ANTH-3007 / History of Anthropological Theory

Instructor	Jean-Michel Landry
Term	Fall 2024
Course Delivery	In person
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces various strands of anthropological theory by situating them within the philosophical, geopolitical, and artistic developments that shaped the last two centuries. Together, we will read essays, articles, and books that transformed the West's approach to human difference. We will also watch movies, and discuss fictions, maps and paintings that illustrate these transformations as well as anthropology's contribution to them. Our first aim will be to acquire a familiarity with the concepts and frameworks that have informed the practice of anthropology. While doing so, we will also reflect on the conditions that made anthropological theory possible and consider its relevance for our times–within and beyond academia.

EVALUATION

Reading responses
Take-home exams

TEXT

A selection of classic theoretical intervention by Karl Marx, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Max Weber, Marcel Mauss, Emile Durkheim, Franz Boas, Margaret Mead, Clifford Geertz, Denis Diderot, E.B Taylor, E.E. Evans-Pritchard, Talal Asad and others.