Matthew Wolf-Meyer
Winter Quarter 2015
Kresge Classroom
Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9:30-10:40
ANTH 152/252: Survey of Cultural Anthropology Theory
Winter 2015
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Office Hours: M/W/F 10:45-11:45, and by appointment

Overview:

‘Anthropological theory’ refers to two things. One the first level, it is theory of the other; that is, it is theorizations by anthropologists about the people, places and things they study, primarily for the edification of other anthropologists. Secondarily, it is also theory from the other; that is, it is theory produced by those in colonial and postcolonial situations to account for the ways that their people, places and things have been changed by the imperial and industrial encounters of the high and late colonial phases (ca. 1600-1950 CE). This course is intended to introduce students to these two bodies of literature, their assumptions, overlaps and tensions. The readings and lectures span continents, and draw together disparate strains of contemporary theory to think about the current condition of anthropology, as well as the futures that anthropology is confronting and producing.

This course is ostensibly organized around divisions – between men and women, between colonizer and colonized, between modern and traditional, between anthropologist and interlocutor. It is non-linear in its presentation, moving between present and past, past and present, and between multiple contemporary points. Rather than approach this course as if there is an agreed upon canon of anthropological thought, the design of this course embraces polyphony and conversation; there is no one history or survey of anthropological thought, but many simultaneous, often contradictory and mutually-oblivious conversations. The arrangement of readings is meant to replicate this, staging conversations between anthropologists and non-anthropologists, and from one continent to another.

Students will prepare weekly reading guides and complete a midterm and final exam. Upon completion of the course, students should have a robust understanding of contemporary theoretical concerns in cultural anthropology, including but not limited to: indigenousness and cosmopolitanism, race and ethnicity, tradition and custom, modernity and postmodernity, globalization and economic forms, and the category of the human.
Required Texts:
Required texts and the course pack are available at the Literary Guillotine (204 Locust St, Santa Cruz). Copies of each of the books will be on reserve at McHenry Library – but it is strongly advised that you purchase copies of each of them.

Graeber, David
Povinelli, Elizabeth
Stoler, Ann Laura
Taussig, Michael
Trouillot, Michel-Rolph

In addition, students enrolled in 252 must purchase the following texts:

Ginsburg, Faye
Sahlins, Marshall
Schneider, David
Strathern, Marilyn
1992 After Nature: English Kinship in the Late Twentieth Century. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [due during week 9]
Wagner, Roy
Grading & Assignments:

Students enrolled in 152:
Attendance & Participation (20%) – Students are expected to attend all classes with the required material having been read. Three absences are allowed for lecture and section; each absence beyond the first will reduce the student’s final grade by 5%. Leaving class early or arriving more than 5 minutes late also constitutes an absence.

Students are required to bring completed Reading Guides (see Appendix A) to each section meeting for discussion and grading. Students are required to turn in Reading Guides for all readings on the day they are assigned; one Guide is due for each reading in the Course Pack, as well as one for each whole book. Each week’s worth of reading guides is worth 2% (20% total), which is granted on a pass/no-pas basis (i.e. you must turn in all the Guides and receive full credit).

Study Guide Questions (40%) -- Each week students will receive 4-5 study guide questions through eCommons. Each question is worth 1% of your final grade. Answers are due before class, and must be 4-6 sentences long and include examples from the reading. Questions will appear 1 week before the assignment is due.

Quizzes (10%) – Each week, one a random day, students will have a 4-5 question quiz on that week’s readings in class; each quiz is worth 1% of the final grade.

Two Exams (15% and 15% respectively; 30% total) – For the Midterm, students will have a 2-3 page take-home essay question, which they will receive one week before it is due. The final exam will be 4-5 pages long. All exams will have in-class portions that include short answer questions.

Students enrolled in 252:

Attendance & Participation (20%) – As above. In addition, students are required to attend weekly supplemental meetings. Supplemental meetings will be arranged with other students enrolled in 252 and the instructor. On alternating weeks, students will meet without the instructor and prepare synthetic, group summaries of the texts for discussion with the instructor.

Field Reports (4 at 5% each; 20% total) – Students are expected to attend a colloquium talk at four points during the term, in Anthropology, the Center for Cultural Studies, or elsewhere on campus (through arrangement with the instructor). Each field report should be 1-2 pages long and discuss the theoretical concerns of the speaker and how they operate in the speaker’s presentation. These do not need to be thoroughly prepared documents, but should be sufficient enough to facilitate a class discussion.

Two Exams (30% and 30% respectively; 60% total) – Students will complete two 5-7 page exam papers as noted in the syllabus and in response to prompts provided by the instructor.
Policies:
There is no extra credit available. A curve will be applied to the final grades in the course based upon the highest attained grade.

No late work will be accepted for credit. All assignments must be turned in to receive a passing grade in the course (e.g. a C).

Students taking 152 Pass/Fail must earn a C to receive a Pass. Students enrolled in 252 must earn a B to Pass the course.

