

## 070.616 – Proseminar: Philosophical Anthropology

Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2010, Macaulay 400, Thursdays 2-4 PM  
Anand Pandian\*

Working along four distinct axes of philosophical thought and anthropological investigation – the human and non-human, culture and history, space and time, and mind and matter – we will examine the relationship between conceptual and empirical work in classical and contemporary anthropology. The first three sections of the course begin with Enlightenment philosophies crucial for the development of modern social and cultural anthropology, tracking subsequent inheritances and transmutations of their conceptual positions; the final section instead explores a movement of thought from anthropology to philosophy and back again. Throughout the semester, we will be concerned with how concepts arise in, and circulate through, the exercise of anthropology: what is it to *think* – critically, imaginatively, comparatively, minutely – about human being and becoming?

**Required Texts.** Michel Foucault, *Order of Things*; Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Discourses and Other Early Political Writings, Volume 1*; Claude Levi-Strauss, *Tristes Tropiques*; Hugh Raffles, *The Illustrated Insectopedia*; Johann Gottfried Herder, *Herder: Philosophical Writings*; Michael Fischer, *Anthropological Futures*; Emile Durkheim, *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*; Alfred Gell, *The Anthropology of Time*; Gregory Bateson, *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*; Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus*; Todd Ochoa, *Society of the Dead: Quita Manaquita and Palo Praise in Cuba*; other articles and excerpts.

**Coursework.** All required texts will be available either at the campus bookstore or through library reserve (password PAN616). You will be expected to have read them completely before each class meeting, and to be prepared to discuss them closely. Each of you will be expected to circulate some brief, informal thoughts and questions for discussion via e-mail no later than Wednesday night each week. One of you will be responsible for opening and guiding in-class discussion each week. And lastly, you will be responsible for a brief comparative paper (4-5 double-spaced pages) concerning each of the four substantive sections of the course. The paper will be expected to tackle at least one of the readings engaged during each week of this section, and to trace a thread of thought or inquiry across the three successive weeks of this section.

### Introduction

September 2

Kant, “What is Enlightenment?”

Foucault, “What is Enlightenment?”

Foucault, “The Human Sciences” from *The Order of Things*

### I. Human & Non-Human

September 9

Rousseau, “Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men” and “Essay on the Origin of Languages”

Levi-Strauss, “Rousseau: Founder of the Sciences of Man”

September 16

Levi-Strauss, *Tristes Tropiques*

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September 23  
Hugh Raffles, *The Illustrated Insectopedia*

## II. Culture & History

September 30  
Herder, "Treatise on the Origin of Language," "This Too a Philosophy of History for the Formation of Humanity," and "Letters for the Advancement of Humanity, Tenth Collection," from *Herder: Philosophical Writings*

**First paper due**

October 7  
Boas, "The History of Anthropology" from *A Franz Boas Reader*; and "The Aims of Ethnology," "The Study of Geography," and other selections from *Race, Language, and Culture*  
Bunzl, "Franz Boas and the Humboldtian Tradition," in *Volkgeist as Method and Ethic*  
Forster, "Herder and the Birth of Modern Anthropology," in *After Herder: Philosophy of Language in the German Tradition*

October 14  
Fischer, *Anthropological Futures*

## III. Space & Time

October 21  
Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, selections  
Deleuze, "Preface" to *Kant's Critical Philosophy*  
Foucault, "Man and His Doubles" from *The Order of Things*

**Second paper due**

October 28  
Emile Durkheim, *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*

November 4  
Alfred Gell, *The Anthropology of Time*

## IV. Mind & Matter

November 11  
Gregory Bateson, *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*, selections

**Third paper due**

November 18  
Deleuze and Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus*, selections

December 2  
Ochoa, *Society of the Dead*

December 7  
**Fourth paper due**