and Daniel" (2005)

Week 15 Structure and History

Read:

James Clifford "Identity in Mashpee" (1987)

Marshall Sahlins "The Dying God" and "Structure and History." (1985)

Gananath Obyeskere "Western Myth-making and the Understanding of the Other." (1995)