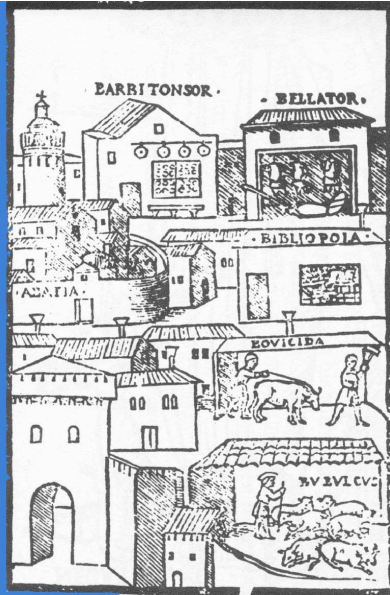


Structures of Anthropological Argument



Department of Anthropology
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Anthropology 629

Fall 2012
Wednesday 6-9 pm
Eielson 304

David Koester

Eielson 312c, 474-7133, dckoester@alaska.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4pm
TA: Tayana Arakchaa

Course objectives:

- to analyze and evaluate basic assumptions that have been used in anthropology and in many cases still play a role or underlie anthropological argument today
- to help you understand and make use of anthropological arguments
- to understand the audiences for particular forms and topics of argument
- to learn to critique anthropological arguments primarily in order best to be able to extract those arguments that you find correct, powerful and useful
- to help you to formulate your own arguments, understanding the audiences for particular ways of arguing
- to familiarize you with some of the history of anthropological theory

Syllabus

Sept 5 Logic, Rhetoric, Science and Argument
No required reading

Sept 12 Evolutionary Argument

Morgan – *Ancient Society*, pp. 3-28

Sahlins and Service – *Evolution and Culture*, pp. 12-44

Spencer – "On the Tempo and Mode of State Formation: Neoevolutionism Reconsidered"

Fuentes – "It's Not All Sex and Violence: Integrated Anthropology and the Role of Cooperation and Social Complexity in Human Evolution" *American Anthropologist*, 2004, 106(4):710-718

Sept 19 Boasian Anthropology – Description, Documentation and World View

Boas - "Alternating Sounds," "The Ethnological Significance of Esoteric Doctrines," "The

Documentary Function of the Text," "The Mythology of the Bella Coola Indians," "The Study of Geography"
Benedict - "The Science of Custom"
Stocking - "Franz Boas and the Culture Concept in Historical Perspective."
Orta - "The Promise of Particularism and the Theology of Culture: Limits and Lessons of Neo-Boasianism"
Recommended: Bauman & Briggs - *Voices of Modernity*, pp. 255-298

Sept 26 Theorizing the Social

Durkheim – *Rules of the Sociological Method*, pp. 50-84 (pdf) OR *Readings from Emile Durkheim* (Rasmuson library e-book) pp. 43-63
Radcliffe-Brown – "Taboo" and "Social Sanctions"
Latour – "Introduction" to *Reassembling the Social*, pp. 1-17

Oct. 3 The Practice of Science

paper 1 due

Latour and Woolgar – *Laboratory Life*

Oct 10 Anthropology and the Environment

Hippocrates – "Airs, Waters, Places"
Montesquieu – *The Spirit of the Laws*, pp. 231-245
Bird-David – "The Giving Environment" *Current Anthropology* 1990 31(2):189-196
Ingold – *The Perception of the Environment*, pp. 40-60; 172-208

Oct. 17 Global Change Archaeology

Hardesty – "Perspectives on Global-Change Archaeology"
Kirch – "Hawaii as a Model System for Human Ecodynamics"
McGovern, Vesteysson, Friðriksson, *et al.* "Landscapes of Settlement in Northern Iceland: Historical Ecology of Human Impact and Climate Fluctuation on the Millennial Scale"
Wilkinson, Christiansen, Ur, Widell, and Altaweel – "Urbanization within a Dynamic Environment: Modeling Bronze Age Communities in Upper Mesopotamia"
[all *American Anthropologist* 2007 109(1)]

