Science is a social field of forces, struggles, and relationships that is defined at every moment by the relations of power among the protagonists. Scientific choices are guided by taken-for-granted assumptions, interactive with practices, as to what constitutes real and important problems, valid methods, and authentic knowledge. Such choices also are shaped by the social capital controlled by various positions and stances within the field.


A. INTRODUCTION

“This course explores the roots of anthropological theory in Western culture and the decolonization of anthropology since the 1960s.” (From the Graduate Calendar)

The leading concern of this course lies in the historical emergence of anthropology as part of the structures of knowledge of nineteenth-century Europe and the imbrication of the discipline with colonial ideologies and practices, and how these historical forces have been challenged by more recent shifts in anthropology. While it is true that many scholars and political leaders have singled out anthropology as colonialist in its mission, sometimes with ample evidence, this course is not designed as a simple indictment of anthropology. Instead, we will examine the various trends, contradictions, and openings in this disciplinary venture that has, in the words of different interlocutors, been hailed as the “science of man,” the “science of difference,” and the “science of otherness.” We will jointly explore some of the underpinning conceptual frames that have introduced and maintained the tension within anthropology between the universal and the particular, between objectivity and subjectivity, between emic and etic, between theory and practice, and between science and advocacy. As such, the course straddles the divides between the history of anthropology, anthropological theory, research methodology, and applied anthropology.
B. OVERVIEW
The course begins with discussion of the dominant epistemological facets associated with European expansionism, specifically Eurocentrism, and we will then consider how imperialism and Eurocentrism structured (and were shaped by) the rise of the social sciences and the position of anthropology within that historical framework. We then proceed to explore tendencies that constituted anthropology as a science of difference, and the interrelationships between the discipline, its practitioners, and colonialist ideological and practical projects. Having done that, we consider the more contemporary ways that some anthropologists have militated for the decolonization of the discipline. We examine indigenous critiques of anthropology, and reflect on efforts to create indigenous and home-based anthropologies. In line with some very penetrating and controversial critiques within anthropology, that echo some of the more prominent indigenous critiques, we will analyze and discuss anthropological methodology, specifically with reference to advocacy, reciprocity, and accountability. We end the course by raising questions as to whether “world anthropologies” and “post-colonialism” offers avenues for the further decolonization of anthropology.

C. STUDENT and INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES
Reading and discussion constitute the core work of this course. Students are required to do all assigned readings, and to come prepared to actively engage in class discussions. Attendance and participation are not optional. Students are required to be respectful of others in class discussions.

The course director is responsible for individual advising, the timely review of all written work, moderating class discussions, and preparing supplementary lecture material. He will be available during office hours, and to some extent by email. It is also the course director’s duty to maintain an atmosphere in class that permits frank and collegial discussion, without animosity and acrimony among any of the participants. The course director must also maintain, as much as possible, consistent and fair standards for evaluating course work, without unwarranted favour or prejudice to any student.

D. POLICIES
The course director's policy on late work is very simple: it is not accepted. All late work is assigned a grade of zero. Serious illness as documented by a doctor, for the exact period of the work in question, or a death in the family (documented by a published obituary or other formal documentation) may, if adequate, be accepted as the basis for negotiating an extension. Such an extension will only cover the period of the illness or other crisis. Any other exceptional case can be discussed in private with the course director.

In the event that the course director is absent due to illness, we will need to schedule a make-up day in the second week of April. Notifications of any absence will be sent out by email and via Concordia's class cancellation announcements on campus and online.
E. GRADING
Grades for this course are assigned using the following scheme, adapted from the Graduate Calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LETTER &amp; GPA EQUIVALENT</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
<th>QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+ = 4.3</td>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>Meets or exceeds highest expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A = 4.0</td>
<td>88-94.99</td>
<td>Excellent work of an advanced quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A- = 3.7</td>
<td>85-87.99</td>
<td>Excellent work, with some room to improve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+ = 3.3</td>
<td>80-84.99</td>
<td>Very good, demonstrates insight and ability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B = 3.0</td>
<td>73-79.99</td>
<td>Good, requires further improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B- = 2.7</td>
<td>70-72.99</td>
<td>Fair, little beyond the minimum expected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C = 2</td>
<td>50-69.99</td>
<td>Meets minimum expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fail = 0</td>
<td>0-50</td>
<td>Unacceptable quality/ non-submission/ late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Fail/Absent = 0</td>
<td>0-50</td>
<td>Absent/ non-submission/ late</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numerical grades are assigned to course work (to facilitate easier calculation of a final grade), with the qualitative assessments above used to justify which numbers seem appropriate for a given piece of work. Students should note and understand that grades in the “A” range are not automatically assigned or guaranteed, and course work that does the bare minimum that is expected for a graduate course will receive a “C.”

F. ASSIGNMENTS and GRADE VALUES

Class participation (coupled with evidence of coverage of assigned readings): 20% of the final course grade.

More details on written assignments will be discussed and provided in class, and due dates will also be set in the context of class discussion. In general, essays will be based primarily on assigned readings for the course, inviting maximum reflection, and will generally be due two weeks after they have been assigned. There will be no exams.

