

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY



Anthropologist, folklorist, and novelist Zora Neal Hurston & Rochelle French listen to Gabriel Brown playing guitar, Eatonville, Florida, 1935

WELCOME

Anthropology, the study of *anthropos*, the human, lies at the intersection of philosophy, the social sciences, biology, and linguistics. In the United States, it has historically been divided into four sub-disciplines. This course is an introduction to the largest of the four, cultural (or social) anthropology. It is an American Cultures program course, so its focus in introducing social and cultural anthropology is on anthropology's relationship to the diversity of American experience.

The course will work on two tracks: one focused on our current moment, and the other focused on the 20th century. We will read and discuss both notable and controversial texts and authors simultaneously to grasp a history of debate and to think through what tools we will need to make sense of both emergent and persistent phenomena in our own time. The course is designed both to give you an introduction to debates central to American life over the past century and to help you develop the critical and analytic tools needed to take advanced courses, depending on your interest, in the anthropology and sociology of medicine, politics, religion, environment, and economic development.

Anthropology was institutionalized, in the U.S., as the study of small-scale, so-called "primitive" or "tribal" societies, though as we will see this study was always utilized to advance particular historical, moral, and political understandings in the present. By the 1950s, the focus of the discipline had shifted to the study of agricultural or "peasant" worlds, in order to promote their modernization. Over subsequent decades anthropologists began to question the impact of peasant modernization and persons and communities such programs were supposed to help. By the 1980s the methods and concepts of the field were being applied to a great diversity of topics and sites: the *human* was no longer being explored primarily through the study of the tribal or the peasant, but across the range of institutions, relations, authorities, practices, knowledges, commitments, and feelings that constitute the worlds that humans and others find themselves caught up in. What remained relatively constant was a focus on intense engagement in a "field" site.

Berkeley anthropology field-sites: a very small selection



SECTIONS!

Each student is assigned to a section. Section Instructors (“GSIs” at Berkeley) are each expert in a different field of social and cultural anthropology and discussions in section are as important as in lecture. Your GSI will let you know the time and place of section office hours. Sections begin the FIRST week of the course.

OFFICE HOURS!

In addition to section office hours, which your GSI will tell you about, I hold office hours each week. It is a good idea to meet professors in their office hours. Whether or not you have a specific question to ask me (you can always just show up with a fun fact about yourself), please do come by and get to know me. There are three ways you can do this.

First, and best, I have reserved a special hour if you are free just for this class and *no sign up is needed*. This is always Monday afternoon 4-5pm in my office in **319 Kroeber Hall**.

Second, each week I have office hours by sign-up on my door. If you cannot make the special hour, you can sign up by going to my office and adding your name. I will let you know the hours of these in class and on line as soon as this time is set. This is harder to do as you are competing for a limited number of available times so I would encourage you to come on Monday afternoons 4-5 when no sign up is needed.

Third, I will every now and then hold additional hours to discuss some topic that came up in class: if you are interested just show up: to be announced.

And if you are incredibly busy and cannot make any of these times, I will try to get to class 10 minutes early as often as I can: you can find me a few minutes before class in the hallway downstairs waiting to enter from the ground floor lower entrance to the auditorium where we meet in Dwinelle, and then on the podium setting up my laptop and notes. Don’t hesitate to bother me.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS! AND GRADING!

The course grade has five components.

Section attendance, preparedness, and participation	20%
Lecture attendance	5%
Midterm examination	20%
Term paper	20%
Final examination	35%

Section attendance, preparedness, and participation: The two examinations are based on integrating course lectures and readings: section attendance is not only important for covering the syllabus material but critical for exam performance. Section attendance and participation forms a fifth of the course grade. The weekly reading assignments are shorter than for many courses, and we expect you to have read the readings and be prepared to discuss them. Bring questions about readings and lectures to section. Your section GSI may create small assignments that form part of this grade. Note that if you have more than two unexcused absences from sections you will lose half of your grade (10% of the entire course grade).

Lecture attendance: The lectures will be central to the exams. There will be an attendance sheet in the front of the room that one of the GSIs will have before class, and briefly after. Be sure to check off that you are in class. Attendance is worth 5% of the grade: thus, just showing up can make the difference between an A and a B, or a B and a C.