Workload: The expectation within the University of California system is that for each credit hour of a course, students spend 3 hours in preparation during the week. For a 5 credit summer course, this means that students should be spending about 25-30 hours per week preparing for class. I assume that undergraduate students can read 1 page of academic writing in 3 minutes; 200 pages of reading should require about 600 minutes, or 10 hours. In most cases, should expect to be reading about 300-400 pages per week in addition to other course requirements.

Attendance: Students who miss any class during the first week of class will be administratively dropped from the course. Students who miss three consecutive classes will be notified that they will be dropped from the course within 48 hours unless they respond to the email sent by the instructor with a legitimate excuse for their absences.

Good Faith Grades: If you complete all of the course work to its minimum criteria and turn it in on time, and if you have no excessive absences (i.e. more than 2), you are guaranteed a C in this course. The curve does not apply over and above this.

Academic Integrity – Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated. Evidence of plagiarism will result in an immediate failing grade in the course and actions as dictated by university policy regarding academic integrity on undergraduate students. Please see <http://library.ucsc.edu/science/instruction/CitingSources.pdf> if you have any questions about what qualifies as plagiarism and strategies for avoiding such. For a description of the plagiarism review process, see <http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students/>.

Students with Disabilities: You must be registered with the Disability Resource Center <http://drc.ucsc.edu/> to claim any special accommodations. You must submit DRC paperwork to me by the end of the first week of class for plans to be made in a timely fashion.

Style Matters: All submitted work should follow the guidelines set forth in the American Anthropological Association’s style guide (available at aaanet.org). All papers should be double-spaced, 12 point font, in Times New Roman, with 1 inch margins on all sides, and page numbers. Citation should look like this: (Author Year: Page), e.g. (Wolf-Meyer 2009: 408). Failure to meet these standards will result in a reduced grade.

Contacting Me: I only check my email between 8-11 PM on weekday evenings and during my office hours. I only respond to emails that follow conventions of correspondence (i.e. it should
begin ‘Dear Professor Wolf-Meyer,…’ and end with your signature). I will always respond to properly formatted emails within 24 hours, except for emails received on Fridays (which will responded to on the following Monday). If you plan to stop by my office hours, please contact me ahead of time, either by email (mwolfmey@ucsc.edu) or at my office telephone number (459-2365).
Reading Schedule:

Week One: Revisiting the World
January 5th: Situating Modern Cultural Anthropology
Course Introduction

January 7th: Ethnography and the Politics of Representation
Clifford, James, and George Marcus, eds.
Hobsbawm, Eric
Wolf, Eric R.

January 9th: Modernity, Postmodernity and Tradition
Harvey, David
Jameson, Fredric

Week Two:
January 12th:
Trouillot, Michel-Rolph

January 14th:
Trouillot, Michel-Rolph

January 16th:
Trouillot, Michel-Rolph
Week Three:
January 19th:
No Class – MLK Day

January 21st:
Marx, Karl

Marx, Karl

Sahlins, Marshall

January 23rd:
Bourdieu, Pierre

Liu, Lydia H.

Mauss, Marcel

Week Four:
January 26th:
Graeber, David

January 28th:
Graeber, David

January 30th:
Graeber, David
Week Five:
February 2nd:
Lacan, Jacques

Butler, Judith

February 4th:
Bhabha, Homi

Caillous, Roger

Fanon, Franz

February 6th:
Buck-Morss, Susan

Week Six:
February 9th:
In-Class Midterm

February 11th:
Taussig, Michael
2012 Beauty and the Beast. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Author’s Note, Pages 1-77

February 13th:
Taussig, Michael
Week Seven:
February 16th:
Foucault, Michel


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February 18th:
Foucault, Michel


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February 20th:
Deleuze, Gilles


Nader, Laura


Week Eight:
February 23rd:
Stoler, Ann Laura


February 25th:
Stoler, Ann Laura


February 27th:
Stoler, Ann Laura

Week Nine:
March 2nd:
Mignolo, Walter

March 4th:
Chakrabarty, Dipesh
Mintz, Sidney

March 6th:
Berlant, Lauren
Mbembe, Achille

Week Ten:
March 9th:
Povinelli, Elizabeth

March 11th:
Povinelli, Elizabeth

March 13th:
Povinelli, Elizabeth
Week Eleven: Loose Ends
March 16th:

Fassin, Didier

Faubion, James D.

Robbins, Joel
Appendix A: Reading Guide
For each reading, you will need to fill out this form. Bring copies of each reading guide to section to receive credit and ensure that you understand each reading.

1. What is the author’s general argument?

2. What is the author’s thesis? Are there subtheses that you can identify as well?

3. What other authors is the author drawing on to make his or her argument or situate her or his research?

4. How does the author position him- or herself theoretically? What keywords does the author use?
5. What kinds of objects does the author focus on? (e.g. what kinds of people, places, things?)

6. What level of scale is the author’s analysis at? (e.g. is it about individual lives, a particular community, society, the globe – or at multiple levels?)

7. What kinds of evidence does the author use?

8. How does the evidence relate to the author’s argument?

9. Do you believe the author’s argument?