Essay #1—Anthropology and the Rise of Social Science: 20% of the final course grade.
Due: February 11.

Essay #2—Colonialism, Decolonization, and Anthropology: 20% of the final course grade.
Due: March 4

Essay #3—Indigenizing and Domesticating Anthropology: 20% of the final course grade.
Due: April 1

Essay #4—Personal Manifesto: 20% of the final course grade.
Due: April 23, by email, in .doc, .odt. or .pdf formats: info@openanthropology.org

please note: do not send in .docx format
G. COURSE READINGS
Two items comprise all of the assigned readings for this course.

(1) *Anthropology And The Will To Meaning: A Postcolonial Critique*

![Anthropology And The Will To Meaning](image)

by Vassos Argyrou
Pluto Press, 2002

(2) *Course Reader, see links below*
H. SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS

1. Weds., Jan. 7:

**INTRODUCTION: Raising problems, setting terms**

Overview of the course


2. Weds., Jan. 14:

**EUROCENTRISM, UNIVERSALISM, AND IMPERIALISM**


3. Weds., Jan. 21:

**STRUCTURES OF KNOWLEDGE: RISE OF THE “SOCIAL SCIENCES”, AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

  http://www.scribd.com/doc/9665225/KuperPrimitive?secret_password=26oh79463mm575ubvx1q

  http://www.scribd.com/doc/9665323/WallersteinGulbenkian?secret_password=1l8m3lnl4jt3a1ezvq5k


  http://www.scribd.com/doc/9665812/JENKINS-Ethnographic-Displays?secret_password=1qiouro8o2u3wo1v7zu

4. Weds., Jan. 28:

**ANTHROPOLOGY AS THE SCIENCE OF DIFFERENCE?**

- chapter 3: The Salvation Intent (p. 28-59) [In *Anthropology and the Will to Meaning*]
Essay #1 will cover materials up to and including Jan. 28. It will be due in class on Feb. 11. An assignment sheet will be posted and circulated on Jan. 28.

5. Weds., Feb. 4:

**ANTHROPOLOGY AND COLONIALISM—1**

- chapter 1: Introduction: Of Scholars, Gamblers and Thieves (p. 1-9) [In *Anthropology and the Will to Meaning*]

  

  
  [http://www.scribd.com/doc/9665926/As-Ad-Introduction?secret_password=eziq01pgbgabn0nm32s](http://www.scribd.com/doc/9665926/As-Ad-Introduction?secret_password=eziq01pgbgabn0nm32s)

- Asad, Talal. 1991. “From the History of Colonial Anthropology to the Anthropology of Western Hegemony.” In George Stocking, ed., *Colonial
6. Weds., Feb. 11:

**ANTHROPOLOGY AND COLONIALISM—2**


7. Weds., Feb. 18:

**DECOLONIZING ANTHROPOLOGY**

- chapter 2: Has There Ever Been a Crisis in Ethnological Representation (p. 10-27) [In *Anthropology and the Will to Meaning*]

**Essay #2** will cover materials up to and including Feb. 18. It will be due in class on Mar. 4. An assignment sheet will be posted and circulated on Feb. 18.

8. Weds., Mar. 4:

**INDIGENOUS CRITIQUES OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

- chapter 4: What the Natives Don't Know (p. 60-91) [In *Anthropology and the Will to Meaning*]


9. Weds., Mar. 11:

**INDIGENIZING ANTHROPOLOGY**

http://www.scribd.com/doc/9666365/Fa-Him?secret_password=1caj kp26ghtj tzwc0 t5a

http://www.scribd.com/doc/9666363/Alatas?secret_password=1mcodpnoailkamp d0ffl

http://www.scribd.com/doc/9666390/MORAUTA?secret_password=14giz3ssd8k q78v0k8vy

http://www.scribd.com/doc/9666361/Marcus-Rep At?secret_password=2p9 wa5ges0ujljbfyj

10. Weds., Mar. 18:

**INDIGENIZED AND INDIGENOUS ANTHROPOLOGY**


**Essay #3** will cover materials up to and including Mar. 18. It will be due in class on Apr. 1. An assignment sheet will be posted and circulated on Mar. 18.
11. Weds., Mar. 25:

**ADVOCACY, RESPONSIBILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY**


12. Weds., Apr. 1:

**“WORLD ANTHROPOLOGIES”**


13. Weds., Apr. 8:

**POST-COLONIALISM**

- chapter 5: The Ethnological Will to Meaning (p. 92-119) [In *Anthropology and the Will to Meaning*]

  [http://www.scribd.com/doc/9666735/Young-Post-Colon?secret_password=2m0w0mp7tc3nr76vab9z](http://www.scribd.com/doc/9666735/Young-Post-Colon?secret_password=2m0w0mp7tc3nr76vab9z)


**Essay #4** can cover materials up to and including Apr. 8, and use any other materials from the course. It will be due by email on Apr. 23. An assignment sheet will be posted and circulated on Apr. 8.