Midterm examination: In class exam, **March 1**. The exam is 75 minutes long, please bring 1-2 exam “blue books” to class, with no markings on them: we will collect these before the exam starts and you will be given the same

number of “blue books” to use as you handed in initially. There will be two parts to the exam, 5 short answer questions (to choose out of 8), and 1 essay (to choose out of 2). There will be a review session for the exam we will announce some weeks before. The short answer questions ask you to take a given concept or debate in the field and to define, discuss, and elaborate in a paragraph, showing mastery of lecture or course readings. The essay will ask you to apply major concepts and debates discussed in the course to a specific contemporary question.

Term paper: The paper is due **April 20**. There are no extensions. 8-12 pages double-spaced in length. You will be asked to compare, contrast, or integrate how two or more anthropologists approach a similar research topic. You will need to propose a possible paper topic to your GSI by February 20 by submitting a one-paragraph discussion of the research question that interests you. Your GSI will help you identify readings for the paper.

Final examination: Same format as the midterm, with a focus on the second half of class but the essays may incorporate the entire course. There will again be two parts to the exam, 5 short answer questions (to choose out of 8), and 2 essays (to choose out of 3). There will be a review session for the exam we will announce some weeks before.

COURSE READINGS!

Most readings will be found on the course web site and are **marked [W]** on the syllabus. There will be a reader available at Copy Central on Bancroft for the rest, **marked [R]**. The reader will be ready by the 2nd week of class.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION!

If you have a disability and have applied to and been accepted in the Disabled Students Program (DSP) on campus, we can provide you with the accommodations that the university and federal and state law mandate, for lectures, readings, sections, examinations, and other course assignments. You must make sure the DSP program sends us a notification **by the latest February 15** so that we have time to make midterm arrangements and other accommodations. Please see us if you have any questions or if you need assistance in getting hooked up to DSP so that we can help you make this deadline.

LIBRARY RESERVES! AND DATABASE USE!

Course readings and supplementary materials you may be interested in will be on reserve at the desk of the Anthropology Library on the second floor of Kroeber Hall. Berkeley has one of the only two anthropology libraries in the United States! Early on in the course, an anthropology librarian will visit the class to make sure you know basic techniques of finding research papers and other research materials on line and in the library.

For those curious about current research in the field, or planning your own research in the future, an excellent way to wade in is to check out recent journal articles. Here is a list of some of the **major journals** in the discipline in English; there are of course important journals in many languages if you read others. Most are both on line and available in paper; some are only on line, and some only in paper.

American Anthropologist

American Ethnologist

Annual Review of Anthropology

Anthropological Quarterly

Anthropological Theory

Anthropology of Consciousness

Comparative Studies in Society & History

Critique of Anthropology

Cultural Anthropology

Culture, Medicine, & Psychiatry

Current Anthropology

Ethnology

Ethnos

Ethos

Hau

Human Organization

Journal of Contemporary Ethnography

JRAI (Jour. of Royal Anthro. Institute)

Medical Anthropology

Medical Anthropology Quarterly

PoLAR (Political & Legal Anthro. Review)

Public Culture

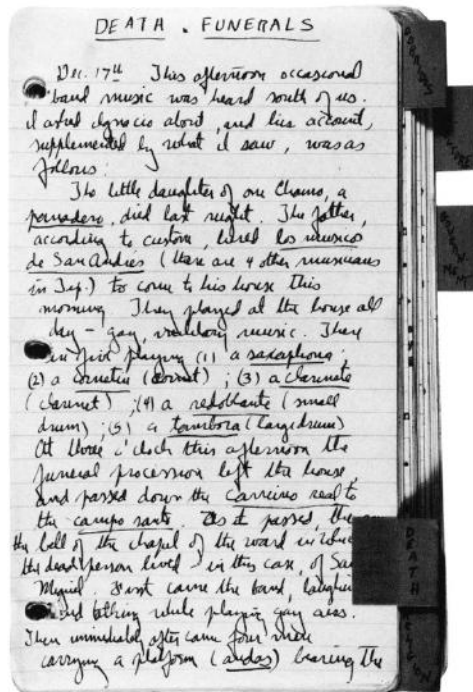
Social Analysis

Social Anthropology

There are also interesting anthropology websites, some attached to the above journals but others independent: here are two widely read, but your GSIs may know of others. <http://somatosphere.net>, <http://savageminds.org>

SYLLABUS

WEEK 1: TWO INTRODUCTORY LECTURES



Robert Redfield, field notes, 1926-27

TUESDAY JANUARY 16

COURSE INTRODUCTION: THE UNIVERSAL PARTICULAR

WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?

