Anthropological Theory: Part Two  
Anthropology 603 (CRN 15241) Winter 2021  
Prof. Sandra Teresa Hyde she/elle  
Wednesdays 9 – 11:30 AM

Lecture – Wednesdays 9-11:30 AM Offline Podcast and Livestream Zoom (link on MyCourses)  
Office Hours – Thursdays 3-5 PM or by appointment

OVERVIEW
This course is designed as the sequel to Theory One. It introduces a range of theoretical approaches that focus on just what the ethnographic is in anthropology. In addition to asking how we might practice and write ethnography, we look beyond ethnography as a method to consider how communities and their critics have shaped anthropology’s theories and practices. Unlike more quantitative methods, the knowledge ethnography produces is both a way of knowing (epistemological) and a way of being (ontological). Ethnography can be experimental, embodied, empathetic, and it leads us to what Clifford Geertz in 1974 described as “how we explain ourselves to ourselves.” It is through ethnography that we get to “where true life and real lives meet.” Ethnographic research aims to focus on the messiness and excessiveness of life, meaning we aim to capture ethnographic theory in all its complexities, contradictions, and possibilities.

Organized genealogically, we start in the 1960s with Levi-Strauss, moving to interpretative anthropology and Geertz, then Bourdieu and practice theory, biopolitics and Foucault, and Clifford and Marcus on the reflexive turn and cultural critique. The second half focuses on five contemporary ethnographies that speak to the breadth and depth of our discipline.

COURSE GOALS

♦ We will engage with theory in ethnography at the intersection of sociocultural and experimental ethnography.
♦ To position certain debates within larger historical frameworks.
To move through ethnographic writing to comprehend sub-fields and debates in global sites of inquiry from North America to Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe.

This course is for graduate students in Anthropology who have completed Theory One, ANTH 602. For this COVID term, No auditors are permitted.

CLASS FORMAT

During the Winter 2021 semester, the course will be offered as prerecorded mini-lecture (think TED talk) podcasts and on Livestream zoom. We will not try to reproduce the in-person classroom experience; instead, we will work together to create a lively and productive atmosphere for thought and exchange online.

Off-line will begin with a prerecorded mini-lecture podcast where I link the readings and themes to central questions in anthropology. You will listen to my mini-lecture and read your classmates’ précis (please post to course DROPBOX by 8am WEDNESDAY morning.

Online will begin at 10:05 AM where we return to Livestream zoom to launch into a fruitful and engaging discussion.

The breakdown of class time (keeping in mind fluidity and flexibility):

OFF-LINE
Prerecorded— Ted Talk-length introductory podcast posted to MyCourses by WED 8 AM
Preposted – Post your Précis by WED 8 AM to the course DROPBOX
9 AM -10 AM Listen to the mini-lecture podcast and read your classmates Précis

ONLINE (synchronous) ZOOM
10:05  Announcements and housekeeping
10:10-11:25 Launch into a Livestream discussion focusing on your précis and readings
11:25-11:30 Wrap-up of class

READINGS
Books will be available in 2 formats, as Ebooks through McGill Worldcat or McLennan library - links are provided, OR as a hard copy through Paragraphe Books on 2220 McGill College (https://paragraphbooks.com/collections/textbooks/ANTH). All other and supplemental readings are available online or on MyCourses.

BOOKS

Part One – Genealogies of Anthropological Theory

WEEK 1: JAN 11 INTRODUCTION, LOGISTICS, AND FOOD FOR THOUGHT


WEEK 2: JAN 18 STRUCTURALISM

♦ Lévi-Strauss, Claude. 1966. Chapters 1 (pp. 1-35); 2 (pp. 36-75); 6 (pp. 161-190), 9 (pp. 245-270) in The ‘Savage’ Mind, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. Note: I will scan and post this material on MC.

