

ANTH 152/252: Survey of Cultural Anthropology Theory

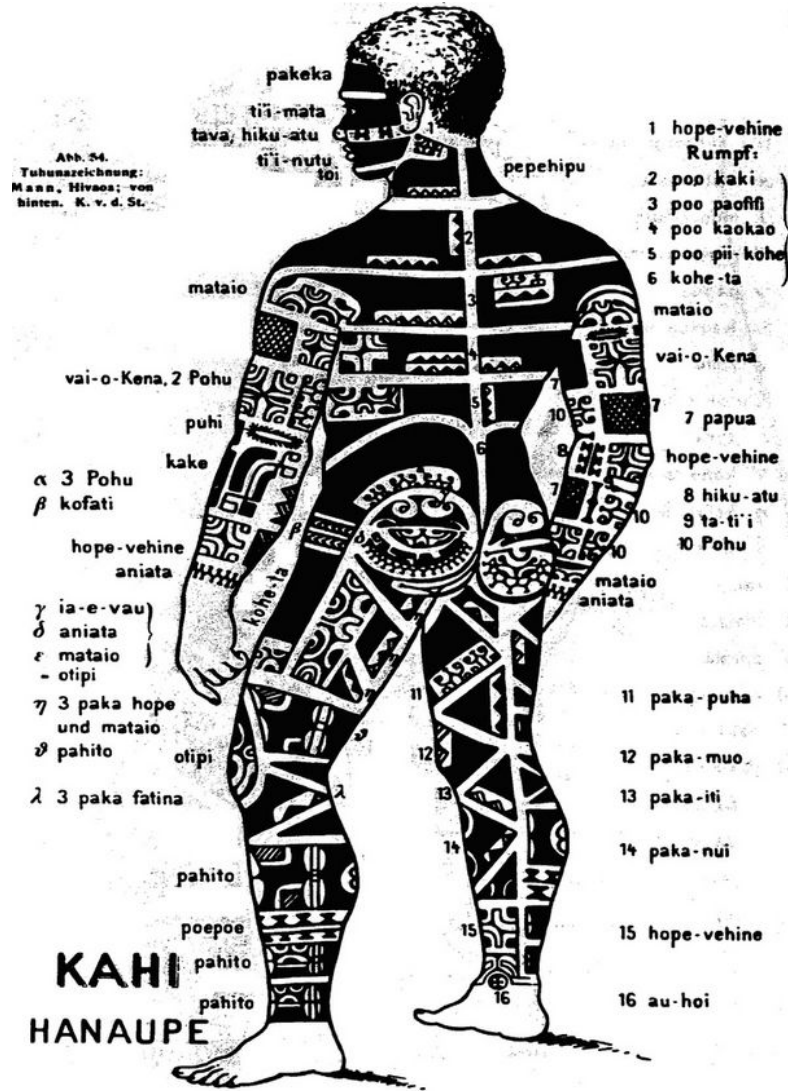


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Matthew Wolf-Meyer
Winter Quarter 2015
Kresge Classroom
Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9:30-10:40

ANTH 152/252: Survey of Cultural Anthropology Theory

Winter 2015

Matthew Wolf-Meyer, Associate Professor

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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. Secondly, 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: indigenesness 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

2001 *Toward an Anthropological Theory of Value: The False Coin of Our Own Dreams*. New York: Palgrave.

Povinelli, Elizabeth

2006 *The Empire of Love: Toward a Theory of Intimacy, Genealogy, and Carnality*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Stoler, Ann Laura

1995 *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's *History of Sexuality* and the Colonial Order of Things*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Taussig, Michael

2012 *Beauty and the Beast*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph

2003 *Global Transformations: Anthropology and the Modern World*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

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

Ginsburg, Faye

1998 [1989] *Contested Lives: The Abortion Debate in an American Community*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [due during week 7]

Sahlins, Marshall

1981 *Historical Metaphors and Mythical Realities: Structure in the Early History of the Sandwich Islands Kingdom*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. [due during week 1]

Schneider, David

1980 *American Kinship: A Cultural Account*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [due during week 3]

Strathern, Marilyn

1992 *After Nature: English Kinship in the Late Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [due during week 9]

Wagner, Roy

1981 [1975] *The Invention of Culture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [due during week 5]

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 be 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.

1986 Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Selections]

Hobsbawm, Eric

1962 The Age of Revolution: 1789-1848. New York: Vintage. [Selections]

Wolf, Eric R.

1982 Europe and the People without History. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Selections]

January 9th: Modernity, Postmodernity and Tradition

Harvey, David

1990 The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change. Malden, MA: Blackwell. [Selections]

Jameson, Fredric

1984 Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism. New Left Review 146:53-92.

Week Two:

January 12th:

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph

2003 Global Transformations: Anthropology and the Modern World. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. **Introduction, Chapters 1-2**

January 14th:

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph

2003 Global Transformations: Anthropology and the Modern World. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. **Chapters 3-4**

January 16th:

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph

2003 Global Transformations: Anthropology and the Modern World. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. **Chapters 5-6**

Week Three:

January 19th:

No Class – MLK Day

January 21st:

Marx, Karl

1990 [1976] Capital: A Critique of Political Economy. B. Fowkes, transl. Volume 1. New York: Penguin. [Selections]

Marx, Karl

1992 [1975] Early Writings. R. Livingstone and G. Benton, transl. New York: Penguin.