ANTHROPOS AND LOGOS

5 CONCEPTS: EVOLUTION, RACE, SOCIETY, CULTURE, INDIVIDUAL

THE QUESTION OF DIFFERENCE: "OTHER CULTURES"

"FIELDWORK" OR "ETHNOGRAPHY" AS A METHOD

WHAT ARE THE DEMANDS OF OUR TIME?

COURSE TOPICS, READINGS, EXPECTATIONS, SECTIONS, ETC.

TUESDAY JANUARY 18

HOW TO READ LIKE AN ANTHROPOLOGIST

TREATING WRITING ANTHROPOLOGICALLY

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND WHAT IS THINKABLE

NORMS, OFFENSE, AND READING WITH GENEROSITY

WHAT IS THE MAIN ARGUMENT?

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH PROBLEM AND RESEARCH QUESTION?

WHAT IS 'THE FIELD'? WHAT/WHO/WHERE WAS STUDIED & HOW?

WHAT CONCEPTS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE ANALYSIS?

WHICH THINKERS OR SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT ARE BEING ENGAGED?

READ HARDING, "CONVICTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT" [W]

WEEK 2: FIELDWORK: MARGARET MEAD, ADOLESCENCE, THE COLONIZATION OF SAMOA



Margaret Mead and Fa'amotu in Samoa



1930s Tourism Map showing U.S. Pacific Territories as paradise

TUESDAY JANUARY 23

COMING OF AGE IN PENNSYLVANIA, OR, MARGARET MEAD

FRANZ BOAS AND "CULTURAL" ANTHROPOLOGY
RUTH BENEDICT AND "PATTERNS" OF CULTURE
THE INVENTION OF (MISERABLE) ADOLESCENTS
SAMOA, OR ANTHROPOLOGY AS CULTURAL CRITIQUE
THE MEAD-FREEMAN DEBATE

READ MEAD, *COMING OF AGE IN SAMOA*, EXCERPTS [W]

THURSDAY JANUARY 25

THE RETURN OF MARGARET MEAD

MARGARET MEAD AS PUBLIC INTELLECTUAL
WHO LEARNS FROM WHOM? THE RISE OF MODERNIZATION THEORY
ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE NINETEEN SIXTIES AND SEVENTIES
JAMES BALDWIN AND MARGARET MEAD: *A RAP ON RACE*

READ BALDWIN & MEAD, *A RAP ON RACE*, EXCERPTS [W]

[For a sense of the conversation, hear <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WNO6f7rjE0>]



James Baldwin



Margaret Mead

WEEK 3: NATURE VS. NURTURE? MIGRANTS, NATIVE AMERICANS, RACE, AND LANGUAGE



Boas modeling Hamat'sa dance



Ruth Benedict



Ishi



Alfred Kroeber



Edward Sapir

TUESDAY JANUARY 30

THE MAKING OF FRANZ BOAS AND HIS THOUGHT

BEYOND ARISTOTLE: THE RISE OF EVOLUTIONARY TIME
 REASON, EVOLUTION, AND RACE: 18TH & 19TH CENTURY DEBATES
 GERMAN IDEALISM: LANGUAGE, ENVIRONMENT, AND CULTURE
 ANTHROPOMETRY, CULTURE, AND ATTACKS ON MIGRANTS
 BOAS ON RACE AND CULTURE

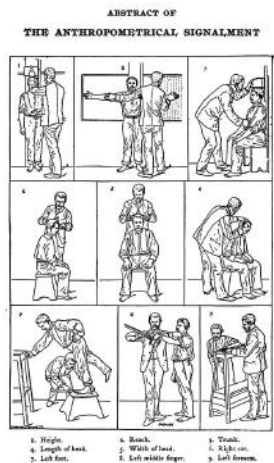
READ BOAS, *ANTHROPOLOGY AND MODERN LIFE* 11-62 [R]

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1

THE BOASIANS: CULTURE IN AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGY

BOAS ON CULTURAL STABILITY, REPRODUCTION, DIFFUSION, AND LOSS
 BENEDICT: *CULTURE AND PERSONALITY*
 SALVAGE ETHNOGRAPHY
 KROEBER AND CALIFORNIA ANTHROPOLOGY
 ISHI
 SAPIR AND THE SAPIR-WHORF HYPOTHESIS

