Description: Thinking Anthropologically: Theoretical Positions in Anthropology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANT</td>
<td>3005</td>
<td>67348</td>
<td>2, 2007</td>
<td>EXT</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic group: FOART
Academic org: FOA003
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code: 090303

STAFFING
Moderator: Bryce Barker

REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: ANT1000 or ANT1001

RATIONALE
Several major theoretical trends emerged in the 19th and 20th centuries that dominated anthropological thought and ethnographic practice. One of the key questions that theoretical positions in anthropology have continually addressed concerns the tension between structure and agency: is the social world best understood in and through a focus on the kinds of structures that organize social life, or is individual purposive behaviour - lived experience - a more compelling focus from which to undertake social analysis? Current theoretical positions in the discipline continue to deal with the duality of structure and agency. Understanding the history of the debates about structure and agency and their current form means that students will emerge from the course with a comprehensive understanding of the shape of the discipline, and will become familiar with the kinds of theoretical tools that emerge from, and are available for, application to the raw data of human social life. It is strongly recommended that students intending to enrol in Honours in Anthropology complete this course.

SYNOPSIS
This course is designed to give undergraduate students a comprehensive theoretical base in anthropology, and a sense of the ways in which the current tools of the discipline can be suited to and applied to particular kinds of ethnographic material. The course also provides intending Honours students with the necessary grounding in anthropological theory.

OBJECTIVES
On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an appreciation of current debates in the discipline.
2. Demonstrate foundational knowledge of the theoretical shape of the discipline, and its contemporary directions.
3. Demonstrate a capacity to critically assess a variety of theoretical positions.
4. Show an emergent capacity to state the strengths and weaknesses of a variety of theoretical positions.
5. Demonstrate and utilise a background in relevant theoretical literature.
6. Demonstrate and use the following graduate attributes: essay writing skills; discussion skills gained from participation in tutorial/online situations; critical response skills gained from tutorial/online participation; skills in critical reading and theoretically informed writing within set parameters.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theoretical Overview</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications and Critiques</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Discussion Groups</td>
<td>26.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>79.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Work</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESSAY 1 (1000-1500 WORDS)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>14 Sep 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>12 Oct 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSAY 2 (1500-2000 WORDS)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>26 Oct 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONLINE PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>02 Nov 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NOTES
1. Essay 1 - review of a theoretical position essay. This assessment is aligned with all Objectives.
2. Assignment - Reading Notes Portfolio. This assessment is aligned with all Objectives.
3. Essay 2 - critique of a theoretical positon essay. This assessment is aligned with all Objectives.
4. Online participation is graded weekly on evidence of preparation and quality of written contributions to online discussion. This assessment is aligned with all Objectives.

### IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. **Attendance requirements:**
   This course contains a discussion forum where students' participation is formally assessed and successful participation in that discussion group is required to complete the requirements to be awarded a passing grade in the course. There are no other attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them, or required to be accessed by them, to maximise their chances of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2. **Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:**
   To successfully complete an individual assessment item, a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks or a grade of at least C-. This statement must be read in conjunction with Statement 4 below.

3. **Penalties for late submission of required work:**
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval, then a penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each of the first FIVE working days late, after which a zero mark will be given.

4. **Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:**
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.

5. **Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:**
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6. **Examination information:**
   There is no exam for this course.

7. **Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:**
Given the details under (6) above, there are no deferred exams for this course. However, if any deferred/makeup work is granted, it would have to be submitted by a date set by the examiner.

8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6 Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm

ASSESSMENT NOTES

9 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (b) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be despatched to USQ within 24 hours if requested by the Examiner. (c) In accordance with University's Assignment Extension Policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances such as documented ill-health. (d) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the examiner's convenience. (e) Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements. (f) Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in the course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of the course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete-Makeup). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study. (g) Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or sit for an examination at the scheduled time, may apply to defer an assessment in the course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

10 Students can expect that questions in assessment items in this course may draw upon knowledge and skills that they can reasonably be expected to have acquired before enrolling in the course. This includes knowledge contained in pre-requisite courses and appropriate communication, information literacy, analytical, critical thinking, problem solving or numeracy skills. Students who do not possess such knowledge and skills should not expect to achieve the same grades as those students who do possess them.

11 Students will require access to email and have internet access to USQConnect for this course.