

Anthropology 370: Theory in Anthropology
Fall 2014: Monday, 1:30 – 4:20, Chambers B22

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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

Moore, Henrietta L. and Sanders, Todd. 2014. *Anthropology in Theory: Issues in Epistemology*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell. (ISBN: 0470673354)

Additional articles will be available on Moodle.

Course Requirements

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each seminar meeting; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. Your engagement with the material is vital for the success of this learning experience.

Seminar Participation: (35%) Students are expected to attend all classes, do the readings prior to class, and **discuss the implications of the issues** in the classroom. This includes your leading two seminar meetings (10%; we will schedule this on the first day of class).

Discussion Board: (10%) Each week, students will write a brief reaction paper of no more than one-page double-spaced text about an idea prompted by the reading. They are due prior to the start of each seminar meeting, and will be submitted online. I expect you to have also reviewed you're your peers have written – you may respond to what they have written, but I expect all exchanges to be as civil as if they were said in person during the seminar meeting. **LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Course Project: (55%)

The material for the course will be focused on writing the theoretical portion of a research project; this is often called a 'literature review.' This project will be divided into four parts: a proposal, a bibliography, an annotated bibliography, and the literature review itself (see the schedule below). Notice, there are openings in the reading for 4 topical areas; we will as a group construct the readings for those areas, based on everyone's interest.

For the course project, you will select a particular anthropological problem. You will then need to identify the main theoretical approaches that are necessary to adequately set up a project that would answer the issue. Because this is a class on theory, the main point is to understand how to think theoretically in anthropology and how to apply theory in conducting research on a relevant issue.

Proposal: 5% (due 9 September)

See the course handout on moodle. Include a tentative bibliography; the final bibliography will be due in the next assignment.

Bibliography: 10%: (due 20 October)

Make sure you submit the bibliography following AAA style; see the handout on Moodle. Page limit of 10 pages, single-spaced.

Annotated Bibliography: 10% (due 10 November)

Page limit of 20 pages, single-spaced.

Literature Review: 30% (due 8 December)

In total, no more than 15 pages of text, double-spaced, not counting bibliography. See the handout.

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.

Schedule (subject to modification)

25 August	Introduction to the Course Using Zotero
1 September	Reading: Moore and Sanders: Anthropology and Epistemology, Section 1, Section 2 Theory and Research Design article (on Moodle)
8 September	Reading: Moore and Sanders: Section 3, Section 4
15 September	Reading: Moore and Sanders: Section 5, Section 6
22 September	Reading: Moore and Sanders: Section 7, Section 8
29 September	Reading: Moore and Sanders: Section 9, Section 10 Assignment: Proposal Due
6 October	Reading: Moore and Sanders: Section 11, Section 12
13 October	No Class, Fall Break
20 October	Reading: Moore and Sanders: Section 13, Section 14 Assignment: Bibliography Due
27 October	Reading: Moore and Sanders: Section 15, Section 16
3 November	Reading: Topic Selection 1
10 November	Reading: Topic Selection 2 Assignment: Annotated Bibliography Due
17 November	Reading: Topic Selection 3
24 November	Reading: Topic Selection 4
1 December	Last Day of Class
8 December	Assignment: Literature Review Due