Instructor: Dr. Karine Gagné
Office: MACK 643
Email: gagnek@uguelph.ca
Phone: 519 824-4120 ext. 52505

Course Description

This course introduces students to some of the major theories and debates that inform anthropological analysis. During the semester, we will examine theoretical propositions which are central to the history of the development of anthropological thought. This will include evolutionism, functionalism, structuralism, post-structuralism, feminist anthropology, postmodernism, postcolonialism, globalization, multispecies ethnography, the materiality turn, and the ethical turn. The range of theoretical frameworks we will investigate concern themes like history, colonialism, decolonization, the politics of representation, subjectivity, agency, structure, social institutions, nature, culture and power. The first part of the course will focus on classic anthropological theories, from the mid 19th century to the 1950s. We will then focus on the theories that undergird anthropological questionings from the second half of the 20th century to date. Although we will not approach this course as a class on the history of anthropological theories, we will nevertheless proceed in a more or less cumulative fashion, so that we will build, week by week, a comprehensive understanding of the intellectual history of anthropology and of theory as a process of development. This will allow us to identify elements of intellectual genealogy in the perspectives we study. Because ideas and reflections in anthropology are the fruit of the thoughts of individuals working in specific environments, we will also study the social and historical context behind the emergence of specific theories, as well as looking at the biography of the authors being studied. In order to enable students to better grasp how theories may be applied to thinking about humans, their culture, and their social and political environments, the readings for the course have been selected because they are not only theoretical discourses, but ethnographic cases that support theoretical perspectives. The content of this course will be delivered in lectures, films, and slides.

Learning outcomes

- To analyze, evaluate and apply anthropological theories to address contemporary, historical, social or global issues;
- To critically reflect on culture, social relations and social structures in order to develop a broader and deeper understanding of social problems;
• Situate and critically evaluate one’s social and cultural identity and location, power and privilege, within a personal, social, cultural, political and global context;
• Critically reflect upon the personal and disciplinary limits of knowledge and develop an appreciation for uncertainty and ambiguity within interpretation and analysis;
• Engage in classical and contemporary scholarly inquiry to identify and address anthropological questions and issues.
• Demonstrate personal and academic integrity and ethical reasoning.

**Required Texts**
All the readings are available on Courselink

**(Tentative) Evaluation**

Exam 1: 25% (in class)
Exam 2: 25% (in class)
Exam 3: 35% (take-home)
Quizzes: 15%

Note: This outline is subject to change. A complete outline will be available at the first class.