Course Description
This course (1) explores some of the key problems to which modern social and cultural anthropology emerged as a response; it (2) focuses on major theories, themes, and debates that have informed anthropological inquiry; and it (3) exemplifies how anthropologists revisit and remediate classical theoretical discussions in analytical work today.

Course Objectives
By the end of the course, students should have acquired the ability to discuss critically central aspects of the history of anthropological theory, and be able to make use of such knowledge in the construction of contemporary anthropological problems.

Course Requirements
Students are required to attend all seminars, read the course literature, and complete the course assignments on time. (Students who for some reason fail to attend a seminar must complete an extra assignment, those who miss two seminars must complete two extra assignments—and so on. Extra assignments should be turned in no later than November 2, 2015.)

Required Reading

1. Debaene, Vincent. 2014. Far Afield: French Anthropology Between Science and Literature. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. (This is a book on French anthropology at the intersection of science and literature, which engages with important aspects of the discipline's past. It offers intriguing historical insights, but also speaks to the present moment in the history of anthropological theory.)


3. Willerslev, Rane. 2007. Soul Hunters: Hunting, Animism, and Personhood among the Siberian Yukaghirs. Berkeley: University of California Press. (This is an ethnography that revisits classic theoretical debates—not as a return to the past, but to expose the actual empirical problems to which such discussions sought to respond. Ultimately, it illuminates how epistemological and ontological aspects of these problems in different forms reoccur in anthropological research today.)
Course Assignments

Assignment #1: ORAL PRESENTATION

Write a summary of the article from the reader by Moore and Sanders that has been assigned to you. Present this in class during the seminar and turn in a written version of your summary.

Think about this assignment in terms of several steps:

1. Read the original text carefully and take notes.
2. Compose a written summary, which conveys
   • who has written the original article,
   • what it is about,
   • on what kind of data it draws,
   • how the author structures his or her argument,
   • when it was published, and
   • what we might learn today from reading this piece.
3. Proofread your manuscript several times, prepare for your oral presentation, and make sure it takes ten minutes to present—no more, no less.

*Turn in a hard copy of your written manuscript to me on the day you present it.*

Only papers that conform to the following format will be graded:

• Length: between 1,100 and 1,300 words (not including the list of references)
• Language: English
• Font: 12pt Times New Roman
• Double-space the text
• Do not use subheadings
• Number the pages
• Include your name on every page
• Include a list of references

*Please note that no late papers will be accepted.*

Assignment #2: WRITTEN FEEDBACK

Provide written feedback on the manuscript of a fellow student’s assignment #1.

*Forward your feedback to the author – and turn in a hard copy to me – during the seminar the week after your own oral presentation.*

Only papers that conform to the following format will be graded:

• Length: between 450 and 550 words
• Language: English
• Font: 12pt Times New Roman
• Double-space the text
• Number the pages
• Do not use subheadings
• Include your name on every page

*Please note that no late papers will be accepted.*
Assignment #3: EXAM ESSAY

Use the course literature to write an essay on one of the following themes:

- “Anthropology as Science”
- “Anthropology, Phenomenology, and the Body”
- “The ‘Ontological Turn’ in Anthropology”
- “Language, Difference, Meaning”
- “(Anthropological) Knowledge”
- “Literature, Ethnography, Truth”
- “Anthropology Today”

Design an essay that explains and discusses critically what the theme you have chosen means from an anthropological perspective. Interpreting the theme and specifying your own discussion are integral parts of the assignment. Write several drafts and proofread the final version of the essay before you turn it in to make sure it is carefully organized, coherent, well written, and includes proper references to the course literature.

When you organize your essay, think about it in terms of three main parts: a beginning (an introduction that frames your paper, specifies its theme, and explains its scope); a middle (a number of well-organized paragraphs where you develop your line or argument as fully as you can, confirm your ideas by referencing the course literature, and support what you say with examples); and an end (in which you conclude your essay, summarize your main points, refer back to your objectives for the paper, and draw conclusions).

Your essay must reflect the content of the course and all examples you use must be found in the texts we have read or in the recommended readings. (However, avoid direct quotes.) Please note that for this assignment I expect you to engage in particular with the books by Vincent Debaene and Rane Willerslev. You must also refer to articles from Moore and Sanders, but mostly to contextualize your discussion, to back up claims you make, or as illuminating or contrasting examples. You are also welcome to use examples from the recommended readings.

