

Anthropology 2789
Fall Term, 2010

Core Course in Cultural Anthropology
Professor R. M. Hayden (rhayden@pitt.edu)

Readings:

The following books are required for this course:

Thomas Trautmann, *Lewis Henry Morgan and the Invention of Kinship*.
Mary Douglas, *Purity and Danger*.
Edmund Leach, *Culture and Communication*.
Marcel Mauss, *The Gift*
Roy Rappaport, *Pigs for the Ancestors* (2d ed).
Edward Said, *Orientalism*
David Schneider, *American Kinship: A Cultural Account*. (2d ed.)
Tzvetan Todorov, *The Conquest of America*
Marvin Harris, *The Rise of Anthropological Theory* (hereafter, RAT).

* The Trautman book has been reissued in a second edition with a new introduction; but the main text was not revised, so the first edition also works for this course.

In addition, a number of articles, book chapters and the like are also required reading. Students are expected to access for themselves articles in journals available electronically through the Pitt library system. Materials not available electronically will be posted as pdf files on Courseweb.

Note: Readings within square brackets are recent articles that draw on some of the older readings; they are for your reference but probably will not be discussed in class and will not be referenced on the exam.

Course Format:

This course will be highly interactive: while I will lecture at times and will otherwise play a prominent role in discussing the materials, my actions will be aimed at promoting discussion of the materials by all members of the class. To encourage and enhance such discussion, class members should expect to be called upon, in any class period, to speak about the readings assigned for that period.

Exam:

The grade will be determined by performance on the final examination, which is graded blindly – each student is identified by number, not by name.

Aug 31: Introduction

Sep 2: Precursors of the Discipline
Readings: RAT, 1-142

- Sep 7, 9: The Invention/ Discovery of Kinship
Trautmann, *L.H. Morgan & the Invention of Kinship*, 1-178
[a recent article on the Iroquois is assigned for Nov. 23 (Beisaw 2010)]
- Sep 14: Kinship and Evolutionary Theories
Trautmann, 179-265
RAT, 143-249
- Sep 16: Boasian Anthropology
RAT, 250-372
Boas, "The Aims of Anthropological Research" (1932); "Some Problems of Methodology in the Social Sciences" (1930); "The Limitations of the Comparative Method of Anthropology" (1896); "The Methods of Ethnology" (1920); "Evolution or Diffusion", pages 243-294 in Franz Boas, *Race, Language and Culture* (1940).
["Modernist Visions & Municipal Displays: The Founding and Development of German Ethnographic Museums," pp. 17-49 in H. Glenn Penny, *Objects of Culture: Ethnology & Ethnographic Museums in Imperial Germany* (2002)]
[Symposium on "A New Boasian Anthropology: Theory for the 21st Century" *American Anthropologist* 106: 433-494 (2004)]
- Sep 21: Kinship: Structure and Function
Radcliffe-Brown, "On the Concept of Function in Social Science" and "The Study of Kinship Systems," in Radcliffe-Brown, *Structure and Function in Primitive Society*.
Fortes, "Descent and Corporate Group," in *Kinship and the Social Order*.
RAT, 514-567
- Sep 23: Kinship: Structure and Process
Stenning, "Household Viability among the Pastoral Fulani," in Jack Goody, ed., *The Developmental Cycle in Domestic Groups*.
[Chelcea, "Ancestors, Domestic Groups and the Socialist State: Housing Nationalization & Restitution in Romania." *CSSH* 45: 714-740 (2003); see also Ellison, "Governmentality & the Family: Neoliberal Choices & Emergent Kin Relations in Southern Ethiopia," *AA* 111: 81-92 (2009)]
- Sep 28: Structuralism: Structural Linguistics
Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics*, pp. 7-23; 38-51; 65-78; 101-127.

