

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Anthropology 631 - Anthropological Theory Fall 2012**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr Alan Smart      **LOCATION:** ES 702 **TIME:** W 1:00-3:30

**Course Description:** Theory can be approached in two main ways. One way is as intellectual history, how those ideas and approaches related to their context and to their past. The second is as contending ways of explaining the world and its people, attempting to see if anything is still “live” about older approaches. While both will be discussed, the emphasis will be on the latter approach. The particular set of theoretical approaches and theorists to be discussed will be generated collaboratively, in relation to the interests and research needs of the participants in the seminar.

**Required Readings:**

In addition, other readings will be assigned in relation to the topics that we address.

<b>Course evaluation:</b>	Weekly commentaries	30%
	Presentations (2)	30%
	Term Paper	40%

**WEEKLY COMMENTARIES:** At the beginning of each class, students should hand in a short commentary on the assigned readings (approximately 300-500 words). Rather than just a summary, this commentary should attempt to highlight important issues, raise questions, draw parallels between different readings, or in other ways bring in your own thoughts about the readings. This preparation will enhance the discussions during class. The lowest three grades will be dropped from the calculation for this grading component.

**PRESENTATIONS:** There will normally be one presentation per week, although scheduling constraints may require two to be presented in certain weeks. The presentation should last thirty to forty minutes (not including interruptions), and will be followed by discussion of points raised in the presentation itself. No later than the Friday preceding the presentation, the presenter should email to each of the students and instructors three PDF files, each containing a relevant reading to accompany the presentation. These readings will form the basis of the discussion the following Friday. At least one should be a key original text (journal article or book chapter). The other two may consist of either additional original texts or more general commentaries on the topic, from secondary sources (e.g. Annual Review of Anthropology articles or monographs). The presenter should also prepare several discussion questions designed to stimulate debate on issues raised in the presentation. The mark for this component of the course will cover the quality and clarity of the presentation itself, the judiciousness of the



accompanying reading materials selected, and the chairing of the discussion. Grading for the first two presenters will take into consideration the fact that they have had reduced preparation time.

TERM PAPER: Guidelines will follow.

#### ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. You are required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.

#### PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Plagiarism: "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own" (Webster's). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing will also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Department's policy on intellectual honesty available at: <https://www.anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>

#### EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency situation please note that the primary assembly point shall be at the ICT Food Court and the Social Sciences Food Court shall be used as a secondary assembly point.