READ BOAS, *ANTHROPOLOGY AND MODERN LIFE* 132-158 [R]



Anthropometry chart

WEEK 4: IS ANTHROPOLOGY WHITE? HURSTON, METHOD, AND AUDIENCE



Hurston: writer, activist, Boasian

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6

ON GENRE: ZORA NEALE HURSTON, FOLKLORE, AND VOICE

FOLKLORE, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE COMMON VOICE

WHAT BOAS WANTED

HARLEM RENAISSANCE AND THE AMERICAN SOUTH

THE DISAPPEARANCE AND REDISCOVERY OF HURSTON: WALKER

THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL PICARESQUE

READ HURSTON, *OF MULES AND MEN*, 3, 9-23 [R]

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8

THE “VACUUM METHOD”

THE PATRON: CHARLOTTE OSGOOD MASON

“GETTING IN WITH THE TOP OF THE PROFESSION”

ON HOODOO AND KNOWLEDGE

READ HURSTON, *OF MULES AND MEN*, 176-181, 215-221 [R]



*Illustration of Hoodoo ritual from *Of Mules and Men**

WEEK 5: DURKHEIM, BRITISH COLONIAL ANTHROPOLOGY, AND “SOCIETY”



Australian churingas

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13

SOCIOLOGY, SOCIAL FACTS, AND FUNCTIONALISM

SOCIOLOGY FOR COMTE: LEVELS AND LAWS

SOCIOLOGY FOR DURKHEIM

SOLIDARITY: TWO TYPES

SOCIAL FACTS AND METHOD

SUICIDE

MALINOWSKI: METHOD, DIARIES, FUNCTIONALISM

READ DURKHEIM, *DIVISION OF LABOR IN SOCIETY* 11-24 [R]

READ DURKHEIM, *RULES OF SOCIOLOGICAL METHOD* 50-59 [R]

READ MALINOWSKI, *ARGONAUTS OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC* 1-25 [R]

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15

GOD IN DURKHEIM AND BRITISH SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

GOD IS SOCIETY? DURKHEIM AND THE *ELEMENTARY FORMS*

EVANS-PRITCHARD, NUER RELIGION, AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE

**READ DURKHEIM, *ELEMENTARY FORMS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE*
1-22, 33-44, 231-234, 418-429 [R]**

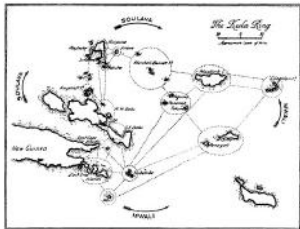


Effervescence today?: 2017 Women's March, Washington



2017 Polish Nationalist March, Warsaw

WEEK 6: TWO ESSAYS BY MARCEL MAUSS



Hau things circulate: Kula Ring

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20

THE FORCE OF THE GIFT

MALINOWSKI AND THE KULA
THE NORTH AMERICAN POTLATCH
THE HAU IN NEW ZEALAND
FROM ETHNOGRAPHY TO ETHNOLOGY IN THE SERVICE OF SOCIOLOGY
MAUSS ON GIFT AND HAU
THE TOTAL SOCIAL FACT
THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET

READ MALINOWSKI, *ARGONAUTS OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC* 509-518

READ MAUSS, *THE GIFT*, 3-9, 14-18 [R]

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22

THE CONDITION OF THE BODY

“NO NATURAL WAY” FOR THE ADULT
TECHNIQUE
DISCIPLINE
MASS MEDIA
HABITUS

READ MAUSS, “TECHNIQUES OF THE BODY” [R]



Dance as habitus formation

WEEK 7: RITUAL, LIMINALITY, AND EXAMINATION



QUINCEAÑERA

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27

INTO THE LIMEN

RITES OF PASSAGE
VAN GENNUP AND LIMINALITY
TURNER AND THE RITUAL PROCESS
PILGRIMAGE
LIMINALITY TODAY
EXAM REVIEW

READ TURNER, "BETWIXT AND BETWEEN" [W]

