COURSE SYLLABUS  
ANT 3034-U01 Anthropological Theories  
Fall 2009  
Mondays and Wednesdays 6:25 to 7:40. Room OE 102  
Maidique Campus, Florida International University  
Version of August 25, 2009

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Theories structure a discipline’s inquiry and define what is important. This course investigates anthropological ways of knowing, understanding, and explaining humankind. A special focus is on contemporary theories 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. By each student focusing on a contemporary theory we explore the history of ideas and theorists that guide anthropological inquiry today? On successful completion of the course students should be able to articulate a theoretical perspective that can be used to inform their own research questions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: What you should be able to do on completion of this course.
1. Understand the interpretive and explanatory role of theory for the production of knowledge.
2. Critique the assumptions, associated questions and preferred methods for major anthropological theories.
3. Articulate verbally and in writing
   A. a theoretical explanation for your selected research question.
   B. the major theorists credited for the development of your preferred theory
   C. how this theory is reflected in current anthropology journals.

INSTRUCTOR
Dennis Wiedman, Ph.D. Anthropologist  
Associate Professor. Department of Sociology and Anthropology.
Office: University Park DM, 336B. 305-348-2262
Office Hours: Mondays 3:00 to 5:00, or by appointment.
Email: Wiedmand@fiu.edu Web Page: www.fiu.edu/~wiedmand
Email communication should be within Blackboard. I try to respond within three days.
Teaching Assistant: Cynthia Malakasis. Email within Blackboard.

REQUIRED READINGS:
Moore, Jerry D.  
2008 Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists.  

Salzmann, Philip Carl  
2001 Understanding Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theory. Long Grove, Ill.:  
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) **Mid-term and Final Exam** enable the student to demonstrate an understanding of the subject by focusing on class lectures, films, readings, and presentations. The Final Exam is cumulative of the entire course. Exams are composed of matching, multiple choice, true & false, word identifications, essays, etc. Legitimate reasons for not taking an exam at the scheduled time must be approved by the instructor prior to that date. Missed exams must be taken prior to the next class meeting. Students with a written medical excuse receive their full exam score, others receive ten points less than their exam score.

2) **Exercises** are in-class and out-of-class assignments that enable students to express their perspectives, course comprehension and research abilities while demonstrating their writing and presentation skills. Exercises are designed to take students through the steps for developing a theory statement for a research project of their own design. One exercise, a two-page proposal that includes the research question, methods and literature review must be submitted by the scheduled date. Best scores are awarded for perfect punctuation, format, and logic written in the style of the *American Anthropologist*.

3) **Research Essay**: This essay demonstrates skills in critical analysis and writing. As a culmination of the class exercises, in this essay the student succinctly presents their proposed research question, theoretical explanation and research methods. Topic selection and methods are discussed in class and will be posted in Blackboard:Instructions. The Research Essay is worth up to 15 points. Changing topics requires resubmission of a new proposal. Web pages are not acceptable as authoritative sources.

*Classroom Etiquette:* During class time cell phones must be turned off and out of sight. Class discussions demonstrate the student's interest in the course, understanding of the materials, as well as critical thinking and verbal skills. Active, courteous and informed participation is highly desired.

*Attendance:* In order to succeed in this course, students are expected to attend every class. Avoid arriving late or leaving early since this disrupts the presentation and student concentration. Course materials, exercises and discussions presented in class are the responsibility of the student. In-class exercises are the instructor’s way of providing regular feedback to students while promoting attendance.

*Style and Format:* All written assignments must be in the format and style used by the *American Anthropologist*. Style guidelines are available on-line “Writing Professional Research Papers Using the Style of the American Anthropologist.” Use MS Word, double space using 1 inch top, bottom, and side margins. Use Times Roman 12 point font. Do not use footnotes. Endnotes and “Reference Cited” sections should follow text. Simply staple pages together, do not use a binder or fancy cover. Do not use separate cover page. Place name, course title and date single-spaced on top of first page. Name should appear on the top of each page. Bottom center page numbers.
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Timeliness: Printed exercises and essays are due within 10 minutes of the beginning of the class on the due date; electronic versions are due in Turn-it-in at noon of the due date. Papers received within 24 hours receive one letter grade less than earned, thereafter they receive a letter grade reduction for each week it is late. These will not be accepted after two weeks of the deadline. Both printed and electronic versions of the papers are necessary in order to receive a grade. Optional extra credits and any late assignments must be submitted by the date noted in the syllabus.

