

**Seminar on Critical Theory and Anthropological Thought**

Code: 101257  
 ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500256 Social and Cultural Anthropology	OT	3	0
2500256 Social and Cultural Anthropology	OT	4	2

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

**Contact**

Name: Paula Escribano Castaño  
 Email: Paula.Escribano@uab.cat

**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: spanish (spa)  
 Some groups entirely in English: No  
 Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
 Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

**Prerequisites**

It is advisable to have studied "History of Anthropology". It is not recommended for third-year students.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

This seminar constitutes a space for innovative epistemological and theoretical discussions that allow, along with the subjects of specialized thematic areas, to deepen the critique of anthropological knowledge and provide a first specialization. The main objectives are: The discussion of texts that allow critical reflection on the epistemological, political and ethical controversies that arose in Anthropology after World War II. The issues involved are criticisms of the supremacy of the method, epistemological debates on relativisms and universality, political criticism of the social responsibility of anthropology, and the consequences of the interpretative turn on the legitimacy of anthropology to represent others cultures and the emphasis on reflexivity.

**Competences**

- Social and Cultural Anthropology
- Assessing epistemological and methodological problems attached to the dialectics between particularism and comparison.
- Assessing in theoretical, methodological and ethical terms the anthropology investigations aimed to basic objectives or oriented to intervention.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Applying the current ethical codes to the ethnographic fieldwork.
2. Carrying out oral presentations using appropriate academic vocabulary and style.
3. Critically considering and trying to avoid ethnocentric projections in theory building.
4. Effectively expressing themselves and applying the argumentative and textual processes of formal and scientific texts.
5. Identifying main and supporting ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
6. Identifying the transcultural variability of economic, kinship, political, symbolic and cognitive, educational and gender systems as well as their corresponding anthropological theory.
7. Providing a context for a research related to the state of its concerning anthropological theory .
8. Recognising the ethical implications of the ethnological relationships established during the fieldwork internship.
9. Recognising the ethical implications of the investigations aimed at basic objectives.
10. Relating elements and factors involved in the development of scientific processes.
11. Summarising acquired knowledge about the origin and transformations experienced in the several fields of anthropology.
12. Summarizing the characteristics of a written text in accordance to its communicative purposes.
13. Using suitable terminology when drawing up an academic text.

## Content

1. Introduction: history, epistemology, ethics
2. Anthropology in crisis: knowledge and power - the lost innocence
3. National traditions
4. The problem of anthropological explanation
5. The interpretative turn and other culturalisms
6. Postmodern anthropology
7. And in spite of everything ... new and old proposals

## Methodology

### Teaching methodology:

Master classes with the support of the new information and communication technologies (NTIC).  
Visualization and discussion of audio-visual material.

Guidelines for reflection and critical discussion on issues related to history, epistemology and ethics

Guidelines for reflection and critical discussion in questions related to history, epistemology and the ethics of anthropological work.

Preparation of essays and text comments on bibliographic and audiovisual material.

### Training Activities:

Theoretical classes

Oral presentations and discussion of group readings. Comprehensive reading and discussion of texts.

Individual study and team discussion.

Preparation of individual and group work.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master classes	34	1.36	1, 7, 13, 6, 3, 9, 8, 10
Seminars (presentation of texts and discussion)	24	0.96	7, 4, 2, 13, 5, 3, 9, 10, 12, 11
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials	1	0.04	4, 6, 10, 11
Type: Autonomous			
Preparation and presentation of essays	30	1.2	7, 4, 2, 13, 5, 3, 9, 8, 10, 12, 11
Study and personal work	59	2.36	7, 6, 9, 10, 12, 11

## Assessment

Essay 1: 35%

Essay 2: 35%

Participation module (30%)

Attendance and participation in the discussions-lecture seminar : 15%.

Oral presentation in a reading discussion session: 15%

\*At the beginning of the course, the instructions for the exercises will be given.

\*The non-delivery of the first essay, except in justified cases, will imply a "non-evaluable".

\*The Participation module is NOT reevaluable!

\*The student will receive the qualification of No Evaluable provided that has not delivered more than 30% of the activities of evaluation.

\* The student will only have the right to re-examination in the situation to pass at least one of the two proposed essays for the course.

