COURSE SYLLABUS
ANT 3034-U01 Anthropological Theories
Fall 2005
Tuesdays & Thursdays  12:30 to 1:45.
University Park  PC 426
Florida International University
Version of August 30, 2005
Course web page:  http://www.fiu.edu/~wiedmand/courses/anthrotheory/

INSTRUCTOR
Dennis Wiedman, Ph.D. Associate Professor. Department of Sociology and Anthropology.
Office Hours:  University Park - Tuesdays 10:00 to Noon or by appointment.
Offices: University Park DM, 336B. Phone 305-348-2262
Biscayne Bay AC 1, 310. 305-919-5568
Email: Wiedmand@fiu.edu  Web Page: www.fiu.edu/~wiedmand
Email communication should be within WebCT.
I try to respond to emails within three days.
Teaching Assistant: Brianne Barclay 724-331-1214

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theories structure a discipline’s inquiry and define what is important. This course investigates anthropological ways of knowing, understanding, and explaining humankind. Contemporary research questions, and the theories used to explain them, are based on more than 150 years of anthropological research and theory building.

Through a comparative analysis of the similarities and differences among anthropological theories and theorists, we discuss how these have changed or remained consistent over time adapting to the social, political, and economic trends in science, society, and the world.

What are the research questions that guide anthropological inquiry today? By focusing on contemporary and recurring questions we will explore the history of ideas and theorists that inform the modern discipline of anthropology. On successful completion of the course students should be able to articulate a range of theoretical perspectives that can be used to inform their own research questions.

REQUIRED BOOKS:
Erickson, Paul A., and Liam D. Murphy Murphy
Orchard Park, NY: Broadview Press.

McGee, R. Jon, and Richard L. Warms
BOOK CHAPTERS
Bourdieu, Pierre

Foucault, Michel

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1) Quizzes focus on class lectures, films, readings, and special presentations up to prior class meeting. Through quizzes the student can demonstrate an understanding of the subject. They are composed of essays, multiple choice, and word identifications, etc.

2) Discussions both in-class and on-line demonstrate the student's interest in the course, understanding of the materials, as well as critical thinking, verbal, and writing skills.

3) Essays demonstrate the student's skills in research methods, analysis and writing. Best scores are given to those that integrate the course readings, discussions, and presentations with the student's research and experiences. Four essays are scheduled. Printed version due at beginning of the scheduled class, enter electronic version in WebCT a half hour before class. Must use “Reference Your Sources” in WebCT and the style guide of the American Anthropologist at http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/style_guide.htm.

4) Final Examination covers the entire course. Failure to take the final examination at the scheduled time will result in a letter grade deduction from the test result. Legitimate reasons for not taking the exam at the scheduled time must be approved by the instructor prior to that date.

COURSE PROJECTS
Essay One: Anthropology Topic of Interest
What anthropology topic is of greatest interest to you? Why is it of interest to you? What would you like to learn about this topic in this course. 250 words.

Essay Two: Journal Article Critique
Locate an anthropology journal article on your topic of interest published in the past 5 years. Discuss the research question or purpose of the article, the theoretical perspective, the research methods, and its contribution to knowledge. Discuss this article within the context of the history of anthropological theory. Choose the article from the anthropology journals available electronically in “AnthroSource.” The journals “Human Organization” and “Current Anthropology” also qualify. Other anthropology journals are possible with instructor’s approval. 1000 words.
Essay Three: Annotated Bibliography
Read publications pertaining to your selected topic. Compile recent publications that use an alternative theoretical perspective and historical publications that serve as a foundation to understanding the topic. Enter the title and author in American Anthropologist citation style followed by a narrative of how this article represents a particular theoretical perspective and contributes to an understanding of the topic. 1000 – 1500 words.

Essay Four: Course Paper
This 2,500 word paper is based on the journal article critique and annotated bibliography. Demonstrate your ability to articulate the various theoretical perspectives used to understand the topic and the historical development of the theoretical paradigm.

EXTRA CREDIT
Learning Exercises and projects will be issued during the course within WebCT. Extra credit points vary.

WEB ASSISTED COURSE MATERIALS

WebCT supports class presentations and the student learning experience with learning components such as related readings, web page links, study aids, discussions, emails, and extra credit exercises. Read “Announcements” for course instructions and be sure to regularly check “Content” for course information. Email instructor only within WebCT. It is required that students participate in the on-line email, discussions, and assignments within WebCT. Internet access can be through any computer. Computers in the FIU computer labs and the library are available for those who do not have personal computers. Begin WebCT from bottom of FIU main page, or go directly to: http://webct.fiu.edu/webct/ticket/ticketLogin?action=print_login&request_uri=/webct/homearea/homearea%3f

Learn how to get started with WebCT or find answers to your questions at: http://uts.fiu.edu/index.cfm?action=webct_studfaq

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Dates for quizzes, essays and readings. Assigned readings are to be completed by class meeting.

Week One
August 30 – Course Overview
September 1
  Erickson and Murphy: Introduction and Part 1.

Week Two
September 6  Erickson and Murphy: Part Two.
  The Early Twentieth Century. Pages 73 - 112.
September 8
Week Three
September 13  Erickson and Murphy: Part Three & Conclusion. Pages 113-180.
September 15 – Essay 1

Week Four
September 22  Quiz 1

Week Five
  Historical Particularism. Pages 128-152
September 29: Essay 2

Week Six
October 6

Week Seven
October 11 McGee & Warms: Culture and Personality. Pages 216-236
October 13 – Quiz Two

Week Eight
October 18  McGee & Warms: Cultural Ecology and Neoevolutionary Thought.
  Pages 237-283.
October 20:  Essay Three

Week Nine
October 27

Week Ten
November 3

Week Eleven
  Pages 385-430.
November 10  Quiz Three

Week Twelve
  Pages 431-472.
November 17

Week Thirteen
November 24: Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class
Week Fourteen
November 29 – McGee & Warms: Symbolic and Interpretive. Pages 524-574
   Foucault, Truth and Power
   Essay Four - Course Paper
December 1

Week Fifteen
   Bourdieu, Structures, Habitus, and Practices
December 8

Finals Week
December 13 – Final Examination. At regular class time

CLASS PARTICIPATION
During class and in WebCT students should verbally and in writing demonstrate their
comprehension of the class presentations and reading materials.

ATTENDANCE
Attendance will be taken throughout the term. Three or more recorded absences results in a
reduction of the student’s Total Points for the course. Students who observe religious
holidays should inform the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester.

ACADEMIC ETHICS
It is strictly prohibited to submit as one's own work material provided by a professional
research agency, the internet, or other persons. Students who violates these principles receive
a grade of “F” for the course. Instructor may submit essays to “Turn-It-In” for an assessment
of originality. The instructor also has the authority to consider academic misconduct charges
that carry considerable penalties. Please consult the University student handbook for further
information on plagiarism and its consequences.
GRADING

Quizzes (3 @ 5 points each) 15
Discussions/Participation:
  In Class 5
  WebCT 5
Essays 1 Topic 5
  2 Article Critique 10
  3 Annotated Biblio 15
  4 Course Paper 20
Final Exam 25
Total Points 100
  Add Extra Credit - -
  Subtract Attendance - -
Grand Total - -

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION

Grand Total Points
A  = 95 - 100  C  = 70 - 72
A- = 90 - 94  C- = 67 - 69
B+ = 85 - 89  D+ = 63 - 66
B  = 80 - 84  D  = 60 - 62
B- = 77 - 79  F  = 59 or less
C+ = 73 - 76