Sahlins, Marshall

1976 Culture and Practical Reason. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [Selections]

January 23rd:

Bourdieu, Pierre

1991 [1982] Language and Symbolic Power. G. Raymond and M. Adamson, transl. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. [Selections]

Liu, Lydia H.

2004 The Clash of Empires: The Invention of China in Modern World Making. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. [Selections]

Mauss, Marcel

2000 [1950] The Gift: The Form and Reason for Exchange in Archaic Societies. W.D. Halls, transl. New York: W. W. Norton. [Selections]

Week Four:

January 26th:

Graeber, David

2001 Toward an Anthropological Theory of Value: The False Coin of Our Own Dreams. New York: Palgrave. **Introduction, Chapters 1-3**

January 28th:

Graeber, David

2001 Toward an Anthropological Theory of Value: The False Coin of Our Own Dreams. New York: Palgrave. **Chapters 4-5**

January 30th:

Graeber, David

2001 Toward an Anthropological Theory of Value: The False Coin of Our Own Dreams. New York: Palgrave. **Chapters 6-7**

Week Five:

February 2nd:

Lacan, Jacques

2002 [1966] The Mirror Stage as Formative of the *I* Function, as Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience *In* *Ecrits: A Selection*. Pp. 3-9. New York: W. W. Norton.

Butler, Judith

1999 [1990] *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York: Routledge. [Selections]

February 4th:

Bhabha, Homi

1984 Of Mimicry and Man: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse. *October* (28):125-133.

Caillois, Roger

1984 Mimicry and Legendary Psychesthesia. *October* 31:17-32.

Fanon, Franz

2008 [1952] *Black Skin, White Masks*. R. Philcox, transl. New York: Grove Press. [Selections]

February 6th:

Buck-Morss, Susan

2000 Hegel and Haiti. *Critical Inquiry* 26(4):821-865.

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

2012 *Beauty and the Beast*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. **Pages 78-153**

Week Seven:

February 16th:

Foucault, Michel

1990 [1976] *The History of Sexuality*. R. Hurley, transl. Volume 1. New York: Vintage.

1995 [1975] *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. A. Sheridan, transl. New York: Vintage. [Selections]

February 18th:

Foucault, Michel

1998 [1982] *Technologies of the Self*. In *Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth*. P. Rabinow, ed. Pp. 223-252. *Essential Works of Michel Foucault, 1954-1984, Vol. 1*. New York: New Press.

2000 [1978] *Governmentality*. In *Power*. J.D. Faubion, ed. Pp. 201-222. *Essential Works of Michel Foucault, 1954-1984, Vol. 3*. New York: New Press.

2000 [1982] *The Subject and Power*. In *Power*. J.D. Faubion, ed. Pp. 326-348. *Essential Works of Michel Foucault, 1954-1984, Vol. 3*. New York: New Press.

February 20th:

Deleuze, Gilles

1995 [1990] *Negotiations*. M. Joughin, transl. New York: Columbia University Press. [Selections]

Nader, Laura

1997 *Controlling Processes: Tracing the Dynamic Components of Power Current Anthropology* 38(5):711-738.

Week Eight:

February 23rd:

Stoler, Ann Laura

1995 *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's *History of Sexuality* and the Colonial Order of Things*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. **Preface, Chapters 1-3**

February 25th:

Stoler, Ann Laura

1995 *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's *History of Sexuality* and the Colonial Order of Things*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. **Chapters 4-5**

February 27th:

Stoler, Ann Laura

1995 *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's *History of Sexuality* and the Colonial Order of Things*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. **Chapter 6, Epilogue**

Week Nine:

March 2nd:

Mignolo, Walter

2011 *Darker Side of Western Modernity: Global Futures, Decolonial Options*. Durham: Duke University Press. [Selections]

March 4th:

Chakrabarty, Dipesh

2000 *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [Selections]

Mintz, Sidney

1996 *Enduring Substances, Trying Theories: The Caribbean Region as Oikoumene*. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 2(2):289-311.

March 6th:

Berlant, Lauren

2011 *Cruel Optimism*. Durham: Duke University Press. [Selections]

Mbembe, Achille

2003 *Necropolitics*. *Public Culture* 15(1):11-40.

Week Ten:

March 9th:

Povinelli, Elizabeth

2006 *The Empire of Love: Toward a Theory of Intimacy, Genealogy, and Carnality*. Durham: Duke University Press. **Introduction, Chapter 1**

March 11th:

Povinelli, Elizabeth

2006 *The Empire of Love: Toward a Theory of Intimacy, Genealogy, and Carnality*. Durham: Duke University Press. **Chapter 2**

March 13th:

Povinelli, Elizabeth

2006 *The Empire of Love: Toward a Theory of Intimacy, Genealogy, and Carnality*. Durham: Duke University Press. **Chapter 3**

Week Eleven: Loose Ends

March 16th:

Fassin, Didier

2013 On Resentment and *Ressentiment*: The Politics and Ethics of Moral Emotions. *Current Anthropology* 54(3):249-267.

Faubion, James D.

2001 Toward an Anthropology of Ethics: Foucault and the Pedagogies of Autopoiesis. *Representations* 74(1):83-104.

Robbins, Joel

2013 Beyond the Suffering Subject: Toward an Anthropology of the Good. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 19(3):447-462.

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?