

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTH 3007A— FALL 2026
HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY

Instructor: Jean-Michel Landry

Office: Loeb D799

Office Hours: Thursday, 11:30 – 13:00 (or by appointment)

Email: jean-michel.landry@carleton.ca

Course meets: Thursday 8:35 – 11:25

Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses:

Prerequisite(s): ANTH 2001.

Precludes additional credit for ANTH 2005 and ANTH 3100.

Method of Delivery: In person

Course Description and Objectives

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.

By the end of the course, students will have a solid grasp of the key anthropological concepts and frameworks that emerged between the early 19th century and the mid-1970s. They will be able to situate their emergence within a wider field of debates, projects and struggles (*e.g.*, colonialism, liberalism, Marxism) that extend well beyond the limits of the discipline. Throughout the semester, students will also hone their critical and analytical skills.

Readings: Selection from the work of Edward B. Tylor, Émile Durkheim, Ruth Benedict, Marcel Mauss, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Margaret Mead, Max Weber, Karl Marx, Franz Boas, E. E. Evans-Pritchard, Clifford Geertz, Zora Neale Hurston, Gayle Rubin, Talal Asad.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Reading Responses (30%).

Take-home Mid-term Exam (25%)

Take-home Final Exam (25%)

Active Participation (20%)