ANTH3690 Engaging Anthropological Theory

Fall 2023 Short Outline (subject to revision)

**Times: Monday 7-9:50 PM**

**Location: MACK 233**

**Instructor: Dr. Deidre Rose**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course offers a survey of the main trends in anthropological theory from the 19th century to the present. Throughout the course, we will pay particular attention to the social, political, and economic conditions that led thinkers to favor one viewpoint over other possibilities. We will consider evolutionary, materialistic, symbolic, interpretive, postmodern, posthuman, and feminist perspectives. We will examine ethical debates, the relationship between anthropology and war, and attempts to decolonize the discipline. Students will be encouraged to also consider the relationship between theory and praxis by reading selected ethnographic texts. Finally, we will consider the future of anthropology and its relevance to the world in which we live.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course students should have:

1) Developed the ability to assess anthropological approaches to the study of humankind and the world in which we live.

2) Gained awareness of the relationship between anthropological paradigms and the social, economic, and political conditions at various points in time.

3) Acquired an understanding of the main theoretical perspectives and their shifts through time.

4) Gained an appreciation of the relationship between theory and anthropological practice.

5) Developed a deeper understanding of the ethical debates within the discipline.

6) Situated and critically evaluated your own positionality in relation to social, economic, and geographic location.

6) Enhanced critical reading, writing, and public speaking skills.

7) Improved time management skills, collegiality, and professionalism.

8) Engaged in classical and contemporary scholarly inquiry to identify and address anthropological questions and issues.

9) Demonstrated personal and academic integrity and ethical reasoning.

**Required Texts**

Moberg, Mark 2019. *Engaging Anthropological Theory: A Social and Political History. 2nd Edition.* New York: Routledge.

Select readings available on ARES

Documentaries

**Evaluation:**

To be determined but will include written work, in-class activities, and a group presentation.