Graduate Seminar in Socio-Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 511: Fall 2005
MW 2:00-3:50

Dr. Margaret Everett
Office: 141q Cramer Hall
Office Hours: Tues. 10-12 and by appointment
Phone: 725-3319
E-mail: everettm@pdx.edu

Course Description:

The aim of this class is to give graduate students an overview of the history of anthropological theory, beginning with the classical theorists of the nineteenth century and moving to contemporary theoretical debates. A close and critical reading of theory in cultural anthropology should give students the tools to construct their own research projects.

Readings:

All readings have been scanned and are available on WebCT (see below).

Evaluation
Your grade in this course will be based on two paper assignment (5 pages, 20% grade each), one final paper (10-12 pages, 40% grade), class attendance and participation (5%), and leading class discussion (5%).

Papers
Your first paper is due October 12 on the following question: Is cultural relativism good or bad for anthropology?

Your second paper is due November 7 on the following question: Can anthropological theory be scientific? Or is the effort to be scientific misguided? Explore this in terms of the history of anthropological theory.

Facilitating Discussion
Students will lead discussions on one or two subsections of the course. Students should meet with the instructor before the class you facilitate. Feel free to use handouts, audio-visual aids or other creative techniques as you see fit.

Final Paper
Students will choose a topic for a research paper, or choose from a list of questions provided by the instructor. You may wish to explore a school of thought or theoretical debate in more depth, or begin the literature review for your thesis. Your paper may use outside sources, but you should also engage the readings and discussions from the class. Students should discuss their paper topics with the instructor by the forth week of the
class.

Policies:
All required work must be completed to receive a grade. Late papers will be penalized, except in cases of verifiable illness or emergency.

Disabilities Statement:
Any student with a documented disability condition (e.g., physical, learning, psychological, vision, or hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact both the instructor and the Disability Resources Center at the beginning of the term.

WebCT:
Course syllabus, readings, handouts, assignments, and lecture outlines will be available on WebCT. All students can access WebCT with an odin account. To login, or to find out how to get a login ID and password, go to [www.webct.pdx.edu](http://www.webct.pdx.edu). For students who have never accessed WebCT before, your login ID is your odin user ID, and your password is usually the last 4 digits of your social security number. If you do not have an odin account, you can find out how to get one at [https://www.account.pdx.edu](https://www.account.pdx.edu).

SCHEDULE

September 26: Introduction

Part One: Classical Theory
September 28: Marx, Weber, Durkheim

October 3: Marx, Weber, Durkheim

October 5: Cultural Evolution
Optional: Lewis Henry Morgan, “Ethnical Periods”

October 10: Franz Boas and Cultural Relativism

October 12: Comprehending “the Other”

October 17 and 19: Society, Culture, Mind: How are We Molded?

Part Two: Contemporary Theory

October 24: Contemporary Cultural Evolution
--Marvin Harris, selections from Cannibals and Kings (New York, Random House, 1977).

October 31 and November 2: The Turn to Interpretation
--Clifford Geertz, “Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture” in Bohannan and Glazer, eds. High Points in Anthropology, p. 531-552.

November 7 and 9: Postmodernism in Anthropology

November 14 and 16: Culture, Practice, Power

November 21 and 23: Transnational Cultures and Globalization

November 28 and 30: Why We Can’t Comprehend the World