

Research Paper on a Major Anthropologist

ANTH 300–History of Anthropological Theory

- ▶ due Friday, April 27th
- ▶ worth 10% of your final grade
- ▶ length: 10 pages minimum

This research paper should examine the research, theoretical orientation, and contribution to the discipline of the anthropologist you have chosen to focus on. It should be based on your reading of that anthropologist's major works and on secondary sources such as biographical materials about that person, critical reviews of that person's major works, and discussions of that person's work by other scholars. I suggest that in addition to the piece you read for this class you should try to read all or part of *one other* major work so that you emerge familiar with two distinct theories or conceptual frameworks that your anthropologist has developed over the course of his or her career. Then you can focus on secondary sources including books, articles (including book reviews), and chapters that interpret and analyze the two key works that you have picked. Keep in mind that this is a research paper, and your goal is to synthesize information from multiple sources and to come up with an original paper. Therefore, do not rely too heavily on the analyses of "your" anthropologist in the Moore book or exegesis (your paper will be marked down if it mimics the structure and content of class readings too closely).

Remember to include:

- I. An introduction stating the purpose of the paper and outlining the things you will examine and analyze**
- II. A body of the paper, which should include . . .**
 - A. *no more* than 3 pages of biography, focusing only on those aspects of the anthropologist's life that were "formative" (helped him or her to develop into the anthropologist and theorist that he/she became).
 - B. an analytical section that looks at the anthropologist's intellectual contributions to anthropological theory.
 1. In this section you *must* do the following:
 - a. describe at least two of the anthropologist's major works, along with the theories that these works put forward. Compare, contrast, and/or link these works with each other
 - b. compare and/or contrast this anthropologist to other anthropologists
 - c. discuss some critiques about and/or controversies surrounding this anthropologist's work and ideas.
 2. In this section you *can* (but you don't *need* to) discuss the following. Note that you do not need to treat this like a laundry list, meaning that I do not want you to feel obligated to mechanically cover all of these points. Rather, based on your own interests and on the information that you obtain from your research, choose which threads of analysis are most appropriate.
 - a. situate the anthropologist within a particular theoretical school (such as the ones we have been studying in class)
 - b. discuss how this anthropologist's ideas evolved over time.

- c. explain why these ideas were new and relevant to anthropology at the time they were developed
- d. elucidate why these works and ideas have become “classics” within the discipline of anthropology—why are these ideas still relevant today?
- e. discuss your personal assessment of this anthropologist’s writings—evaluate, judge, critique, and/or celebrate this scholar, supporting your opinions with evidence from his or her text(s)

III. A conclusion that wraps things up

IV. A Bibliography

Cite all of your sources in your text and include a bibliography. For information on how to format in-text citations and a bibliography according to the American Anthropological Association Style Guide, see the guide “Citation Conventions for Anthropology.”

Notes:

- This is a formal research paper that requires you to do extensive research and to synthesize multiple texts. I thus expect you to cite a *minimum* of five works in addition to the texts assigned in this class **and in addition to works written by “your” anthropologist**. In your preliminary bibliography you listed ten sources, but these might not all be relevant.
- Do *not* rely on works easily available online or in Musselman library—expect to use ILL (interlibrary loan). In line with this, don’t hesitate to enlist the help of a research librarian—they can offer fabulous assistance.
- Note that if you hand in a paper that is based solely on the texts assigned in this class you will fail the paper.
- In writing your paper, I suggest you break it up into sections with appropriate headings, and that you provide page numbers.