

## ANTH 201a History of Anthropological Thought

Brandeis University Fall 2023



Peter Buck studying Paratene Ngata making a hinaki (Maori wicker work baited pot for trapping eels and other fish) circa 1922. Photographer unidentified. Ramsden, Eric :Photographs relating to Ramsden and his family and Maori subjects. Ref: 1/2-037930-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. [/records/22495223](#)

**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-19<sup>th</sup> 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.

Mauss, Marcel. *The Gift*. Expanded edition. Selected, annotated, and translated by Jane I. Guyer." (2016)

Wilson, Maggie. *Rainy river lives: stories told by Maggie Wilson*. U of Nebraska Press, 2009.

## **Class Schedule**

### **September 5:**

Please come to class having read:

Michel-Rolph Trouillot, "Anthropology and the Savage Slot: the Poetics and Politics of Otherness" (chapter 1 in *Global Transformations*) especially pages 7-10, 14-23, 25-28.

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:**

Maine, Henry, *Ancient Law* [1861], chapters 1- 2.

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]

Morgan, Lewis Henry, *Ancient Society* [1877] chapters 1-2 .

### **Supplemental:**

G.W. Stocking (1987) *Victorian Anthropology* (New York: Free Press)

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."

Karl Marx. *Capital*, Volume I [1867] Chapters 1-3 (Chapter 1: “Commodities”; Chapter 2: “Exchange”; Chapter 3: “Money or the Circulation of Commodities”)

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:

Karl Marx. “Forms Which Precede Capitalist Production.” *Grundrisse* (ed.

Martin Nicolaus) [1857-1861], pp. 471-98 (commonly known as “Precapitalist Economic Formations”)

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]

Max Weber. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. [1904-1905]

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

Supplemental:

Max Weber. “Objectivity in Social Science and Social Policy.”

Anthony Giddens, “Marx, Weber, and the Development of Capitalism”

**October 10:**

Franz Boas. “Growth of Indian Mythologies.” *Journal of American Folklore* 9:32 [1895]

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

W.E.B. DuBois. *The Souls of Black Folk*. (Selections) [1904]

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

Courses taken by B.R. Ambedkar at Columbia

“What B.R. Ambedkar wrote to WEB DuBois” South Asian American Digital Archive, April 2014

Supplemental Reading:

Jesús Francisco Cháirez-Garza (2018) B.R. Ambedkar, Franz Boas and the Rejection of Racial Theories of Untouchability, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 41:2,281-296

**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**

Durkheim, Emile. “What is a Social Fact?” in *The Rules of Sociological Method*. Pp. 50-59. [1895]

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]

Hon. Sir Apirana Turupa Ngata M.A. LL.B. M.P. *Anthropology and the government of native races in the Pacific*, *Australasian Journal of Psychology and Philosophy* [1928]

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

Supplemental reading:

Holman, Jeffrey Paparaoa. *Best of both worlds: The story of Elsdon Best and Tutakangahau*. Penguin Books, 2010.

Ngata, Apirana. *Na to Hoa Aroha, from Your Dear Friend: the Correspondence of Sir Apirana Ngata and Sir Peter Buck, 1925–50 (Volume III, 1932–50)*. Vol. 3. Auckland University Press, 2013.

### **October 31**

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

Bronislaw Malinowski. In *Coral Gardens and Their Magic*, [1935] preface pp. ix-xii; vol. 2, ch. 1 pp. 52-83; Appendix II “Confessions of Ignorance and Failure” pp. 452-482

A.R. Radcliffe-Brown. “On the Concept of Function in Social Science,” *American Anthropologist* 37 (1935): 394-402

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

### **Supplemental reading:**

Young, Allan. 1999. “WHR Rivers and the War Neurosis,” *Journal of the History of Behavioral Sciences* 35 (4), 359-378.

Talal Asad, *Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter* (1973) pp. 9-19, 103-11

Christina A. Thompson (1995) Anthropology's Conrad: *Malinowski in the tropics and what he read* , The Journal of Pacific History, 30:1, 53-75

Malinowski, Bronislaw, *A Diary in the Strict Sense of the Term*, Stanford University Press. 1989

### **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 What Zora Saw There." *Western Journal of Black Studies* 36, no. 4 (2012).

Kastner, Carolyn. "The cosmopolitan circles of Miguel Covarrubias." *American Art* 30, no. 1 (2016): 11-15.

Banks, Ojeya Cruz. "Katherine Dunham: Decolonizing Anthropology through African American Dance Pedagogy." *Transforming Anthropology* 20, no. 2 (2012): 159-168.

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**

Franz Fanon. *The Wretched of the Earth*. "On Violence" [1961]

Bourdieu, Pierre, *Algeria, 1960*. "The Disenchantment of the World"

## **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]

Julian Steward, *The People of Puerto Rico*, introduction [1956]

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**

Mbewe, Mary, *A Triangulation of Relationships: Godfrey Wilson, Zacharia Mawere and their Bemba Informants in Broken Hill, Northern Rhodesia, 1938-1941*. [2015]

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

Quinlan, Liz M. "... and his wife Sally": The Binford Legacy and Uncredited Work in Archaeology." *Archeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association* 34, no. 1 (2023): 68-80.

Godreau, Isar Pilar. "The People of Puerto Rico in Puerto Rico: Past and contemporary reactions to the book." *Identities* 18, no. 3 (2011): 218-228.

Melville, Roberto. "The Influence of The People of Puerto Rico Project on Mexican Anthropology." *Identities* 18, no. 3 (2011): 229-233.

## **December 5**

Claude Levi-Strauss. The Science of the Concrete. from *The Savage Mind*. [1962]

Victor Turner. "Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in Rites de Passage." In *The Ritual Process* [1969]

Rubin, Gayle. "The traffic in women: Notes on the" political economy" of sex." (1975).

Leacock, Eleanor, "Women, Development, and Anthropological Facts and Fictions." *Latin American Perspectives* 4, no. 1-2 (1977): 8-17

Lima, Antonio Carlos de Souza, and Caio Gonçalves Dias. "Anthropology and the State in Brazil: questions concerning a complex relationship." *Vibrant: Virtual Brazilian Anthropology* 17 (2020): e17454.

Supplemental:

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

Guimarães, Marco Aurelio, Raffaella Arrabaça Francisco, Rafael de Abreu e Souza, and Martin Paul Evison. "Forensic archaeology and anthropology in Brazil." *Forensic archaeology: A global perspective* (2015): 213-222.

De Castro, Eduardo Viveiros. "Cosmological deixis and Amerindian perspectivism." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (1998): 469-488.

Leguin, Ursula, K., *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969)