

ANTH 398 E – VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY – Winter 2007

Dr. Maximilian C. Forte
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Concordia University
Course website: <http://www.centrelink.org/ANTH398/>

Assignment: Producer's Biography
Due: Weds., 28 February, 2007, in class.
Value: 25% of the final course grade

Format: **1 inch margins on all sides, Times New Roman, 12 pt font** Length: **750 words, not including Reference List, not including list of major works** Bibliographic and citation format: see

<http://www.library.mcgill.ca/human/SUBGUIDE/pdf/turab.pdf>

(make sure that you follow the “**parenthetical references with a reference list at the end of the paper**” option as outlined in the document above. *Do not use footnotes or endnotes* in your paper, for any purpose)

See also the course website for further items to aid you in preparing a research paper.

Nature of the assignment:

This is a research paper for which you will do readings beyond, but not necessarily excluding, assigned class readings. There is no specified limit on how many sources, or which kinds (books, chapters in edited volumes, journal articles) you should use, but clearly initiative will be rewarded.

Purpose of the assignment:

A number of individuals have played instrumental yet varying roles in the development of the field of visual anthropology. Each of the persons listed below (among others) has made significant contributions to this field. Each of them worked at different times, in different contexts, and were guided by different concerns. In learning more about these figures, especially their work, we hope to gain a greater appreciation of the history of visual anthropology, its theories and its methods.

Guidelines and Questions:

1. Choose *one* of the following “producers”:

Timothy Asch | Asen Balicki | Franz Boas | Edmund Carpenter | Edward Curtis | Robert Flaherty | Robert Gardner | Alfred Cort Haddon | David MacDougall | Bronislaw Malinowski | John Marshall | Margaret Mead | Trinh T. Minh-Ha | Félix-Louis Regnault | Jean Rouch | Sir Walter Baldwin Spencer

2. Examine websites, if any, listed in the Links section of the course website, just to start getting a sense of the work done by the person you choose, and his or her appreciation by others, possible sources of further information, examples of works produced (photos, video clips).
3. See some of the filmic or photographic work by the person, if available.
4. Check the course bibliography, also on the course website, and make a note of any items that

seem to be obviously related to the person you chose to investigate. Then follow up by examining these items in the Library, and maybe speaking to me about additional sources (the not-so-obvious ones) that you might want to use.

- 5 Then answer each of the following questions, in order, with a paragraph devoted to each, as much as the question is applicable to the producer you chose:
 - (a) Summary of who this person is/was (very brief personal bio data, place of origin, education, etc.)
 - (b) Why does this person's work appear to have been important in the history of Visual Anthropology? What makes their work "special"?
 - (c) Who and/or what were the major influences on the development of this producer as a "visual ethnographer"?
 - (d) What are some of the key ideas on the visual in ethnography that were advanced by this person, if any?
 - (e) How would you summarize the importance of this person's major contributions?
 - (f) List the major visual projects produced by this person, with dates (if any are available)

***At the very end of your assignment, please type, and then sign, as to whether or not you give me permission to possibly use all or part of your work to be published on future versions of the course website, with credit to you. My aim is to develop a definitive database of visual anthropology, with the aid of students, and as a resource uniquely offered by Concordia University to the wider public, and its students of course. *However, your decision to make your work available, or not, will have no bearing on the assessment of your paper.*

Deductions:

See the course policies on lateness in the syllabus.

Papers that show lack of proof reading, with repeated typographic or spelling errors, will lose 5% of the points assigned to the paper.

Papers without references or a bibliography will be treated as plagiarized productions.

Papers that exceed the specified length limit will lose 5% of the points assigned to the paper.

Finally, papers that do not follow the require citation and reference format will incur a deduction of 5% of the points for the paper.