ANTHROPOLOGY 135A: THE HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Instructor: Jason Throop

Time: 12:30-1:45, Monday and Wednesday
Room: Fowler A139

Office: 374 Haines Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday 2-4 pm and by appointment
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Course Description

In this course we will examine the early foundations and historical development of the field of psychological anthropology. Residing at the intersection of the disciplines of psychology and anthropology, psychological anthropology can most simply be understood as that field of study that looks to investigate the ways in which subjective experience on the one hand, and cultural meaning on the other, interrelate. Some of the questions that psychological anthropologists have traditionally asked, and which we will explore together, include: How are human beings transformed into cultural beings? To what extent, and how, is our subjective experience patterned by our culture? How is social life mediated, experienced, and expressed through the body? What does it mean to be a self in a particular society and what is the relation between self and society? Is subjective experience ever exhausted by cultural forms of meaning? If not, what roles do these otherwise elided forms of subjectivity play in processes of self-articulation and social action? How are cultural meanings personalized by specific actors? How do different cultures define normalcy, deviancy and pathology?

Prerequisite

Anthropology 9 and Upper Division standing, or consent of the instructor.

Goals

(1) To introduce and historically situate key topics and debates in psychological anthropological theorizing and research.

(2) To expose you to ideas about the differential patterning of subjective experience cross-culturally so that you can begin to question explanations of human behavior that you currently take for granted in the context of your daily life.
Grading

Grading will be based on a mid-term and final take home exam.

Midterm Take Home Exam (50%): Due at the BEGINNING of class Monday, May 5th.

Final Take Home Exam (50%): Due in the Main Anthropology Office by 5 pm Monday June 9th

Required Texts
(May be purchased at ASUCLA bookstore)


History of Psychological Anthropology Reader (HPAR)

Course Schedule: Topics and Readings

I. Questioning Psychological Universals and Cultural Psychologies

Week 1: Introduction

Monday, March 31st, Lecture 1: Course Introduction, Immanuel Kant and his Influence


Wednesday, April 2nd, Lecture 2: Neo-Kantianism and Boasian Anthropology

RPA: Prelude

Week 2: Culture and Perception

Monday, April 7th: Lecture 3: Boas, Continued


Wednesday, April 9th Lecture 4: Rivers and the Cambridge Expedition to the Torres Straits

RPA: Chapter 1
Week 3: Psychoanalytic Anthropology and its Critics

**Monday, April 14th** Lecture 5: Freud and Psychoanalytic Anthropology

**RPA:** Chapter 2


**Wednesday, April 16th** Lecture 6: Oedipus and the Trobriands


II. Cultural Variations in Psychological Orientations

Week 4: Culture and Personality

**Monday, April 21st** Lecture 7: Abram Kardiner and Basic Personality

**RPA:** Pgs. 68-76 in Chapter 4

**Wednesday, April 23rd** Lecture 8: Configurationalism and the Sapirean Alternative

**RPA:** Chapter 3


Week 5: Language, Thought, and World View

**Monday, April 28th** Lecture 9: Sapir Continued: Sapir/Whorf Hypothesis


**Wednesday, April 30th** Lecture 10: The Self and its Behavioral Environment

**RPA:** Pgs. 77-83 in Chapter 4, Interlude: The Crisis of Culture and Personality


**MIDTERM TAKE HOME WILL BE HANDED OUT AT THE END OF CLASS**
Week 6: Kantian Categories Revisited

Monday, May 5th Lecture 11: Mentalities, Collective Representations, and Structuralism


**MITERM DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**

Wednesday, May 7th Lecture 12: Clifford Geertz and the Interpretivist Turn


III. PSYCHOPATHOLOGY, LEVELS OF AWARENESS, AND ARTICULATING EXPERIENCE

Week 7: Mentalities, Psychopathology, and Altered States of Consciousness

Monday, May 12th Lecture 13: Questions of Deviance and Psychopathology


**RPA:** Chapter 11

Wednesday, May 14th Lecture 14: Cultural and Personal Symbols


Week 8: Emotion, Feeling, and Levels of Awareness

Monday, May 19th Lecture 15: Hypocognition and the Anthropology of Emotion


Wednesday, May 21st Lecture 16: Levels of Awareness, Habit, and Non-Conscious Process


Week 9: Embodiment and Levels of Awareness

Monday, May 26th: NO CLASS DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

Wednesday, May 28th Lecture 17: Embodiment and Experience


Week 10: Sensorial Anthropology and Concluding Remarks

Monday, June 2nd Lecture 18: Sensation Revisited


Wednesday, June 4th Lecture 19: Concluding Remarks

FINAL TAKE HOME EXAM HANDED OUT AT THE END OF CLASS