### Plagiarism

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

### In the even of non-in person assessment

In the event that tests or exams cannot be taken onsite, they will be adapted to an online format made available through the UAB's virtual tools (original weighting will be maintained). Homework, activities and class participation will be carried out through forums, wikis and/or discussion on Teams, etc. Lecturers will ensure that students are able to access these virtual tools, or will offer them feasible alternatives.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Essay 1	35%	0	0	1, 7, 4, 13, 6, 5, 3, 9, 8, 10, 12, 11

Essay 2	35%	0	0	1, 7, 4, 13, 6, 5, 3, 9, 8, 10, 12, 11
Participation in the seminar and oral presentation	30%	2	0.08	4, 2, 13, 5, 3, 10, 12, 11

## Bibliography

### 1. Introduction: history, epistemology, ethics

- Bauman, Zygmunt. 2005 [1991]. *Modernidad y ambivalencia*, Barcelona, Anthropos.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 2008 [1984]. *Homo academicus*. Buenos Aires, Siglo XXI.
- Foucault, Michele. 1971. *Las palabras y las cosas*, México, Siglo XXI.
- Hallowell, A.Irvin . 1962. "The history of anthropology as an anthropological problem", *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 1, pp. 24-38.
- Harris, Marvin. 2003 [1968]. *El desarrollo de la teoría antropológica*, Madrid, Siglo XXI.
- Harris, Marvin. 2007 [1989]. *Teorías sobre la cultura en la era posmoderna*, Barcelona, Crítica.
- Menéndez, Eduardo L. 2002. *La parte negada de la cultura. Relativismo, diferencias y racismo*, Barcelona, Edicions Bellaterra.
- Stolcke, Verena. 1993. "De padres, filiaciones y malas memorias. Qué historias de qué antropologías?", J. Bestard i Camps (coord.), *Después de Malinowski*, Asociación Canaria de Antropología, Sta. Cruz de Tenerife, pp. 147-198.

### 2. Anthropology in crisis: knowledge and power - the lost innocence

- Bancel, Nicolas; Blanchard, Pascal; Boëtsch, Gilles; Déroo, Eric; Lemaire, Sandrine (dir.). 2002. *Zoos humains. Au temps des exhibitions humaines*, Paris, La Découverte.
- Bonfil Batalla, Guillermo. 1973. "Conservative Thought in Applied Anthropology: A Critique", T. Weaver (ed.), *To See Ourselves. Anthropology and Modern Social Issues*, Glenview, Scott, Foresman and Company, pp. 126-130.
- Farish, Matthew. 2005. "Archiving Areas: The Ethnogeographic Board and the Second World War", *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, vol. 95, nº 3, pp. 663-679.
- González, Roberto I. 2004. *Anthropologists in the Public Sphere. Speaking Out on War, Peace, and American Power*, Austin, University of Texas Press.
- Price, David. 2004. *Threatening Anthropology. McCarthysm and the FBI's Surveillance of Activist Anthropologists*, Durham, London, Duke University Press.
- Price, David. 2008. *Anthropological Intelligence. The Deployment and Neglect of American Anthropology in the Second World War*, Durham, London, Duke University Press.

### 3. National traditions

#### USA

- Berreman, Gerald D. 1968. "Is anthropology alive? Social responsibility in social anthropology", "Social Responsibilities Symposium", *Current Anthropology*, vol. 5, nº 5.
- Chomsky, Noam. 1997. "The cold war and the university", A. Schiffrin (ed.), *The cold war and the university. Toward an intellectual history of the postwar years*, New York, The New Press.
- Gough, Kathleen. 1968. "New proposals for anthropologists", "Social Responsibilities Symposium", *Current Anthropology*, vol. 9, nº5.
- Hymes, Dell. (ed.). 1972. *Reinventing Anthropology*, New York, Pantheon Books.
- Sahlins, Marshall. 1966. "The destruction of conscience in Viet Nam", *Dissent*, enero-febrero.
- "Social Responsibilities Symposium", *Current Anthropologist*.
- Weaver et.al. (eds). 1973. *To see Ourselves. Anthropology and Modern Social Issues*, Illinois, Glenview.
- Wolf, Eric. 1971. "Antropología en pos de guerra", *América Indígena*, vol. 31, nº2, pp. 429-449.

#### Great Britain

- Asad, Talal. 1973. "Introduction", T. Asad (ed.), *Anthropology & the Colonial Encounter*, Londres, Ithaca.