WEEK 3: JAN 25 INTERPRETATIVE ANTHROPOLOGY


WEEK 4: FEB 1 PRACTICE THEORY

♦ Bourdieu, Pierre. 2010 (1984). Chapters 1 (1-9); 2 (91-119); 3(165-205); 4 (223-254); 5 (255-264); 6 (318-330, 365-372); 8 (434-462); Conclusion in Distinction: The Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste, , Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press and Taylor Keagan and Paul.

WEEK 5: FEB 8 WRITING CULTURE AND THE REFLEXIVE TURN

** Not available as ebooks so you are encouraged to buy or borrow a copy.

All complementary articles, book chapters, and supplementary readings are available on MyCourses, marked as MC.


WEEK 6: FEB 15 BIOPOLITICS


WEEK 7: No class. MARCH 1 - 7 Winter Break

Part Two – Contemporary Conversations

WEEK 8: MARCH 8 GENDER AND KINSHIP – ETHNO 1


WEEK 9: MARCH 15 ETHNO 2


WEEK 10: MARCH 22 ETHNO 3


• TBA

WEEK 11: MARCH 29 ETHNO 4


MC

WEEK 12: APRIL 5 ETHNO 5

WEEK 13: APRIL 12 WRITING ANTHROPOLOGY
- With Prof. Hyde covering the introduction and section one, and each student will select another section(s) and collectively we will forge a robust discussion marking the end of the term.

REQUIREMENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Précis</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>(7) Single-spaced précis (1000 words) written as a conversation between the main text and the interlocuter article(s) focusing on points of clarification, disentangling arguments, and ending with two discussion questions. For my reading ease, please no smaller than 12-point font.</td>
<td>7/11 weeks due by 8 AM WED to our course DROPBOX – to share and read before we begin Livestream discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer - Commentary</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>You will exchange your (7) précis with another student and write an introduction and conclusion to their work (1-2 pages single-spaced 12-point font).</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY APRIL 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(1) Active participation</td>
<td>Every week online</td>
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PARTICIPATION AND WEEKLY PRÉCIS: 90%
Your final grade is a culmination of your weekly seminar participation (20%) in combination with seven 1000-word weekly précis (70%) and your peer commentary (10%). Please upload your précis to our designated DROPBOX by noon on the day of class. I grade synopses on a check scale √+, √(+), √/√+, √, √- that roughly corresponds from A to B-, or more precisely excellent to satisfactory.

PEER COMMENTARY: 10%
Your final writing task of the semester is to exchange your seven précis with another student and write an introduction and conclusion to their work. It is an exercise in engaging with one of your classmate’s work. It will be short, 1-2 pages, due on Wednesday, April 21st to our class Dropbox.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

OFFICE HOURS:
Office hours will be *mostly* online, scheduled on THURS 3-5 PM

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:**
All course content (including slides, video recordings, lecture notes, assignment questions, and instructions, etc.) remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these for your learning ends. You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so violates the instructor's and the university's intellectual property rights and is cause for disciplinary action.

**EMAIL POLICY:**
As this another time-consuming and challenging semester for all of us, I kindly request that you email me during working hours 9-5 pm, and better yet just ask me on Wednesdays. And per McGill policy, please use your official McGill email; it makes my job easier.

**PRONOUNS:** Please inform me of your preferred name, nickname and/or pronouns.

**ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** I will do my best to accommodate students with disabilities. If this pertains to you, I encourage you to contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (514-398-6009 or 1010 Sherbrooke Ouest, suite 410) so that we can provide necessary accommodations as soon as possible. (https://www.mcgill.ca/osd).

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (approved by Senate on January 29, 2003) (http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/). Please note the syllabus (and possibly class time) will change depending on the needs of those attending this class and the challenges of the COVID pandemic.

**WRITTEN LANGUAGES:** Following McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students have the right to submit all written assignments in English OR French.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** McGill University is located on unceded indigenous territory. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of territory and waters on which McGill stands. Tiotiá:ke/Montreal is historically a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population and we respect the continued connections with the past, present, and future in our ongoing relationship with the Indigenous and diverse populations that live here.