

# Cultural Dynamics

## ANTH 339

**THIS SEMINAR** explores the questions of where new cultural things come from, and how they come to hang together to form cultures.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Six discussion papers (due at the beginning of class the day of discussion), plus active participation in seminar discussions. Read the assigned literature *in the listed order*. Your discussion papers should identify (1) the assumptions that constitute the foundations for specific arguments, (2) the questions we can answer, and (3) the questions that we have not yet answered (or answered effectively); *maintain a cumulative list of assumptions, questions answered, and questions not yet answered.*

Discussion papers should follow the style guidelines of the *American Anthropologist* (online at the AAA website). The maximum length of discussion papers is 1500 words (typed single-spaced, 12 point font). The length restriction means that you have to write very high density sentences, which implies much re-writing; use Strunk & White's *The Elements of Style* as your guide to good writing.

**GRADES:** 90% of your grade will come from the discussion papers (15% each); the remaining 10% will come from my assessment of your interest, preparation, and contributions.

WEEK 0, Jan 22 Orientation:

Definitions of culture, the construction of cultural change, co-evolution of biology & culture, genome to phenotype to mind to choices to (?) cultures.

## PLASTICITY

WEEK 1, Jan 29 Do we exhibit distinctive forms of morphological, physiological, and historical plasticity?

Moran, Emilio

1982 *Human Adaptability*. Boulder: Westview Press. Chapter 4 and at least two of the following chapters – 5,6,9

Boserup, Ester

1965 *The Conditions of Agricultural Growth*. Chicago: Aldine. (selections)

Boserup, Ester

1990 *Population and Technological Change*. Chicago: Univ of Chicago Press. (selections)

Simon, Julian

1980 Resources, Population, Environment: An Oversupply of False Bad News. *Science* 208:1431-1437.

Cohen, Mark Nathan

1977 *The Population Crisis in Prehistory*. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press. Chapters 1,2.

## CULTURE & ITS PROPERTIES

WEEK 2 Feb 5 What is culture?

Linton, Ralph

1936 *The Study of Man*. NY: Appleton, Century, Crofts. Pp. 326-327.

Sapir, E.

1932 Cultural Anthropology and Psychiatry. *The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology* 27:229-242.

Kroeber, AL & Kluckhohn, Clyde

1952 *Culture: A Critical Review of Concepts & Definitions*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Papers of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Vol 47, No. 1 (Part IV, Summary and Conclusions, B, C; pp. 180-190)

D'Andrade, Roy

1999 Culture is Not Everything. In, *Anthropological Theory in North America*, E.L. Cerroni-Long, editor. Pp. 85-103. Westport, CT: Bergin & Garvey.

Boyd, Robert and Peter J, Richarson.

1985 *Culture and the Evolutionary Process*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press. Pp. 32-60.

WEEK 3 Feb 12 In what sense, if at all, does culture exhibit superorganic, collective properties?

Weber, Max

Class, Status, Party. Pp. 180-195; *The Protestant Sects and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Pp. 302-322. *From Max Weber*, edited by HH Gerth and CW Mills, 1958.

Durkheim, Emile

*Suicide*. Pp. 297-325; and *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*. Pp. 418-448.

Foley, William A.

1997. *Anthropological Linguistics*. Malden, MA: Blackwell. Chapters 19, 20, 21.

Searle, John R

1995 *The Construction of Social Reality*. NY: The Free Press. Chapters 1-6

Coleman, James S.

1990 *Foundations of Social Theory* Cambridge: Harvard Univ Press. Chapter 1

## MINDS & CULTURES

WEEK 4. Feb 19. How does the mind work? part I, cognition

Boas, Franz

1911 Introduction. *Handbook of American Indian Language*. Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 40

Bargh, John A., and Tanya L. Chartrand.

1999. The Unbearable Automaticity of Being. *American Psychologist* 54: 462-479.

Barnett, Homer G.

1953 *Innovation*. New York: McGraw-Hill. Pp 1-16, 181-266.

D'Andrade

1995 *The Development of Cognitive Anthropology*. Cambridge: CUP. Chapters 8, 9

Cosmides, Leda, and John Tooby,

1992 Cognitive Adaptations for Social Exchange. Pp. 163-228. In *The Adapted Mind*, J.H. Barkow, L. Cosmides, and J. Tooby, eds. NY: Oxford University Press.

WEEK 5. Feb 26. How does the mind work? part II, emotion

Mandler G

1997 *Human Nature Explored*. NY: Oxford Univ Press, 1997. Chapter 6

McGaugh, James L.

- 2000 Memory – a Century of Consolidation. *Science* 287:248-251.  
Cardinal, R.N., J.A. Parkinson, J. Hall, and B.J. Everitt  
2002 Emotion and Motivation: the Role of the Amygdala, Ventral Striatum, and Prefrontal Cortex. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews* 26: 321-352.  
McNaughton, Neil, and Philip J. Corr  
2004 A Two-Dimensional Neuropsychology of Defense: Fear/Anxiety and Defensive Distance. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews* 28: 285-305.  
de Quervain DF-J et al.  
2004 The Neural Basis of Altruistic Punishment. *Science* 305:1254-1258. With Knutson B. Sweet Revenge? *Science* 2004;305:1246-1247.

