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Mon/Weds 12-1:20 (Hoover 104) CRN#20958

Office hours Mon, Tue, Weds 1:30-3:00 and by appointment

Anthropology 310: "Theory in Anthropology" is designed to introduce you to some of the most important and oft-referenced theories and arguments in anthropology and ground them within our shared home, Los Angeles. Los Angeles, Angelenos, Hollywood film culture, and the long-held idea that the nation's future can be predicted by California's present will serve as the context on which to apply the theory we learn in class. We will simultaneously read two texts, *Anthropology in Theory*, a collection of excerpted essays, and *City of Quartz*, an "excavation of the future of Los Angeles." Interspersed will be additional texts grounded in Los Angeles, which can be found on Moodle. And because no class on Los Angeles would be complete without field work, three times during the semester we will have fieldtrips to sites in LA that resonate with our reading.

The organization of this course is, by nature, experimental and collaborative. It is as much mine as it is yours. If at any point you have suggestions for how to make the material make more sense, for the structure have more meaning, or for the class interactions to lead to greater breakthroughs, please communicate these. I am open to modifying to syllabus as needed. You will be expected and encouraged to connect the reading to real and hypothetical situations. In the interest of cohesion, you will be pushed to use Los Angeles as the lens through which to make sense of theory. You are especially encouraged to stay up on local current events and movements and bring these to our discussions. Theory is, by nature, abstract. Theory in anthropology strives to connect to real people, places, and culture. Making these connections will be your most important task in this class.

Grade breakdown:

Monday response papers	40%
Wednesday Moodle quizzes	20%
Participation (including fieldtrips & films)	15%
Final Paper	25%

Required texts:

Anthropology in Theory (Moore & Sanders)
City of Quartz (Davis)
Additional PDFs on Moodle

Extra Credit Reading:

Thirdspace (Soja)

Monday Response Papers:

Each Monday we will discuss two theory articles from *Anthropology in Theory* (AIT). Although the articles will correspond to the same theme, they will be disparate. Your 1-2 page (double-spaced) response paper must strive to achieve the following: 1) identify the main argument in each article, and 2) note the similarities and differences in approach. When relevant, also connect the article on Moodle and connect the reading to L.A. Please bring hard copies to class. These notes will lay the foundation for our class discussions.

Wednesday Moodle Quizzes:

Each Wednesday we will discuss the selected reading from *City of Quartz* (COQ). You will have a Moodle quiz to complete for each of these readings. Quizzes on Moodle will open 24 hours before each class meeting and will close the moment class begins. I will not reopen quizzes. All reading and the corresponding Moodle quiz must be completed by the day on which it appears on the syllabus.

Participation:

Bring a notebook to class each day, take notes, and engage with the presentations, discussions, films, and lectures. For full participation credit, you will be expected to attend class daily and on-time and to contribute meaningfully to the discussion. We will be grappling with complex topics and will rely on everyone's participation to make meaning of the texts. You may miss class once during the semester with no adverse affect on your grade. Lateness, cell phone/tablet/laptop use, private conversations or any other behavior that detracts from student engagement will adversely affect your participation grade. Field trips and film screenings are an important part of class and are part of your participation grade.

Final Paper:

For your final paper you must choose a theme in *City of Quartz* to support, refute, or expand on using one of the theories from Theory in Anthropology. Papers should be 5-6 pages long (double-spaced) with excellent attention to grammar and spelling. No additional sources are needed. Final topic should be discussed and approved during the workshop the last day of class. Papers are due Friday, May 6th.

Extra Credit:

There will be a variety of extra credit opportunities this semester. I will alert you to film screenings and lectures on campus that relate to our class. You may also complete additional reading from *Thirdspace* and connect this to our class discussion or your final paper. If you are interested in this option, please let me know.

Course Schedule

Week 1	Course Intro
Mon 2/1	Introducing Theory
Weds 2/3	Class cancelled: Read AIT Ch. 1 "The Aims of Anthropological Research"
Week 2	Culture and Behavior + Culture Lens L.A.
Mon 2/8	AIT Ch. 3 "Problems and Methods of Approach"
	AIT Ch. 4 "Rules for the Explanations of Social Facts"
Wed 2/10	COQ Preface and Prologue
Week 3	Society and Social Patterns + Fitting in vs. Individuality
Mon 2/15	AIT Ch. 6 "Anthropology and Sociology"
	AIT Ch. 7 "The Individual and the Pattern of Culture"
Wed 2/17	COQ 17-54
Week 4	Function and Environment + The L.A. River/Disciplining Nature
Mon 2/22	AIT Ch. 9 "The Concept and Method of Cultural Ecology"
	AIT Ch. 10 "Energy and the Evolution of Culture"
Wed 2/24	COQ 54-88
Fri 2/26	L.A. River Fieldtrip
Week 5	Structure and Systems
Mon 2/29	AIT Ch. 11 "On Social Structure"
	AIT Ch. 13 "Social Structure"
Wed 3/2	COQ 101-120
Week 6	Meanings as Objects of Study + Making Meaning in Movies
Mon 3/7	AIT Ch. 21 "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture"
	PDF on Moodle: "Notes on a Balinese Cockfight"
TBA	Film: Los Angeles Plays Itself
Wed 3/9	COQ 120-144

Spring Break: 3/12-3/20

Week 7 Bodies of Knowledge + Designer Bodies	
Mon 3/21	AIT Ch. 30 "Knowledge of the Body"
	AIT Ch. 31 "The End of the Body"
Wed 3/23	COQ 153-186
Week 8 Language and Method + Billboards	
Mon 3/28	AIT Ch. 24 "Structural Analysis in Linguistics and in Anthropology"
	AIT Ch. 25 "Ordinary Language and Human Action" + Article on "The Billboard Creative"
Wed 3/30	COQ 186-214
Fri 4/1	Fieldtrip: LA Billboard Scavenger Hunt. Find the billboards. Engage the people!
Week 9 Coherence and Contingency + Refugees in our Midst	
Mon 4/4	AIT Ch. 34 "Introduction to Europe and the People without History"
	AIT Ch. 37 "Structures and the Habitus"
Weds 4/6	COQ 186-214
Week 10 Universalisms and Domain Terms + To Be Woman in L.A.	
Mon 4/11	AIT Ch. 39 "Body and Mind in Mind, Body and Mind in Body"
	AIT Ch. 40 "So Is Female to Male and Nature is to Culture?"
Wed 4/13	COQ 223-260
Week 11 Objectivity, Morality, and Truth + Action, Activism, and Apathy	
Mon 4/18	AIT Ch. 45 "The 'Objectivity' of Knowledge in Social Science and Social Policy"
	AIT Ch. 46 "The Primacy of the Ethical: Propositions for a Militant Anthropology"
Wed 4/20	COQ 267-317
Week 12 Imagining Methodologies and Meta-things + Postmodern Los Angeles	
Mon 4/25	AIT Ch. 55 "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference" + Jameson 38-45
	AIT Ch. 57 "Grassroots Globalization and the Research Imagination"
Wed 4/27	COQ 325-368
Fri 4/29	Fieldtrip: Westin Bonaventure & The "New" Downtown
Week 13 The Future of Theory, The Future of Los Angeles	
Mon 5/2	Final Paper Workshop
Fri 5/6	Final paper due (hard copy) in Platner 209