The final version of your exam essay must demonstrate that you have understood important concepts and modes of analysis found in the course literature, and that you are able to use them accurately in your own discussion. Remember that the task is to critically discuss, compare, and synthesize the course texts, not merely to summarize them one by one.

Turn in assignment #3 as an email attachment (word file) to me (mattias.viktorin@antro.uu.se) no later than 3pm on November 2, 2015.

Only papers that conform to the following format will be graded:

- Length: between 2,100 and 2,300 words (not including the list of references)
- Language: English
- Font: 12pt Times New Roman
- Double-space the text
- Do not use subheadings
- Number the pages
- Include your name on every page
- Include a list of references

Please note that no late papers will be accepted.
Reading Instructions

Lecture I

“INTRODUCTION: ADVANCED STUDY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY”

September 3, 10.15 am – noon

Required Reading

Recommended Reading
Rees, Tobias. 2011. As If ‘Theory’ Is the Only Form of Thinking, and ‘Social Theory’ the Only Form of Critique: Thoughts on an Anthropology BST (Beyond Society and Theory),” *Dialectical Anthropology*, 35(3): 341–365.

Lecture II

“ANTHROPOLOGY AS SCIENCE (AND THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF SCIENCE)"

September 7, 10.15 am – noon

Required Reading
Debaene, chapters 1, 2, 3, pp. 25–88
Willerslev, chapters 1, 2, pp. 1–49

The following chapters from Moore & Sanders:

1 Franz Boas, “The Aims of Anthropological Research” (1922)
2 A. L. Kroeber, “The Concept of Culture in Science” (1952)
5 Émile Durkheim, “Rules for the Explanation of Social Facts” (1895)
8 Claude Lévi-Strauss, “Social Structure” (1952)
9 Bronislaw Malinowski, “The Group and the Individual in Functional Analysis” (1939)
Recommended Reading


Lecture III
“ANTHROPOLOGY, PHENOMENOLOGY, AND THE BODY”
September 14, 10.15am – noon

Required Reading
Debaene, chapters 4, 5, 6, pp. 89–149
Willerslev, chapter 3, pp. 50–72
+ The following chapters from Moore & Sanders:

26 Michael Jackson, “Knowledge of the Body” (1983)
28 Lesley Sharp, “Hybridity: Hybrid Bodies of the Scientific Imaginary” (2011)

Recommended Reading


Lecture IV

“THE ‘ONTOLOGICAL TURN’ IN ANTHROPOLOGY”
September 21, 10.15 – noon

Required Reading
Debeane, chapters 7, 8, 9, pp. 151–223
Willerslev, chapter 4, pp. 73 – 88

The following chapters from Moore & Sanders:

16 Clifford Geertz, “Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory …” (1973)
45 Vivek Dhareshwar, “Valorizing the Present” (1998)

Recommended Reading

Lecture V

“LANGUAGE, DIFFERENCE, MEANING”
September 28, 10.15 – noon

Required Reading
Debeane, chapters 10, 11, pp. 227–273
Willerslev, chapter 5, pp. 89–118

The following chapters from Moore & Sanders:
Recommended Reading


Lecture VI

“(ANTHROPOLOGICAL) KNOWLEDGE”

October 5, 10.15 – noon

Required Reading

Debaene, chapter 12, pp. 275–307

Willerslev, chapters 6, 7, 8, pp. 119–180

+ The following chapters from Moore & Sanders:

6 A. R. Radcliffe-Brown, “On Social Structure” (1940)
22 Harvey Whitehouse, “Towards an Integration of Ethnography …” (2007)

Recommended Reading


Lecture VII
“LITERATURE, ETHNOGRAPHY, TRUTH”
October 12, 10.15 – noon

Required Reading
Debaene, “Conclusion,” pp. 309–323
Willerslev, chapter 9, pp. 181–191

+ The following chapters from Moore & Sanders:


Recommended Reading

Lecture VIII
“ANTHROPOLOGY TODAY”
October 19, 10.15 – noon

Required Reading
The following chapters from Moore & Sanders:

Recommended Reading

Some New Books…

… and a Few Recent Articles