- Sep 30: Levi-Strauss, "Structural Analysis in Linguistics and Anthropology," in Levi-Strauss, *Structural Anthropology*.
Levi-Strauss, "Reflections on the Atom of Kinship," in Levi-Strauss, *Structural Anthropology Volume II*.
- Oct 5: Levi-Strauss, "The Structural Study of Myth," in Levi-Strauss, *Structural Anthropology*.
Levi-Strauss, "The Story of Asdiwal," in Levi-Strauss, *Structural Anthropology Volume II*.
RAT, 464-513
[Leinaweaver, "Losing Levi-Strauss: The 2009 Year in Cultural Anthropology," AA 112: 219-222 (2010)]
- Oct 7: From Structure to Meaning
Douglas, *Purity and Danger*.
Leach, *Culture and Communication*.
- OCT 12: NO CLASS – UNIV FALL BREAK (Oct 11, actually)
- Oct 14: Total Social Facts?
Mauss, *The Gift*
- Oct 19: Symbolic Anthropology and Kinship
D. Schneider, *American Kinship: A Cultural Account* (2d ed.)
[K. Finkler, "The Kin in the Gene: The Medicalization of Family & Kinship in American Society." *Current Anthropology* 42: 235-263 (2001)]
- Oct 21: Deep Structures and Thick Description: Geertz
Geertz, "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight" and "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," in Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*.
Geertz, "From the Native's Point of View: On the Nature of Anthropological Understanding," in Geertz, *Local Knowledge*.
- Oct 26: Cultural Ecology
Rappaport, *Pigs for the Ancestors*
[Recent reference: AA symposium]
- Oct 28: From Structure to Practice/Process
Bourdieu, *Outline of a Theory of Practice*, pp. 1-30.
Ortner, "Theory in Anthropology since the Sixties," *CSSH* 26 (1984).
Moore, "Explaining the Present: Theoretical Dilemmas in Processual Ethnography." *AE* 14:727-736 (1987).

Revised 8 Nov. 2010

- Nov 2: Kinship: Gender Critiques
 Leacock, "The Changing Family and Levi-Strauss, or Whatever Happened to Fathers," in E. Leacock, ed., *Myths of Male Dominance* (London, 1981).
 Yanagisako & Collier, "Toward a Unified Analysis of Gender and Kinship," in J. Collier & S. Yanagisako, eds., *Gender and Kinship* (Stanford, 1987).
 Borneman "Until Death Do Us Part: Marriage/ Death in Anthropological Discourse." (with comments by Yanagisako & Collier and reply by Borneman) *AE* 23: 215-238 (1996)
- Nov 4: Interpretation, History and Culture
 Todorov, *The Conquest of America*
- Nov 9, 11: Orientalism
 Said, *Orientalism*
 Inden, "Orientalist Constructions of India," *Modern Asia Studies* 20: 401-446 (1986)
 Bakić-Hayden, "Nesting Orientalisms: The Case of Yugoslavia," *Slavic Review* 54: 917-931 (1995)
 Brown, "Cultural Relativism 2.0". *Current Anthropology* Volume 49, Number 3, June 2008
 [also R. Inden, *Imagining India* (2001); Maria Todorova, *Imagining the Balkans*, 1997; cf. D. Jansson, "Internal Orientalism in America: W. J. Cash's *The Mind of the South* and the Spatial Construction of American National Identity," *Political Geography* 22: 293-316 (2003)]
- Nov 16, 23: Identities and Discourses Thereof
 Hanson, "The Making of the Maori: Cultural Invention and its Logic." *AA* 91:890-902 (1989) and discussion of this article in *AA* 93: 440-450 (1991)
 Carrier, "Occidentalism" *AE* 19:195-212 (1992).
 Friedman, "The Past in the Future: History and the Politics of Identity." *AA* 94:837-859 (1992).
 Haley & Wilcoxon, "How Spaniards became Chumash and Other Tales of Ethnogenesis," *AA* 107: 432-445 (2005)
 Beisaw, "Memory, Identity & NAGPRA in the Northeastern United States," *AA* 112: 244-256 (2010)
- NOV 18 – NO CLASS (Hayden in LA for conference)
- Nov 23: (Continuation of material from Nov. 16)
- NOV 25 – NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

Nov 30/

Dec 2: Science, Morality and Anthropology
D'Andrade, "Moral Models in Anthropology," and Scheper-Hughes, "The Primacy of the Ethical: Propositions for a Militant Anthropology," *Current Anthropology* 36: 399-440 (includes CA comments) (1995).
Comment by Plattner in *Anthro News*, Nov. 2002
Spencer, "Writing Within: Anthropology, Nationalism and Culture in Sri Lanka." *CA* 31:283-300 (1990).
Weber, "Science as a Vocation" and Politics as a Vocation," in Gerth & Mills, *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (1946)
AAA Code of Ethics,
<http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/ethcode.htm>
[Hayden, "Moral Vision & Impaired Insight: The Imagining of Other Peoples' Communities in Bosnia," *Current Anthropology* 48: 105-131 (2007) – *Note: This suggested reading will not be on the exam*]

Dec 7: Summations & Reflections
Geertz, "The Way We Think Now: Toward an Ethnography of Modern Thought," in Geertz, *Local Knowledge*.
Barnes, Maurice Godelier and the Metamorphosis of Kinship: A Review Essay." *CSSH* 48: 326-358 (2006)
Clemmer, "Pristine Aborigines or Victims of Progress? The Western Shoshone in Anthropological Consciousness," *CA* 50: 849-881 (2009)

Dec 9: Make-up, review

Dec 14: Reading day

Dec 16: Exam