WEEK 6. Mar 4. What is intelligence?

- Jerison, H.J.  
1973 *Evolution of the Brain and Intelligence*. New York: Academic Press. Selections.  
2001 On Theory in Comparative Psychology. In, *The Evolution of Intelligence* R.J. Sternberg and J.C. Kaufman, eds. Pp. 251-288. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc.  
Pepperberg, Irene M.  
2001 Evolution of Avian Intelligence, With an Emphasis on Grey Parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) In, *The Evolution of Intelligence* R.J. Sternberg and J.C. Kaufman, eds. Pp. 315-337. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc.  
Handwerker, W.P.  
1989 The Origins and Evolution of Culture. *American Anthropologist* 91:  
Garlick, Dennis  
2002 Understanding the Nature of the General Factor of Intelligence. *Psychological Review* 109: 116-136.

WEEK 7. Mar 18. What is *human* intelligence?

- Plotkin, Henry.  
2001 Intelligence as Predisposed Skeptical Induction Engines. In, *The Evolution of Intelligence* R.J. Sternberg and J.C. Kaufman, eds. Pp. 339-358. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc.  
Cosmides, Leda and John Tooby  
2001 Unraveling the Enigma of Human Intelligence. In, *The Evolution of Intelligence* R.J. Sternberg and J.C. Kaufman, eds. Pp. 145-198. CT: Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc.  
Premack, David  
2004 Is Language the Key to Human Intelligence? *Science* 303:318-320.  
Corballis, Michael C.  
2004 The Origins of Modernity: Was Autonomous Speech the Critical Factor? *Psychological Review* 111: 543-552.  
D'Andrade, Roy  
2002 Cultural Darwinism and Language. *American Anthropologist* 104:223-232.

WEEK 8. April 1. How does the mind work? part III, social learning

- Bandura, Albert  
2001 Social Cognitive Theory. *Annual Review of Psychology* 52: 1-26.  
Henrich, Joseph, and Richard McElreath  
2003 The Evolution of Cultural Evolution. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 12: 123-135; *recommended supplement*: Boyd, Robert and Peter J. Richarson 1985 *Culture and the Evolutionary Process*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press. Pp. 60-80.  
Tomasello, Michael

- 2001 Cultural Transmission. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology* 32:135-146.  
Danchin, Etienne, Luc-Alain Giraldeau, Thomas J. Valone, and Richard H. Wagner  
2004 Public Information: From Nosy Neighbors to Cultural Evolution. *Science* 305:487-491.  
Reader, Simon M., and Kevin N. Laland  
2002 Social Intelligence, Innovation, and Enhanced Brain Size in Primates. *PNAS* 99:4436-4441.

- WEEK 9 April 8. How does the mind work? part IV, choices  
Shafir E, LeBoeuf RA. Rationality. *Annual Review of Psychology* 2002;53:491-517.  
Becker GS Crime and punishment: an economic approach. *Journal of Political Economy* 1968; 76:169-217  
Bueno de Mesquita B. Ruminations on Challenges to Prediction with Rational Choice Models. *Rationality and Society* 2003; 15: 136-147.  
Kahneman D. Maps of bounded rationality: Psychology for behavioral economics. *The American Economic Review* 2003;93:1449-1475.  
De Martino, B., Kumaran, D., Seymour, B. & Dolan, R.J. Frames, biases and rational decision-making in the human brain. *Science* 2006;313:684-687.  
Wildavsky A. Choosing Preferences by Constructing Institutions: *American Political Science Review* 1987; 81:3-21.

## THE ORIGIN OF CULTURES

- WEEK April 15, 22. What evolved, when, how, and why?  
Handwerker, *The Origin of Cultures* (2008)
- Week 12 April 29. Summation of assumptions, questions answered, and questions not yet answered.

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## ANTH 339

Spring 2008

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WEEK 0 Orientation: Definitions of culture, the construction of cultural change, co-evolution of biology & culture, genome to phenotype to mind to choices to cultures.

### PLASTICITY

WEEK 1 Do we exhibit distinctive forms of morphological, physiological, and historical plasticity?

### CULTURE & ITS PROPERTIES

WEEK 2 What is culture?

WEEK 3 In what sense, if at all, does culture exhibit superorganic, collective properties?

### MINDS & CULTURE

WEEK 4. How does the mind work? part I, cognition

WEEK 5. How does the mind work? part II, emotion

WEEK 6. What is intelligence?

WEEK 7. What is *human* intelligence?

WEEK 8. How does the mind work? part III, social learning

WEEK 9. How does the mind work? part IV, choices

### THE ORIGIN OF CULTURES

WEEK 10-11. What evolved when, how, and why?

WEEK 12. Summation of assumptions, questions answered, and questions not yet answered.