

Anthropology 370: Theory in Anthropology  
Fall 2002: Monday 1:30 – 4:20, Chambers 124

Prof. Eriberto P. Lozada Jr.  
Office: Carnegie 01  
Telephone: 894-2035  
Email: erlozada@davidson.edu  
Web: <http://www.davidson.edu/personal/erlozada>

Office Hours: M, W, F 9:00 – 10:00 am  
T, Th 10:00 – 11:15 am or by appointment

This seminar provides an overview of historical and contemporary anthropological theory. In this class, we will read samples of major theoretical works by anthropologists and other social and cultural theorists, and examine how they continue to inform both academic cultural theory and popular understandings of social life today. The goal of this seminar is to ground us in a wide variety of theoretical perspectives so that we can apply them to social issues of major concern to us today.

Our emphasis will be on understanding the premises and perspectives of different theorists and critically evaluating their assumptions and their reasoning. What were the historical and social positions that shaped the development of a particular theoretical perspective? What did they illuminate, and what did they obscure? Are they useful for us in understanding contemporary issues such as globalization, environmental issues, ethnic conflict, or social justice?

### Course Readings

R. Jon McGee, Richard L. Warms 2000. *Anthropological theory : an introductory history*, 2nd ed. Mountain View, Calif. : Mayfield Pub. Co.. ISBN: 0767411668

Nicholas B. Dirks, Geoff Eley, and Sherry B. Ortner, eds 1994. *Culture/power/history : a reader in contemporary social theory*. Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691021023.

Additional articles will be available on electronic reserve. Other ethnographies will be selected by seminar participants.

### Course Requirements

*Seminar Participation: (25%)* This course is a seminar – I will **not lecture** at all on the material, and will participate as any other member. Students are expected to attend all classes, do the readings prior to class, and **discuss the implications of the issues** in the classroom. Student participation is crucial to the success of this seminar, and is a key part of the learning process in this class.

*Response papers: (10%)* Each student will write five (5) response papers throughout the term: one page, double-spaced. I will have a handout on response papers in class, but in general they are individually ungraded and require only timely submission for full credit. LATE RESPONSE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

*Public Anthropology Project: (20%)* We will be participating in a nationwide project to make available on the internet summaries of all articles in the journals *American Anthropologist* and *Current Anthropology* from 1888 to the present. This project, undertaken by advanced undergraduate and graduate students, will be described in more detail in a later handout. Your name and college affiliation will be posted at the internet site (<http://publicanthropology.org>) under the articles that you summarize.

*Term Paper: (45%)* Based on individual interests, students will choose two ethnographies that are related theoretically, culturally, or topically. While the papers will incorporate ethnographic and theoretical perspectives from the selected works, papers will address at least one of the theoretical issues from the seminar in detail. I will distribute a handout about this paper after the first few meetings. The paper will be due on the last day of the seminar, 2 December 2002.

While we will work together on various issues and projects, such as the public anthropology project, your term paper is your own individual work. All work is subject to the Davidson College Honor Code as stated in the student handbook. If there are individual accommodations for special needs, please let me know and authorize the Dean of Students to contact me so that we can work something out.

## Course Schedule (subject to modification)

Week 1, 26 August: Seminar Introduction

Week 2, 2 September: Evolutionism

Readings: Warms and McGee: Tylor, Morgan, Marx, Freud

Week 3, 9 September: Sociological Theory

Readings: Warms and McGee: Durkheim (both), Mauss, Weber

Week 4, 16 September: American Cultural Anthropology: The Boasians

Readings: Warms and McGee: Boas, Benedict, Mead

Week 5, 23 September: British Social Anthropology: Functionalism

Readings: Warms and McGee: Malinowski, Radcliffe-Brown, Evans-Pritchard

Week 6, 30 September: Cultural Ecology and Neomaterialism

Readings: Warms and McGee: Steward, White, Fried, Harris

Week 7, 7 October: Structuralism

Readings: Warms and McGee: Levi-Strauss, Leach, Ortner

Week 8, 14 October: Fall Break

Week 9, 21 October: Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology

Readings: Warms and McGee: Douglas, Turner, Geertz

Week 10, 28 October: Culture, Power, and History

Readings: Dirks, Eley, and Ortner: Introduction

Week 11, 4 November: Foucault

Readings: Dirks, Eley, and Ortner: Chapter 5; Foucault articles

Week 12, 11 November: Practice and Process

Readings: Dirks, Eley, and Ortner: Chapter 4, Chapter 12; Falk Moore article

Week 13, 18 November: Student Choice (from Culture/Power/History)

Week 14, 25 November: Student Choice (from outside of assigned readings)

Week 15: 2 December: Presentations