

ANT 420

SEMINAR IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL METHOD AND THEORY

Professor Emily Stovel

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T: 10:10 – 11, WR: 9:05-9:55

Office Hours: Wednesdays by appointment

Learning objectives

- Explore key texts in Biological Anthropology, Socio-Cultural Anthropology, and Archaeology,
- Develop independent skills identifying recurrent themes and their variation in the discipline's academic literature.
- Hone professional academic writing and presentation skills.

Students will be tested on their ability to identify common themes in academic literature, apply class discussions to their paper, and write systematic and clear papers about these discoveries.

Required Readings

- *On the Origin of Species: By Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* by Charles Darwin (**make sure it's before the fifth edition**).
- *Political Systems of Highland Burma: A Study of Kachin Social Structure* by Edmund Leach.
- *A Study of Archeology* by Walter Taylor
- Additional Readings by Boellstorff are available online through the Lane Library access to *AnthroSource*.

Grade Distribution

Presentations	2 * 15 = 30
Bibliography	10
Rough Draft	20
Group Assignment Report	10
Final Paper	30
Total	100

Presentations

Students will present their research papers twice during the semester. They will give a short progress report midway, and then a final formal presentation at the end. Class time will be dedicated to discussing appropriate presentation techniques in the field. Presentations should be accompanied by assigned readings and a handout that identifies the thesis, data, and results of the readings.

Bibliography

Each student will hand in a bibliography early in the semester. This should represent the core of references to be used in the writing of the senior paper. It will be revised throughout the semester.

Group Assignment

This is a worksheet students will carry out together to help their writing process.

Rough Draft and Final Paper

The majority of class time will be dedicated to the writing of a 15-20 page paper on a topic developed by each student at the beginning of the class. The paper is a thematic literature review with a thesis, outline, and conclusions and constitutes 50% of the student's grade in the class. The paper topic is the application (or not) of a key text chosen by each student in the corresponding sub-disciplinary literature. Good examples of paper topics are the use of Darwin in archaeological research or the use of Leach in the anthropological study of identity.

Attendance

Class attendance will be monitored but students do not need to give prior warning for not attending a class session. Each student is responsible for ensuring they receive all instructions or information communicated on any day(s) missed. Obviously, regular absences will lead to lower grades as most classroom time will be spend clarifying and building on readings and concepts. It is up to the student to make sure they come to class and are clear about when and what they do not understand in the texts, assignments, lectures, and discussions.

Plagiarism

Students should work together to help clarify complex texts and concepts. Submitting other people's work, quoting or paraphrasing other texts without citing the source, and portraying other's ideas as one's own, however, are all dishonest practices and can lead to expulsion from the College. Each student should review the Ripon College honor code (page 28 of the Course Catalogue) and ask questions about academic practices if they are not **absolutely sure** what constitutes plagiarism.

Modules	Date	Activity	Readings
Paper Topic Development	August 28 th	Introduction to the Seminar	
	August 29 th	The Origin of Species: Introduction and Chapter XV: Recapitulation and Conclusion	
	September 3-6	Political Systems of Highland Burma: Introduction and Conclusions	
	September 10-13	A Study of Archeology: Introductions, and Chapter 2	
	September 17-20	Paper Writing and Library Workshop	Boellstorff, Tom 2008a Acceptance and Rejection. <i>American Anthropologist</i> 110(4):409–411. Boellstorff, Tom 2008b How to Get an Article Accepted at <i>American Anthropologist</i> (or Anywhere). <i>American Anthropologist</i> 110(3):281–283. Boellstorff, Tom 2010 How to Get an Article Accepted at <i>American Anthropologist</i> (or Anywhere), Part 2. <i>American Anthropologist</i> 112(3): 353–356.
	September 24-27	DRAFT BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE Tuesday, September 25 Darwin's Origin of Species	
Analysis Phase	October 1-4	Darwin's Origin of Species	
	October 8-11	Leach's Political Systems Highland Burma	
	October 15-18	Leach's Political Systems Highland Burma Presentation Workshop	
	October 22-25	Fall Break	
	October 29- November 1	<i>Presentations</i>	
	November 5-8	Taylor's A Study of Archaeology	
	November 12-15	Taylor's A Study of Archaeology	
	November 19-22	Paper Writing Workshop	
Editing Phase	November 26-29	GROUP ASSIGNMENT AND ROUGH DRAFT DUE Friday, November 29th	
	December 3-6	Paper Writing and Presentation Workshop	
	December 10-13	<i>Presentations</i>	
	FINAL DRAFT DUE Date TBA		