COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed primarily for graduate students at the masters and doctoral levels in anthropology and related departments. We begin in the middle of the story, in the mid-19th century, and cover the period until (roughly) 1970, with special attention to the sociological/ethnological methods characteristic of the British, French, German, and U.S. Schools. We cover evolutionary anthropology and its critiques, Boasian historical particularism, British functionalism, the Manchester School, and structuralism. Particular attention will be paid to the work done by Black, Indigenous and women anthropologists, and to the development of national trajectories of anthropology outside of Europe and the U.S. Along the way, we attend to the role of anthropologists in upholding, and challenging, national and imperial projects.
READINGS: The required texts for the course are listed below.


Class Schedule

**September 5:**

Please come to class having read:


Herodotus on “Egypt” and Tacitus on “Germany” [both in same PDF]

De Las Casas, Bartolomé “In Defense of the Indians” [1550]

Discussion of class interests; class nuts-and-bolts

**September 12:**


E. B. Tylor. *Primitive Culture* [1871], vol. 1, ch. 1-2

Douglass, Frederick, “the Claims of the Negro, Ethnologically Considered” [1854]

Antenor Firmin, *On the Equality of the Races* [1885] [preface, dedication, chapters 1, 6, 7, 17]


Supplemental:


Robert Bernasconi, “A Haitian in Paris: Antenor Firmin as a philosopher against racism”

**September 19:**

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. *The German Ideology* [1845-1846], Part I: “Feuerbach. The Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook.”

Rosa Luxemburg, “Women’s Suffrage and Class Struggle” [1912]

José Carlos Mariátegui, “‘the Problem of the Indian’” in *Seven Interpretive Essays on Peruvian Reality* [1928]

Supplemental:


V.I. Lenin, “The National Question in our Programme”

*Combahee River Collective Statement* (1977)

Shirokogorov, S. M. 1924. *Ethnical Unit and Milieu; a Summary of the Ethnos*.

**NO CLASS September 26**

**October 3:**

Simmel, Georg, “The Metropolis and Mental Life;” [1903]

Simmel, Georg, “The Stranger” [1908]


Freud, Sigmund, *Future of an Illusion* [1927]

Supplemental:


**October 10:**


Franz Boas. “Human Faculty as Determined by Race.” [1894]

Ambedkar, B.R. “Castes in India: Their Mechanism, Genesis and Development” [1916]

Courses taken by B.R. Ambedkar at Columbia


**Supplemental Reading:**


**October 17**

Watch: *Herksovits at the Heart of Blackness* Dir. Llewellyn Smith. [2009]

Read: Wilson, Maggie, *Rainy River Lives* [2009];

Price-Mars, Jean *Thus Spoke the Uncle* [1928], chapter 1, 2, 6.

**Supplemental:**

Landes, Ruth, *The Ojibwa Woman* (1938)

**October 24**


Emile Durkheim. *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life* [1901], pp. 13-33, 121-49, 235-72, 462-96

Mauss, The Gift. (Introduction by Jane Guyer and full text) [1925/2016]


Brookes, Barbara “Aristocrats of Knowledge’: Māori Anthropologists and the Survival of the ‘Race’” [2018]

**Supplemental reading:**


**October 31**

Blackman, Winifred, *The Fellāhin of Upper Egypt*, chapters 1 and 2 [1927]


Rivers, WHR. “Dreams and Primitive Culture: A Lecture Delivered in the Johns Rylands Library,” (1918)

**Supplemental reading:**


**November 7**

E.E. Evans-Pritchard. *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic Among the Azande*, ch. 4 (1937)

Richards, Audrey, *Chisungu: A Girl's Initiation Ceremony Among the Bemba of Zambia* [1956] [selections]

Fei Xiaotong, *From the Soil: the Foundations of Chinese Society* (1947) chapters 1, 4, 5, 13, 14

**Supplemental:**

Library of Congress online exhibit “Margaret Mead: Human Nature and the Power of Culture”

“Fei Xiaotong’s Humanism Infuses From the Soil” Harvard Divinity Bulletin, spring/summer 2017
November 14

Tantaquidgeon, Gladys, “Notes on the Origin and Uses of Plants of the Lake St. John
Montagnais” [1932]

Website of the Tantaquidgeon Museum, now owned by the Mohegan Tribe:
https://www.mohegan.nsn.us/explore/museum

Dunham, Katherine (selections of fieldwork films from Library of Congress)
https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2021/02/katherine-dunham-in-the-caribbean/

Zora Neale Hurston, Mules and Men [1935] pp. 1-57

Ruth Benedict, “Configurations of Culture in North America” [1932]

John Marion, Jr., The Evolution of the Tap Dance [1938]

Nancy Lutkehus, “Drawing as Ethnographic Practice: Miguel Covarrubias's Balinese Drawings & Sketches as Visual Anthropology” (2020)

Supplemental:

Bruchac, Margaret M. Savage kin: Indigenous informants and American anthropologists.
University of Arizona Press, 2018 - esp. Foreword and chapter 6

Ella Cara Deloria, Speaking of Indians (1944)

Hurston, Zora Neale. "Characteristics of Negro expression." African American literary theory: A
reader (1934): 31-44.

Ward, Cynthia. "Truths, Lies, Mules and Men: Through the" Spy-glass of Anthropology" and

Kastner, Carolyn. "The cosmopolitan circles of Miguel Covarrubias." American Art 30, no. 1

Banks, Ojeya Cruz. "Katherine Dunham: Decolonizing Anthropology through African American

Chin, Elizabeth, Aimee Meredith Cox, Dána-Ain Davis, Anindo Marshall, Ronald Marshall, and
Kate Ramsey. Katherine Dunham: Recovering an Anthropological Legacy, Choreographing
Ethnographic Futures. SAR Press, 2014.
November 21


November 28

Gluckman, Max, “Analysis of a Social Situation in Modern Zululand” (1940)

Wilson, Godfrey, *An Essay on the Economics of Detribalisation, part 1* [1942] [selections]


Binford, Sally, “Aid for AIM: Wounded Knee Fund” [1973] [v. short!]

Sally and Lewis Binford, *New Perspectives in Archaeology*, intro to part 1, chapters 1, 2, and 4 [1968]

Gandara, Manuel, “A Short History of Theory in Mesoamerican Archaeology”

Supplemental


Cocks, Paul “Max Gluckman and the Critique of Segregation in South African Anthropology, 1921-1940”


December 5


**Supplemental:**

Ortner, Sherry B. "Is female to male as nature is to culture?." *Feminist studies* 1, no. 2 (1972): 5-31.