THURSDAY MARCH 1

MIDTERM EXAMINATION



CARRYING OMIKOSI SHRINE ON PILGRIMAGE



PILGRIMS ON THE HAJJ



EL CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

WEEK 8: HEGEL AND MARX



INDUSTRIAL WAGE LABOR

TUESDAY MARCH 6

EXPRESSION, CONSCIOUSNESS, AND DIALECTIC: HEGEL

ANTHROPOLOGY AT MID-20TH CENTURY: TWO PROMISES OF THE FUTURE
TOWARD A THEORY OF HISTORY

TWO MARXISMS

DIALECTIC: HEGEL AND MARX

INTRODUCTION TO HEGEL: EXPRESSIVISM

INTRODUCTION TO HEGEL: CONSCIOUSNESS

MASTER AND SLAVE

HISTORY AND DIALECTIC

**READ MARX, *CAPITAL VOLUME ONE* 302-312, 319-329 (“COMMODITIES”
SECTIONS 1, 2, 4), 364-376 (“THE WORKING DAY”) [R]**

THURSDAY MARCH 8

COMMODITY, VALUE, FETISH: MARX

THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

CAPITAL

KEYWORDS: COMMODITY, USE-VALUE, EXCHANGE-VALUE, VALUE

THE FETISH

TIME AND THE WORKER

WEEK 9: WEBER AND DU BOIS



FRANKLIN: "REMEMBER THAT TIME IS MONEY"

TUESDAY MARCH 13

THE CALLING

EASTERN GERMANY IS NOT THE UNITED STATES
THE COMPARATIVE PROJECT
ETHICAL FORMATION AND "SPIRIT"
METHOD IN THE HUMAN SCIENCES
INTERPRETATION AND UNDERSTANDING
IDEAL TYPES
"TRADITION" AND THE PROTESTANT ETHIC
WEBER AND MARX

**READ WEBER, *PROTESTANT ETHIC & THE SPIRIT OF CAPITALISM* 13-31,
47-63, 166-172 [R]**

THURSDAY MARCH 15

DOUBLE CONSCIOUSNESS

WHICH UNITED STATES? ON THE VEIL AND CONSCIOUSNESS
PHILADELPHIA AND THE NEGRO PROBLEM
BONE OF THE BONE AND FLESH OF THE FLESH

READ DU BOIS, *THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK* 1-12, 51-62, 154-175 [R]



W.E.B. DUBOIS: "WHAT SHALL SAVE US FROM A SECOND SLAVERY?"

WEEK 10: MODERNIZATION THEORY AND WORLD-SYSTEMS THEORY



REDFIELD, PARKS, AND FAMILY IN MEXICO



“TRADITION”



PRE-CAPITALIST OR CAPITALIST?

TUESDAY MARCH 20

ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE ERA OF DECOLONIZATION

MODERNIZATION THEORY AND THE PEASANT
ROSTOW AND THE FIVE STAGES
PARSONS AND THE PATTERN VARIABLES
THE ACHIEVEMENT ORIENTATION
FROM BOASIAN CULTURAL PLURALISM TO TWO CULTURES
ROBERT REDFIELD, MEXICO, AND U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS
DEVELOPMENT. FAILURE, AND IMPROVEMENT

READ REDFIELD, “THE FOLK SOCIETY AND CULTURE” [W]

THURSDAY MARCH 22

THE CONCEPT OF THE WORLD-SYSTEM

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT
THE IMPACT OF LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMICS
WORLD SYSTEMS THEORY
THE IMPACT OF THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT
ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE WORLD SYSTEM
SAID AND ORIENTALISM

READ WOLF, *EUROPE AND THE PEOPLE WITHOUT HISTORY* 3-23 [W]



GROWING SUGAR ON NEW WORLD PLANTATIONS



SHIPPING SUGAR



MAKING PASTRIES FOR A NEW TASTE FOR SWEETNESS

SPRING BREAK MARCH 27 AND 29

WEEK 11: STRUCTURALISM: MYTH, KINSHIP



THE MYTH OF OEDIPUS

TUESDAY APRIL 3

STRUCTURALISM

FROM HISTORICAL TO STRUCTURAL LINGUISTICS: DE SAUSSURE
LANGUE VERSUS *PAROLE*
DISTINCTION AND BINARY OPPOSITIONS

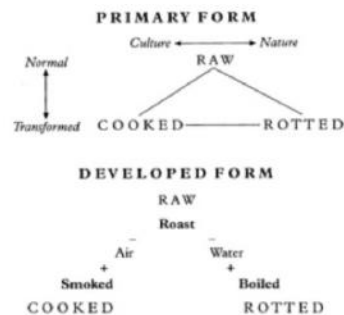
READ LEACH, *CLAUDE LÉVI-STRAUSS*, 15-33 [R]