Oct 24 Signs, Biology and Language

paper 2 due

Mithen – *The Singing Neanderthals: The Origins of Music, Language, Mind & Body*, pp. 1-121.
Tim Ingold – *Lines* "Language, Music and Notation," pp. 6-38

Oct 31 Biological Argument – Evolutionary Origins of Music

Mithen – *The Singing Neanderthals*, pp. 122-end

Nov 7 – Structuralism and Semiotics

Lévi-Strauss – "Structural Analysis and Linguistics in Anthropology" and "The Sorcerer and his Magic" in *Structural Anthropology I*
Barthes – "The Structuralist Activity"
Peirce – "Logic as Semiotic: The Theory of Signs"

Nov 14 Politicized and Applied Anthropology – The Anthropology of Human Rights

paper 3 due

Boas – "The Negro's Past" in *Race and Democratic Society*

Riles – “Anthropology, Human Rights, and Legal Knowledge: Culture in the Iron Cage”
American Anthropologist 2006, 108(1):52-65
 Merry – “Transnational Human Rights and Local Activism: Mapping the Middle” *American Anthropologist* 2006 108(1):38-51
 Niezen – “Relativism and Rights” in *The Origins of Indigenism*, pp. 94-144

Nov 21 Gender and Culture

Mead – *Male and Female*, Chapter 1
 Goodale - "Gender, sexuality and marriage: a Kaulong model of nature and culture"
 Collier and Rosaldo - "Politics and gender in simple societies"
 Shapiro - "Transsexualism: Reflection on the Persistence of Gender and the Mutability of Sex"

Nov 28 Post-structuralism, Culture, Practice and Power

Ortner – *Anthropology and Social Theory*, pp. 107-153
 Bourdieu – *The Logic of Practice*, pp. 52-121

Dec 5 Indigenous Issues and Anthropological Argument

Keskitalo – "Research as an Inter-Ethnic Relation"
 Chilisa – *Indigenous Research Methodologies*, pp. 1-43
 Bruchac – *Indigenous archaeologies*, pp. 153-175

Final paper (4) due Dec 7, 4pm.

Requirements:

Required reading and class participation (20% of grade)
 Class assignments – 5-10-minute presentation most class periods (20%)
 4 papers (5-8 pages) with assigned questions, topics and lengths - (60%)

Availability of Course Readings:

Most of the article- or chapter-length readings on the syllabus are located on Electronic Reserves on the Rasmuson Library web site. The password for Anth 629 this year is “6292012”. Articles in the *American Anthropologist* are available online through the Rasmuson library “Journals List.” There are two books that we will be reading in their entirety and a few others that you might want to consider purchasing.

Books to consider purchasing

Reading in entirety	Reading substantial portion
Latour & Woolgar – <i>Laboratory Life</i>	Bourdieu – <i>The Logic of Practice</i>
Mithen – <i>The Singing Neanderthals</i>	Ortner – <i>Anthropology and Social Theory</i>
	Chilisa – <i>Indigenous Research Methodologies</i> (will be used in ANTH 630)

The books this year are not available at the campus bookstore. If you have difficulty acquiring a book by ordering through a local bookstore or online please see Tayana or me (at least three weeks before the reading is due). Readings that are in current anthropological journals are available through the Rasmuson Library Journals List.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to work in accordance with the UAF Student Code of Conduct (www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html).

Students with Disabilities:

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is committed to equal opportunity for students experiencing disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor early in the course so that arrangements may be made to ensure a positive and productive educational experience.

Support Services:

Student Support Services are available at UAF. These services include: 1) free tutorial services; 2) small study groups; 3) academic advising, mentoring, and personal support; 4) direct financial assistance to qualified Pell Grant recipients; 5) use of laptop computers, labs, and other technology resources; and 6) cultural and social engagement. The office is located at 508 Gruening Building, and the phone number is 474-6844. You may also obtain additional information about support services at:

www.uaf.edu/sssp/index.html