Turnitin.com: Out of class exercises and the extra credit course paper must be submitted through www.turnitin.com. From the Turnitin main page begin by creating a user profile. Once created, then sign-in using the Course Number and the Password provided in Blackboard: Instructions.

Optional Ways to Get a Better Grade
Students who want to ensure a better grade can 1) produce a PowerPoint presentation based on research essay. The instructor then invites selected students to 2) present their PowerPoint research before the class.

1) Optional PowerPoint: Produce a PowerPoint Presentation based on your research essay to earn up to 3 extra points. Provide the instructor with the PowerPoint presentation via Blackboard assignments. Be sure to reduce the pixel size of the graphic images so that the file is not too large to submit via Blackboard. CDs or thumb drives are not acceptable given the chance for viruses.

2) Optional PowerPoint Presentation to the Class: The Instructor will preview the PowerPoints submitted and invite selected students to present their work before the class. Presentations can earn up to five additional points.

WEB ASSISTED COURSE MATERIALS
Blackboard/CE6 supports the student learning experience with related readings, web page links, study aids, discussions, emails, and exercises. Student computers need Internet Explorer, MS Word, and Adobe Reader for pdf files.

Content: Contains important course information.
Announcements: This is where the instructor communicates with the students.
   It is important to read everything posted here.
Email: Send emails to selected individuals using the drop down list.
   Email the instructor only within Blackboard Email.
Discussions: Here you can send your comments to everyone in the class for discussion.
   Compose your item within a specific topic or for a new item post it in “Main.”
Chat: Discuss class topics with a group of students at an agreed upon time.

Internet access can be through any computer. Computers in the FIU computer labs and the library are available for your use. Begin Blackboard by clicking on “Blackboard/CE6” from bottom of FIU main page.
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COURSE TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE
Dates for exams, essays and readings. Assigned readings are to be completed by class meeting.

Week One: August 24 & 26
Introductions and Course Overview

Week Two: August 31 & September 2
Salzman: Introduction to Theory Pps. 1-12.

Week Three: September 7 & 9 (Monday, Sept 7 is a Holiday No class.)
Moore: Boas, Durkheim.. Pages 33-59.

Week Four: September 14 & 16

Week Five: September 21 & 23
Moore: Pps 117-120, Mauss, Malinowksi Pps 121-146.

Week Six: September 28 & September 30
Mid-term Exam – Wednesday, September 30

Week Seven: October 5 & 7
Research Essay Proposal. Due within 10 minutes of beginning of class, Wednesday October 7.
Electronic version submitted by noon in turnitin.com.

Week Eight: October 12 & 14

Week Nine: October 19 & 21

Week Ten: October 26 & 28
Salzman: Neo-Benedictine – Symbolics of Power. Pps. 71-86

Week Eleven: November 2 & 4
Moore: Geertz, Douglas. Pages 259-287.

Week Twelve: November 9 & 11 (Wednesday, Nov 11, Veterans Day – No Class)

Week Thirteen – November 16 & 18
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Week Fourteen – November 23 & 25


Research Essay: Due within 10 minutes of beginning of class, Monday November 23.
   Electronic version submitted by noon in turnitin.com.

Deadline for all late exercises, essays and extra credits. Wednesday, November 25.
   Electronic by noon and printed within 10 minutes of start of class.
Student Presentations

Week Fifteen – November 30 & December 2

Student Presentations

Final Exam Week – December 7-11. Date, time and place posted in University final examination schedule.

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. It is considered “plagiarism” to not cite the sources of your information. All sources must be identified in-text and in a “References Cited” section using the style of the American Anthropologist. Student’s who violate these principles receive a grade of “F” for the course. Written exercises and papers must be submitted to “Turnitin.com” for an assessment of originality. The instructor 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

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<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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<td>Exercises **</td>
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Optional: Earn points up to:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PowerPoint Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation to Class</td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
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FINAL GRADE CALCULATION

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<tr>
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<td>95 - 100</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 - 76</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 94</td>
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<td>70 - 73</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>84 - 86</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
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** At the end of the semester the total number of points for the Exercises may be more or less than 20 points. Exercise Points are calculated using the following formula:  
   A) Total points received divided by B) Total possible points times 20 = C) Exercise Points Earned.  
   \[(A / B) \times 20 = C\]