

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

**Anthropology 631 - Anthropological Theory Fall 2013**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr Alan Smart      LOCATION: ES 702    TIME: R 14:00-16:30  
Office: ES 602B      Email: [asmart@ucalgary.ca](mailto:asmart@ucalgary.ca)    Phone: 403-220-6707  
Office hours: W 14:00-15:00, R 12:30-13:30

**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. Instructors have their own theoretical agendas, and the one that I will be pursuing in the context of this session is *posthumanism*, which has the advantage of allowing us to return to classic anthropological issues in a new light.

**Required Readings:**

We will be reading Alan Barnard *History and Theory in Anthropology* Cambridge U Press, 2000. It is available in the textbook store. In addition, other readings will be assigned in relation to the topics that we address, and these will account for the majority of the required readings.

Normally no later than the Monday preceding the seminar, I will email to each of the students information about the required readings. If these are not from the text, I will send PDF files. These readings will form the basis of the discussion the following Friday. In addition, each student should locate an additional reading that is relevant to the topic or theorist, and be prepared to provide some summary to the seminar.

<b>Course evaluation:</b>	Commentaries	30%
	Term Paper	50%
	Participation	20%

**COMMENTARIES**

By the beginning of each seminar, you should submit a commentary at least 500 words long reflecting on the readings and the theoretical issues raised. Rather than summarizing, the commentary should provide some “value added” in terms of your analysis. This can involve drawing out key issues, comparing the different readings,

identifying areas of concern, or highlighting the strengths of particular approaches. There is no single right approach, but one that works for you and allows you to draw out insights from the reading will enrich the seminar through ensuring more dynamic and productive discussions.

**GENERAL PARTICIPATION:** This covers overall contribution to the learning experience. Excessive passivity or numerous unexcused absences may be reflected in this component.

**TERM PAPER:** Guidelines will follow.

### **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, please note that the primary assembly point shall be the ICT Food Court, and the secondary assembly point shall be the Social Sciences Food Court.

### **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, please register with the Disability Resource Centre at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.