THURSDAY APRIL 5

STRUCTURALISM, NATURE/CULTURE, AND MYTH

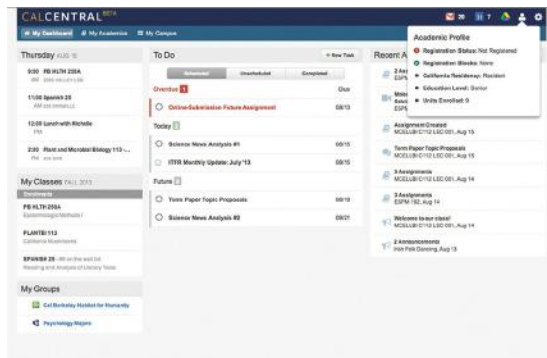
THE CULINARY TRIANGLE
OEDIPUS
METHOD IN MYTH ANALYSIS

READ LÉVI-STRAUSS, "THE CULINARY TRIANGLE" [W]



STRUCTURALISM AT WORK

WEEK 12: WEBER AND FOUCAULT



BUREAUCRACY TODAY

"DIDN'T GET MY FORMS IN?": AT THE MARGINS OF RATIONAL AUTHORITY

TUESDAY APRIL 10

WEBER: BUREAUCRACY, RATIONALIZATION, DISENCHANTMENT

WEBER, AUTHORITY, AND POWER: IDEAL TYPES OF LEGITIMATION
RELIGION, TRADITION, LAW, AND CHARISMA
RATIONALIZATION AND BUREAUCRACY

READ WEBER, *PROTESTANT ETHIC & THE SPIRIT OF CAPITALISM*, 180-183 [R]
READ WEBER, *ECONOMY & SOCIETY*, 3-15, 31-38, 53-56, 212-216, 241-249 [R]

THURSDAY APRIL 12

FOUCAULT: DISCIPLINE

PANOPTICISM
ALTHUSSER VERSUS FOUCAULT
POWER AND SUBJECTIVIZATION

READ FOUCAULT, *DISCIPLINE AND PUNISH* 195-228 [W]



PANOPTICON: ILLINOIS STATE PENITENTIARY

WEEK 13: KINSHIP AND SEXUALITY



1960S GAY LIBERATION IN U.S.: MARSHA JOHNSON HANDING OUT FLYERS

TUESDAY APRIL 17

FOUCAULT: SOVEREIGNTY/ALLIANCE & BIOPOWER/SEXUALITY

BEYOND THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION
SOVEREIGNTY—ALLIANCE—MAKING DIE OR LETTING LIVE
ANATOMO-POLITICS AND BIO-POLITICS
BIOPOWER—SEXUALITY—MAKING LIVE OR LETTING DIE
SEXUAL PROBLEMS
GOVERNING ALLIANCE AND SEXUALITY TODAY

THURSDAY APRIL 19

THE MAKING OF RELATIONS

KINSHIP: MORGAN, WESTERMARCK, RADCLIFFE-BROWN, LÉVI-STRAUSS
SCHNEIDER AND *AMERICAN KINSHIP*
MARRIOTT, VILLAGE INDIA, AND "SUBSTANCE CODE"
CARSTEN: RETHINKING KINSHIP

READ CARSTEN "THE SUBSTANCE OF KINSHIP & THE HEAT OF THE HEARTH"

[W]



LANGKAWI VILLAGE CHILDREN EATING TOGETHER

PAPER DUE FRIDAY APRIL 20 11:59 PM ON WEBSITE

WEEK 14: PUBLIC CULTURE AND ANTHROPOLOGY: THE 'HOTSPOTS' INTERVENTION



ON GOVERNMENT, ETHICS, POLICING, AND ANTHROPOLOGY IN AN AGE OF MASS HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

TUESDAY APRIL 24

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF MIGRATION CRISIS

COLLECTIVE DISCUSSION

READ 3 POSTS FROM THE SERIES

<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/911-refugees-and-the-crisis-of-europe>

THURSDAY APRIL 26

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF TRUMP

COLLECTIVE DISCUSSION

READ 3 POSTS FROM THE SERIES

<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/1030-the-rise-of-trumpism>



GOVERNMENT TODAY: SOVEREIGNTY, BIOPower, OR SOMETHING NEW?

FINAL EXAMINATION MAY 7 11:30AM