DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the ideas and theories that inform the modern discipline of anthropology. A loosely historical survey will focus on major themes and tensions that recur in a number of theoretical approaches in anthropology, such as: relativism vs universalism; sameness vs difference; social change and history; structure and agency; resistance and domination; and power and inequality; and, truth and power. Theoretical schools covered may include evolutionism, historical particularism, functionalism, structuralism, interpretive/symbolic anthropology, cultural materialism, and feminist, post-colonial and post-modern critiques of anthropology. We will examine theoretical issues by focusing on major debates and controversies in anthropology in order to explore the ways in which anthropological interventions may help or hinder broader popular understandings of important public issues. This course is designed to encourage students to develop an appreciation for historical schools of thought in anthropology and to appreciate of how broader intellectual, social and political discussions inform anthropological theorizing. Students will also develop the skills to critically engage with theoretical arguments, to be theoretically reflexive, and to communicate clearly about theoretical issues that are relevant to public issues.

READINGS:

❖ All other readings are available online through CourseLink/ADES or on reserve at the library.

EVALUATION:

❖ Participation .......................................................... 15%
❖ Four Debate Presentations ........................................... 45% (10% each)
❖ Paper proposal.......................................................... 15% (Due October***)
❖ Research Paper ......................................................... 25% (Due November***)
## WEEK 1
### BUSINESS & INTRODUCTION:
### DARWIN & THE FIRST “ANTHROPOLOGICAL” DEBATE

**Required Readings:**

## WEEK 2
### SCIENCE OR HUMANITIES?
### EVOLUTIONISM & HISTORICAL PARTICULARISM

**Required Readings:**

**Recommended Readings:**
- Edward Tylor. [1873]. The Science of Culture. (E&M)
- Herbert Spencer. [1876]. The Organic Analogy Reconsidered. (E&M)
- Franz Boas. [1920]. Methods of Ethnology. (E&M)

## WEEK 3
### DEBATE I
### MEAD VS. FREEMAN: CULTURE & BIOLOGY

**Required Readings:**


**Debate Readings:**


### WEEK 4 NATURE OR NURTURE?

**NEO-EVOLUTIONISM & BIOLOGICAL DETERMINISM**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


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**WEEK 5  STRUCTURE & FUNCTION OR CHANGE & PROCESSS?  **

**APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY & THE COLONIALIAL ENCOUNTER**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**

- Bronislaw Malinowski [1922]. The Subject, Method, and Scope of This Inquiry [from *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*] (E&M)
- Alfred Reginald Radcliffe-Brown. [1958]. Social Structure. (E&M)
- Max Gluckman. [1963] Rituals of Rebellion in South-East Africa. (E&M)

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**WEEK 6  DIFFERENCE: CULTURE OR CLASS?  **

**CULTURAL MATERIALISM, NEO-MARXISM & STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE**

**Required Readings:**

Recommended Readings:

WEEK 7

DEBATE III

RELATIVISM ON THE WARPATH: ENGAGEMENT & OBJECTIVITY

Required Readings:

Debate Readings:

WEEK 8  
IS RATIONALITY UNIVERSAL?  
STRUCTURALISM & THE POST-COLONIAL CRITIQUE

Required Readings:
- Edmund Leach. [1972] Structuralism in Social Anthropology. (E&M)

Recommended Readings:

WEEK 9  
DEBATE III  
THE CAPTAIN COOK DEBATE: ETHNOCENTRISM & ORIENTALISM

Required Readings:

Debate Readings:


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**WEEK 10**

**IS TRUTH RELATIVE?**

**SYMBOLIC/INTERPRETIVE ANTHROPOLOGY & POSTMODERNISM**

**Required Readings:**
- Clifford Geertz. DATE. Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture. (E&M)

**Recommended Readings:**
- George E. Marcus and Michael M.J. Fischer. DATE. *A Crisis of Representation in the Human Sciences*. (E&M)

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**WEEK 11**

**DEBATE IV**

**THE RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ CONTROVERSY: TRUTH & POWER**

**Required Readings:**
- Rigoberta Menchu. 1984. Excerpts from *I, Rigoberta Menchú: an Indian Woman in Guatemala*. UK: Verso: The family (pp. 1-6); The torture and death of her Little brother (pp. 172-182); Rigoberta's father dies in the occupation of the Spanish Embassy (pp. 183-187).

**Debate Readings:**


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**WEEK 12  CURRENT CONTROVERSIES, REVIEW & WRAP UP**

**Required Readings:**


➢ Read some of the comments at the end of the article and be prepared to discuss a few of them in class.
E-mail Communication:

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement:

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Graduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration: https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1488.shtml

Drop Date:

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Thursday, October 30th. Two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. Refer to the Graduate Calendar for the Schedule of Dates: https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/sched/index.shtml

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible.

For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website: http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community - faculty, staff, and students - to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility
of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Graduate Calendar: https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1775.shtml

**Recording of Materials**

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

**Resources**

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs: http://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/