- Asad, Talal. 1991. "Afterword: From the history of colonial anthropology to the anthropology of Western hegemony", G.W. Stocking, Jr., *Colonial Situations. Essays on the Conceptualization of Ethnographic Knowledge*, University of Wisconsin Press.
- Douglas, Mery. 1967. "If the Dogon...", *Cahiers d'Etudes Africaines*, vol. 7, n° 4, pp. 659-670.
- Feuchtwang, Stephan. 1973. "The colonial formation of British social anthropology", T. Asad (ed.), op.cit.
- Forster, Peter. 1973. "Empiricism and imperialism: A review of the New Left critique of social anthropology", T. Asad (ed.), op.cit.
- Kuper, Adam. 1973. *Antropología y antropólogos. La escuela británica. 1922-1972*, Barcelona, Anagrama.
- Maddock, Kenneth. 1998. "Los dudosos placeres del compromiso" (trad.), *Anthropology Today*, vol. 14, n° 5.
- Richards, Audrey I.. 1967. "African systems of thought: an Anglo-French dialogue", *Man*, vol. 2, n° 2, pp. 286-297.

#### France

- Badou, Gerard. 2000. "Sur les traces de la Vénus Hottentote", *Gradhiva*, 27, pp. 83-87.
- Ciarcia, Gaetano. 1998. "Ethnologues et 'Dogon'. La fabrication d'un patrimoine ethnographique", *Gradhiva* 24.
- Copans, Jean. 1975. *Anthropologie et Impérialisme*, Paris, François Maspero.
- Jamin, Jean. 1996. "Introduction", *Michel Leiris. Miroir de l'Afrique*, Paris, Quarto Gallimard.
- Jamin, Jean. 1988. "L'histoire de l'ethnologie est-elle une histoire comme les autres?", *Revue de Synthèse* nos. 3-4, julio-diciembre.
- Lacoste-Dujardin, Camille. 1986. "Opération "Oiseau Bleu". Géostratégie et ethnopolitique en montagne Kabyle, 1956", *Revue des Mondes Musulmans et de la Méditerranée*, vol. 41, n°1, pp. 167-193.
- Leclercq, G. 1973. *Antropología y colonialismo*, Madrid, Alberto Corazón Editor.
- Leiris, Michel. 1995 [1950]. *L'ethnologue devant le colonialisme*, Icaria, Barcelona.
- Tillion, Germaine. 2000. *Il était une fois l'ethnologie*, Paris, Editions du Seuil.
- Tillion, Germaine. 2007. *Combats de guerre et de paix*, Paris, Editions du Seuil.

#### 4. The problem of anthropological explanation

- Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2002. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others", *Ethics Forum: September 11 and Ethnographic Responsibility*, *American Anthropologist*, 104 (3), pp. 783-790.
- Dupertius, C. ; Gottraux, P. 1990. "Pour un universalisme critique. Essai sur les droits de l'homme et la diversité des cultures", *Equinox*, no.4.
- Frade, C. (comp.). 2002. *Globalització i diversitat cultural*, Barcelona: UOC.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1996. *Los usos de la diversidad*, Barcelona, Paidós.
- Gellner, Ernest. 1982. "Relativism and universals", M. Hallis, S. Lukes (eds.), *Rationality and Relativism*, Oxford/Cambridge, Blackwell, pp. 181-200.
- Sperber, Dan. 1982. "Apparently irrational beliefs", M. Hollis, S. Lukes (eds.), *Rationality and Relativism*, Oxford/Cambridge, Blackwell.
- Tambiah, Stanley J. 1990. "Rationality, relativism, the translation and commensurability of cultures", *Magic, Science, Religion, and the Scope of Rationality*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Todorov, Tzvetan. 1988. "Le projet universaliste", *Anthropologie et Sociétés*, vol. 12, n° 1.
- Todorov, Tzvetan. 2003 [1989]. "Lévi-Strauss: L'horizon relativiste", *Nosotros y los otros*, Madrid, Siglo XX, pp. 83-112.

#### 5. The interpretative turn and other culturalisms

- Geertz, Clifford. 1989. "Descripción densa: hacia una teoría interpretativa de la cultura", *La interpretación de las culturas*, Barcelona, Gedisa.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1989. *El antropólogo como autor*, Barcelona, Paidós.
- Kapferer, Bruce. 1988. "The anthropologist as Hero. Three exponents of post-modernist anthropology", *Critique of Anthropology*, vol. 8, n° 2.
- Keesing, Roller M. 1987. "Anthropology as interpretative quest", *Current Anthropology*, vol. 28, n°2.

- Sperber, Dan. 1985. "Interpretative ethnography and theoretical anthropology", *On Anthropological Knowledge*, Cambridge.

