

070.419 – Logic of Anthropological Inquiry

Anand Pandian¹

Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University
Spring 2016, Wednesdays 1:30-3:50, 400 Macaulay Hall

Anthropology is an endeavor to think with the empirical richness of the world at hand, a field science with both literary and philosophical pretensions. This course examines the nature of anthropological inquiry, reading classic works in the discipline as well as contemporary efforts to reimagine its foundations. Our aim is to grasp what it might mean that “we do our philosophy out of doors,” as Tim Ingold has put it. We focus most closely on four influential figures from different eras and genres of anthropology: Bronislaw Malinowski, Zora Neale Hurston, Claude Lévi-Strauss, and Michael Jackson. In each case, we tuck between their scholarly writings and other kinds of materials such as biography and memoir, seeking to grasp the relationship between thinking and living in anthropology.

Readings. There are two books required, *Mules and Men* (Hurston) and *Paths Toward a Clearing* (Jackson). The remainder of required course readings will be available on Blackboard.

Requirements (and % of overall grade). This class is a seminar; attendance at all class sessions is required, as is active participation in discussion (10%). By the crack of dawn each Wednesday, you will post a brief reaction to the week’s reading, broaching a topic for discussion (10%). You will take responsibility to frame the week’s discussion for one session (10%). Lastly, you will write five brief papers (2-3 pp 1.5-spaced) over the course of the semester (10% each). Papers will be due in my mailbox in Macaulay 404 no later than 4pm on the concerned day.

Policies – (1) *Email*. You will receive periodic notices and instructions concerning coursework on your JHU email account; you are responsible for ensuring receipt of these messages.

(2) *Attendance*. Unexcused absences from class will compromise your grade, so please ensure that your name is recorded during each session on the class attendance sheet.

(3) *Electronic devices*. Use of such devices is distracting and disallowed during class sessions. If this expectation will pose any significant problems for you, please talk to me about this individually.

(4) *Disability*. Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in this class should obtain an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services.

(5) *Assignments*. Late assignments will be marked down 10% per day.

(6) *Academic integrity*. The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition.

Schedule

January 27	Introduction
February 3	Franz Boas, “The Aims of Ethnology,” 1940 George Stocking, “The Ethographer’s Magic: Fieldwork in British Anthropology from Tylor to Malinowski,” 1983

¹ Office hours Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 PM, Macaulay 111 / pandian@jhu.edu

- Philippe Descola, "On Anthropological Knowledge," 2005
 Tim Ingold, "Anthropology is *Not* Ethnography," 2008
- February 10 Frédéric Gros, *A Philosophy of Walking*, 2014, selections
 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Reveries of the Solitary Walker*, 1782, selections
 Claude Lévi-Strauss, "Rousseau, Founder of the Sciences of Man," 1976
- February 12 *First paper due*
- February 17 Bronislaw Malinowski, "Baloma: The Spirits of the Dead in the Trobriand
 Islands," 1916
 W. H. R. Rivers, "A General Account of Method," 1912
- February 24 Malinowski, *A Diary in the Strict Sense of the Term*, 1967, selections
 Michael Young, "Kiriwina" in *Malinowski: Odyssey of an Anthropologist*, 2004
- March 2 Malinowski, *The Sexual Life of Savages*, 1929, selections
Savage Memory (dir. Zachary Stuart & Kelly Thomson, 2012)
- March 4 *Second paper due*
- March 9 Zora Neale Hurston, *Mules and Men*, 1935
 Hurston, *Dust Tracks on a Road*, 1942, selections
 Franz Boas to ZNH, May 3, 1927
- March 23 Hurston, *Mules and Men*, continued
 ZNH to Langston Hughes, April 12, 1928
 Hurston, "Characteristics of Negro Expression"
- March 25 *Third paper due*
- March 30 Claude Lévi-Strauss, *Tristes Tropiques*, 1955, selections
- April 6 Lévi-Strauss, *The Savage Mind*, 1966, selections
- April 8 *Fourth paper due*
- April 13 William James, "A World of Pure Experience," in *Essays in Radical
 Empiricism*, 1912
 Michael Jackson, *Paths Toward a Clearing: Radical Empiricism
 and Ethnographic Inquiry*, 1989
- April 20 Jackson, *Paths Toward a Clearing*, continued
- April 22 *Fifth paper due*
- April 27 TBD