

Anthropology 500D

Contemporary Approaches in Sociocultural Anthropology

Spring 2009

This course introduces key contemporary approaches in Sociocultural Anthropology. How does contemporary anthropology address classic topics such as kinship, exchange, ritual and the environment? What role does fieldwork play in anthropological understanding, and what ethical and epistemological issues are raised by the process of turning fieldwork into written texts? How have issues such as gender, history, and power reshaped anthropological understandings and approaches? These issues will be explored as students write essays and book reviews which engage with current sociocultural theories, methods and debates.

David Sutton

Faner 3537

453-5017

dsutton@siu.edu

Required Books (available at local bookstores):

Gananath Obeyesekere *The Apotheosis of Captain Cook*

Marshall Sahlins *How Natives Think*

Paul Connerton *How Societies Remember*

David Graeber *Toward an Anthropological Theory of Value*

David Howes *Sensual Relations*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

2 Mid-Term Take-Home Exams (each worth 25% of your grade)

1 Book Review (worth 10% of your grade)

1 Final 8-10 page paper (worth 30% of your grade)

Class Participation and Class Presentations (worth 10% of your grade)

Week 1: Introduction

Renato Rosaldo "Subjectivity in Social Analysis" and "The Erosion of Classical Norms" (1989)

Week 2: Rethinking Texts Historically

Review:

Clifford Geertz "Thick Description" and "Notes on the Balinese Cockfight" (1973)

Read:

William Roseberry "Balinese Cockfights and the Seduction of Anthropology." (1982)

June Nash "Interpreting Social Movements: On Bolivian Resistance to economic conditions imposed by the IMF." (1992)

David Howes *Sensual Relations* Chapter 1

Weeks 3-5: Getting History into Anthropology (1st MIDTERM ASSIGNED WEEK 5)

Nicholas Dirks "History as a Sign of the Modern" (1990)

Eric Hobsbawm "Inventing Traditions" (1983)

Richard Handler & Jocelyn Linnekin "Tradition, Genuine & Spurious" (1984)

Jane Collier "Identity: From Villagers to Andalucians" (1997)

Yiannis Hamilakis "Decolonizing Greek Archaeology: Indigenous Archaeologies, Modernist Archaeology and the Post-Colonial Critique" (2008)

Jean & John Comaroff "Introduction" *Ethnography and the Historical Imagination* (1992)

James Clifford "Identity in Mashpee" (1989)

Jonathan Hill "Introduction" to *Rethinking Myth and History* (1988)

C. Fausto & M. Heckenberger "Intro: Indigenous History and the History of the Indians" (2008)

Marshall Sahlins "Captain James Cook, Or, The Dying God" (1985)

Weeks 6-7 Gender & Kinship

Sarah Franklin "Conception among the Anthropologists." (1997)

Sylvia Yanagisako and Carol Delaney "Introduction to Naturalizing Power." (1995)

David Sutton "Local Names, Foreign Claims" (1997)

Anna Tsing "Empowering Nature, or: Some Gleanings in Bee Culture" (1995)

Mary Weismantel "Making Kin: Kinship theory and Zumbagua Adoptions" (1995)

Kath Weston "Forever is a Long Time" In *Naturalizing Power* (1995)

Katherine Frank "Agency" (2006)

Belinda Leach "Agency and the Gendered Imagination: Women's Actions and Local Culture in Steelworker Families" (2005)

Weeks 8-9 Money, Gifts and Commodities

Annette Weiner "Inalienable Possessions" & "Reconfiguring Exchange Theory: The Maori Hau." (1992)

Pierre Bourdieu "Marginalia" (1997 [1987?])

James Carrier "Gifts in a World of Commodities.." (1990)

David Graeber *Toward an Anthropological Theory of Value* chs. 1-4

Daniel Miller "Alienable Gifts and Inalienable Commodities"

David Howes *Sensual Relations* Chapter 8

Weeks 10-11 Ritual, the Body and the Senses (2nd MIDTERM ASSIGNED WEEK 10)

Paul Connerton *How Societies Remember* (1989)

David Parkin "Ritual as Spatial Division." (1992)

Kenneth Rounton "Conjuring the Past: Slavery and the Historical Imagination in Cuba" (2008)

David Howes *Sensual Relations* Chapters 2-4

Jaida Kim Samudra “Memory in Our Body: Thick Participation and the Translation of Kinesthetic Experience” (2008)

Week 12-13 Globalization and Transnationalism

Nina Glick-Schiller, Linda Basch & Christina Blanc-Szanton “From Immigrant to Transmigrant: Theorizing Transnational Migration” (1995)

Arjun Appadurai “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy” (1990)

Peter Metcalf “Global Disjunctures and the Sites of Anthropology” (2001)

Paul Falzone “Speaking (un)Truth to Power: Fish Tales from the Ethnographic Front” (2008)

Richard Wilk “Real Belizian Food: Building Local Identity in the Transnational Caribbean” (1999)

Paula Ebron “Tourists as Pilgrims: Commercial Fashioning of Transatlantic Politics” (2000)

John McCall “The Pan-Africanism we have: Nollywood’s Invention of Africa” (2007)

Weeks 14-15 Rethinking Nature, the Environment, the Non-Human

Tim Ingold “Culture, nature, environment: steps to an ecology of life”;
“Making Things, Growing Plants, Raising Animals”;
and “The Concept of the Anatomically Modern Human” (2000)

John Knight “Feeding Mr. Monkey” (2006)

Michel Callon “Some Elements of a Sociology of Translation: Domestication of the scallops and the Fishermen of St. Brieuc Bay” (1986)

Bruno Latour “Circulating Reference: Sampling the Soil in the Amazon Forest” in *Pandora’s Hope: Essays on the Reality of Science Studies* (1999)

FINAL ASSIGNED WEEK 15