## 6. Postmodern anthropology

- Appignanesi, R; Garrat, C. 1997. *Postmodernismo para principiantes*, Buenos Aires, Era Naciente, SRL.
- Clifford, James. 1991. "Introducción. Verdades parciales", J. Clifford, G.E. Marcus (eds), *Retóricas de la antropología*, Madrid, Júcar.
- Clifford, James. 1995 [1988]. *Dilemas de la cultura. Antropología, literatura y arte en la perspectiva posmoderna*, Barcelona, Gedisa.
- Gellner, Ernest. 1994. *Postmodernismo, razón y religión*, Barcelona, Paidós.
- Jameson, T. 1996. *Teoría de la postmodernidad*, Madrid, Editorial Trotta.
- Marcus, Goeoge E.; Cushman, D.E. 1991. "Las etnografías como textos", C. Reynoso, *El surgimiento de la antropología postmoderna por C. Geertz, J. Clifford y otros*, Barcelona, Gedisa.
- Marcus, GeorgeE. 1992. "Past, present and emergent identities: Requirements for ethnographies of late twentieth-century modernity worldwide", S. Lash, J. Friedman (eds), *Modernity and Identity*, Oxford, Blackwell.
- Rabinow, P. 1992. *Reflexiones sobre un trabajo de campo en Marruecos*, Madrid, Júcar.
- Reynoso, C. 1991. "Presentación", *El surgimiento de la antropología postmoderna por C. Geertz, J. Clifford y otros*, Barcelona, Gedisa.
- Sangren, P.S. 1988. "Rethoric and the authority of ethnography: Post modernism and the social reproduction of texts", *Current Anthropology*, vol. 29, nº 3, pp. 405-435.
- Strathern, Marilyn 1991. "Fuera de contexto: Las ficciones persuasivas de la antropología", C. Reynoso, *El surgimiento de la antropología postmoderna por C. Geertz, J. Clifford y otros*, Barcelona, Gedisa.

## 7. And in spite of everything ... new and old proposals

- Angosto Ferrández, Luis Fernando. 2013. "Antropología, humanismo y responsabilidades cívicas: una conversación con Thomas Hylland Eriksen", *AIBR. Revista de Antropología Iberoamericana*, 8 (2), pp. 161 - 182.
- Axel, B.K. 2002. *From the Margins. Historical Anthropology and Its Futures*, Durham, Duke University Press.
- Bourgois, Philippe. 1990. "Enfrentándonos a la ética antropológica. Lecciones etnográficas de Centro-América" (trad.) ("Confronting anthropological ethics: Ethnographic lessons from Central America", *Journal of Peace Research*, vol 27, nº1, pp. 43-54).
- Comaroff, John, Comaroff, Jean. 2011. *Etnicidad S.A.*, Madrid, Katz Editores.
- Descola, Philippe. 2005. *Par-delà nature et culture*. Paris:Gallimard.
- González, Roberto J. 2007. "Towards mercenary anthropology? The new US Army counterinsurgency manual FM 3-24 and the military-anthropology complex", *Anthropology today*, vol. 23, nº 3, June.
- Graeber, David. 2011. *Fragmentos de antropología anarquista*, Virus Editorial, pp. 19-45, 104-116.
- Haraway, Donna. 1988. "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective", *Feminist Studies*, vol. 14, nº 3, pp. 575-599.
- Kahn, Joel. 2001. "Anthropology and Modernity", *Current Anthropology*, vol. 42, nº 5, pp. 651-664.
- Messer, Ellen. 1993. "Anthropology and human Rights", *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 22, pp. 221-224.
- Morin, Edgar. 1998. "La unidualidad del hombre", *Gazeta de antropología*, nº 13, pp. 5-9.
- Restrepo, Eduardo; Arturo Escobar. 2004. "Antropologías en el mundo", *Jangwa Pana*, 3, pp. 110-131.
- Ribeiro, G.L.; Escobar, A. (eds.). 2006. *World Anthropologies. Disciplinary Transformations within Systems of Power*, Oxford, New York, Berg.
- Sahlins, Marshal. 1999. "What is Anthropological Enlightenment? Some Lessons of the Twentieth Century", *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 28, pp. 1-23.
- Stolcke, Verena. 1999. "La nueva retórica de la exclusión en Europa" *Revista Internacional de Ciencias Sociales* 159, UNESCO, Marzo 1999.
- Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo. 1996. "Dixi cosmológica i perspectivisme amerindi ["Os pronomes cosmológicos e o perspectivismo ameríndio", *MANA*, 2 (2), pp. 115-144].

- Wolf, Eric R. 2001. *Pathways of Power. Building an Anthropology of the Modern World*, Berkeley, University of California Press.

## **Software**

There are no specific computer programs