ANT 640 Section 001: Landmarks Anthropological Research
Spring 2013
3 Credit Hours
Primary Instructor: Dr. Matthew Wolfgram
Syllabus subject to change.

Prerequisites
From the Student Records System
No prerequisites found.

Graduate student in Anthropology

Course Description
This course provides an opportunity for advanced students to take an in-depth critical look at eight books that are foundational across the subfields of anthropology, using a tutorial model of mentorship. This survey of the field is guided by faculty who are deeply familiar with each work. The course, however, is primarily self-guided. Working independently, students will read each work carefully, and then identify and read one subsequent review or commentary (a different commentary should be read by each student). Students will then meet together for two hours to discuss and critique the work as a group. Following this meeting, each student will write an abstract (1,000-1,500 words) incorporating a selective summary of major points in the work and a brief critical perspective that incorporates that student’s thinking as well as major critiques to which he/she has been exposed. Students will submit these abstracts electronically to the faculty member designated as the mentor, and then jointly meet with the mentor to discuss the abstracts and clarify any ambiguous points.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Critically evaluate each of the selected texts
- Apply these texts to their own work
- Successfully extend this training to the evaluation and application of works across the subdisciplines of anthropology

Outline of Topics
Tuesday and Thursday, ten Hoor 21, 3:15-4:30 pm
(Meeting times and days with individual professors are subject to change)

Thurs 1/10 First Class Meeting
Tues 1/22 Descent of Man (Darwin): Read
Thurs 1/24 Descent of Man (Darwin): Independent Class Discussion
Tues 1/28 Descent of Man (Darwin): Meeting with Dr. DeCaro
Thurs 1/31 Chimpanzees of Gombe (Goodall): Read
Tues 2/5 Chimpanzees of Gombe (Goodall): Independent Class Discussion
Thurs 2/7 Chimpanzees of Gombe (Goodall): Meeting with Dr. Jacobi
Tues 2/11 The Gift (Mauss): Read
Thurs 2/14  The Gift (Mauss): Independent Class Discussion

Tues 2/19  The Gift (Mauss): Meeting with Dr. Knight

Thurs 2/21  Capital (Marx): Read

Tues 2/26  Capital (Marx): Read

Thurs 2/28  Capital (Marx): Independent Class Discussion

Tues 3/5  Capital (Marx): Meeting with Dr. Kosiba

Thurs 3/7  The Protestant Ethic (Weber): Read

Tues 3/12  The Protestant Ethic (Weber): Independent Class Discussion

Thurs 3/14  The Protestant Ethic (Weber): Meeting with Dr. Wolfgram

Tues 3/19  Culture, Language, and Society (Goodenough): Read

Thurs 3/21  C, L, S (Goodenough): Independent Class Discussion

Spring break, no class!

Tues 4/26  C, L, S (Goodenough): Meeting with Dr. Dressler

Thurs 4/4  In Small Things (Deetz): Read

Tues 4/9  In Small Things (Deetz): Independent Class Discussion

Thurs 4/11  In Small Things (Deetz): Meeting with Dr. Brown

Tues 4/16  Distinction (Bourdieu): Read

Thurs 4/18  Distinction (Bourdieu): Read

Tues 4/23  Distinction (Bourdieu): Independent Class Discussion

Thurs 4/25  Distinction (Bourdieu): Meeting with Dr. Galbraith

Exams and Assignments

Prior to each meeting with a faculty member, students will compose a critical abstract (1,000-1,500 words) of the appropriate work. Although you will include a selective summary of the work’s major points, abstracts should aspire to analysis rather than description as modeled by the American Anthropologist book review and must cite an outside commentary or recent application of the ideas profiled in the selected work. Bear in mind that the goal of the activity is to understand the major contributions of the highlighted intellectuals and assess the impact their work has had on the field as a whole. Abstracts are to be submitted to the faculty member who is mentor for that session at least a full day prior to your meeting with that mentor.

For each monograph discussed, faculty mentors will forward letter grades to the instructor of record. These grades will be based in equal part on class participation during the session with the professor and on the written assignment. Grades for the eight selected works will be averaged to determine 90% of the final course grade. The remaining 10% will be determined through anonymous peer assessment of discussion performance during the student sessions.

Grading Policy

There should be no missed assignments, since there is no way to compensate for the loss of your group discussion with a faculty member about your abstract in the context of the work it is based on. In extremis, if you do not submit an abstract prior to the faculty meeting, please communicate directly with the respective faculty member regarding whether you can still receive feedback if the abstract is submitted late. Individual faculty members are under no obligation to provide feedback after the scheduled meeting.

Required Texts

- UA Supply Store Textbook Information

Textbook data from the Supply Store not found for this course.
Please see the list of selected monographs in the Outline of Topics above.

**Policy on Academic Misconduct**

All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student.

The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

**Disability Statement**

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call 348-4285 or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

**Severe Weather Protocol**

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar, sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take. The Office of Public Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through Connect-ED--faculty, staff and students (sign up at myBama)
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisories are broadcast via WUA/WVUA-TV, which can be viewed across Central Alabama. Also, visit wuatv.com for up-to-the-minute weather information. A mobile Web site is also available for your convenience.