This seminar aims to examine some of the classic works in social-cultural anthropology, the theoretical foundation of the academic field. We will concentrate on the writings of Durkheim, Marx, and Weber, and to acquaint with concepts and theories that continue to influence anthropological research today. Reading is the essential part of this seminar. Students are responsible for all readings assigned and should be well prepared to actively participate in discussions at each and every session.

REQUIREMENTS:

1) All students are expected to come to the class with two or three questions/issues that are put in written (within one page). These questions/issues will be used to facilitate discussions in the class.

2) Each week, at least one student will give a formal presentation. The student is required to prepare an outline of the major issues and make this available to other seminar participants by Sunday evening through email.

3) A term paper about 10-15 pages in length, which is due on Dec. 5, the last class meeting. This paper should be sensitive to issues raised in the course, while furthering your own interests.

4) Grades will be based on contribution to the class (including the weekly written one-page assignment, discussion, and individual presentation) and the term paper, in equal measure.

Textbooks at UCLA bookstore:

Required:

All books used in this seminar are required. You can purchase the books at UCLA bookstore. They are also put on reserve at the University Research Library.

Recommended:
WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1. Introduction and Organization (Sept. 25)

Week 2. Kinship in Anthropology (Oct. 2)

Lewis Morgan, Ancient Society (Cleveland, Ohio: Meridian Books, 1963), Part II: editor’s introduction and chapters 1-5 (pp. 47-154), Part III: editor’s introduction and chapters 1-6 (pp. 393-534).

Week 3. What Makes a Society Possible? (Oct. 9)

Emile Durkheim, The Division of Labor in Society (New York: Free Press, 1964), Introduction, Book One (pp. 39-229), and Conclusion (pp. 396-409).

Week 4. Class, Power, and Social Structure (Oct. 16)

Karl Marx and Frederick Engles, A Communist Manifesto

Week 5. Rationality, Legitimacy, and Domination (Oct. 23)

Max Weber, Economy and Society (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979), Volume 1, Part 1, chapter 1 (pp. 3-62), chapters 3-4 (pp. 212-307); Volume 2, chapter 14 (pp. 1111-1157).

Week 6. Religion and Morality (Oct. 30)

Emile Durkheim, The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life (New York: Free Press, 1965), Introduction and Book One (pp. 13-117); Book Two: scan chapters 1-7 and read chapters 8-9 (pp. 273-333); Conclusion (pp. 462-496).
Week 7. Culture and the Rise of Capitalism (Nov. 6)


Week 8. Property Ownership and Historical Materialism  (Nov. 13)


Week 9. Ritual and Person (Nov. 20)


Week 10. Exchange as the Lubricant of Society (Nov. 27)


FINAL PAPER DUE!