

ANT 640: Landmarks Anthropological Research

Fall, 2010

3 Credit Hours

Primary Instructor: Christopher Lynn

Syllabus subject to change.

Office Hours

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Prerequisites

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 form theoretical foundations across the subfields of anthropology, using a tutorial model of mentorship. This survey of theory 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 (where possible, a different commentary should be read by each student). Then, students will meet together for 2 hours to discuss and critique the work as a group. Following this meeting, each student will write a 1-2 page abstract incorporating a 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 him/her for 30 minutes to discuss the abstracts and clarify any ambiguous points.

Objectives

At the end of this course students should be able to critically evaluate each of the classic works discussed during the semester, and apply them where relevant to their own work. This should extend to an enhanced ability to evaluate and apply theories across the subdisciplines of anthropology.

Outline of Topics

1. Marx, Capital

Class discussion: 9/1

Meet with Dr. Oths: 9/3

2. Earle, How Chiefs Come to Power: The Political Economy in Prehistory.

Class discussion: 9/8

Meet with Dr. Blitz: 9/10

3. Darwin, The Descent of Man

Class discussion: 9/22

Meet with Dr. DeCaro: 9/24

4. Foucault, Discipline and Punishment

Class discussion: 10/6

Meet with Dr. Cooper: 10/8

5. Mauss, The Gift

Class discussion: 10/20

Meet with Dr. Knight: 10/22

6. Frazer, The Golden Bough

Class discussion: 11/3

Meet with Dr. Lynn: 11/5

7. Goodall, The Chimpanzees of Gombe

Class discussion: 11/17

Meet with Dr. Jacobi: 11/19

8. Binford, In Pursuit of the Past

Class discussion: 12/1

Meet with Dr. LeCount: 12/3

Required Texts

Please see the list of books above. Students must consult the faculty mentor for each work well in advance of the reading to find out which edition of the work is to be read. In some cases, these will have to be ordered from a book dealer such as Amazon.com, so please allow sufficient time for the books to arrive.

Grading Policy

For each monograph discussed, faculty mentors will forward letter grades to the instructor of record, who will compile these and figure final grades as follows:

Abstracts for the 8 works: 50%

Participation: 50%

Exams and Assignments

Prior to each meeting with a faculty member, you will need to construct a 1-2 page critical abstract of the appropriate work. Please submit this abstract to the faculty member who is mentor for that session no later than the evening prior to your meeting with that mentor.

Other Course Materials

eLearning

Depending on the instructor for each text, this course will may use eLearning for assignments and to communicate information, and you may find it useful to coordinate your meetings. Access eLearning via myBama. There is a box called eLearning on the Academics tab that should list your courses that are currently let up with eLearning. Log in and set your eLearning email up to direct your email to your Bama account (and

be sure to set up your Bama account to forward to your regular personal account if you don't plan on using it as your primary account). To do this, go to the My Setting option in the upper right-hand corner. On the My Profile tab, make sure your email address is correct (select Edit Profile if not and correct it). Then select the My Tool Options tab. Scroll down to Mail and check the box "Forward all mail message to the e-mail address in my profile." Click Save at the bottom of the page, and you are good to go (be sure to do this, as it doesn't do it automatically). This is important, as you likely won't remember to check eLearning regularly for messages from me, but I will not accept that as an excuse for missing information (however, given that eLearning is not 100% reliable, I will often send important message via your Bama email—which, again, is why you need to make sure that account is your primary email or set up to forward to your primary email).

Attendance Policy

As with any graduate seminar, participation is the key ingredient of a successful course. Especially given the small number of meetings, please make sure to attend and fully participate in all of them.

Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

There should be no missed assignments, since there is really 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 not under any obligation to provide feedback after the scheduled meeting, however.

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.

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.

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 advisory broadcast over WVUA 7. WVUA 7 Storm Watch provides a free service you can subscribe to that allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail, pager or cell phone. Check <http://www.wvua7.com/stormwatch.html> for details.