ANTH-3008 / Contemporary Theory in Anthropology

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Term	Winter 2025
Course Delivery	In person
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to contemporary debates in social theory that are shaping the practice of anthropology today. We will read a number of essays that helped trigger the social protests and geopolitical transformations which give birth to our current era. We will also discuss how these texts and events forced anthropologists to reinvent the concepts, methods and practices on which the discipline established its prestige. Our task will also be to identify the limits and blind spots of this reinvention process. Insofar as anthropology's future depends on its capacity to sustain a critical relationship to itself, part of our job will be to imagine what kind of anthropology our world needs today.

EVALUATION

Reading responses
Take-home exams

TEXT

A selection of theoretical interventions by Michel Foucault, Edward Said, Judith Butler, Sara Ahmed, Antonio Gramsci, Talal Asad, Simone de Beauvoir, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Pierre Bourdieu, Raymond Williams, Joan Scott, Philippe Descola, Bruno Latour, Kimberly Crenshaw, Zoe Todd, Karen Brodkin, and others.