UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 1993
REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: May 2025
COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval)**:** September 2030
Course outline form version: 06/18/2021

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: ANTH 301	**Number of Credits:** 4 Course credit policy (105)
Course Full Title: Thinking Through Culture **Course Short Title:** Thinking Through Culture	
Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences	**Department/School:** Culture, Media, and Society

Calendar Description:

Considers selected themes and ideas in the anthropological study of culture, tracing their historical contexts, conceptual framing, theoretical importance, and ethnographic application, as well as the influence of feminist, post-colonial, and Indigenous critiques on disciplinary ideas and praxis.

Prerequisites (or NONE):	45 university-level credits including ANTH 102 and 3 additional credits of ANTH. Note: As of September 2025, prerequisites will change to 45 university-level credits including ANTH 102 and 3 credits of ANTH at the 200-level or higher.
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	

Antirequisite Courses *(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)*

Former course code/number:

Cross-listed with:

Equivalent course(s):

(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours

Lecture/seminar	**60**
Total hours	**60**

Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: ☒ No ☐ Yes

Course Details

Special Topics course: **No**
(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)

Directed Study course: **No**

Grading System: **Letter Grades**

Delivery Mode: **May be offered in multiple delivery modes**

Expected frequency: **Every other year**

Maximum enrolment (for information only)**: 25**

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

PLAR is available for this course.

Transfer Credit *(See **bctransferguide.ca**.)*

Transfer credit already exists: **Yes**

Submit outline for (re)articulation: **Yes**
(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)

Department approval	**Date of meeting:**	April 5, 2024
Faculty Council approval	**Date approved:**	May 3, 2024
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	**Date of meeting:**	September 27, 2024

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Utilize a strong working vocabulary of key theoretical concepts relating to the study of culture.
2. Articulate key ideas relevant to major theoretical discussions in anthropology (and related fields).
3. Critique the historical development of anthropological ideas using post-colonial and decolonizing approaches.
4. Apply key theoretical ideas to ethnographic research and inquiry.
5. Demonstrate reasoning and argumentation skills appropriate to the course disciplines.
6. Interpret theory critically.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Portfolio:	25%	Assignments:	50%	Final exam:	25%
	%		%		%

Details:

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. Open Educational Resources (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form.)*

	Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1.	Textbook	A. Lynn Bolles, Ruth Gomberg-Muñoz, Bernard C. Perley and Keri Vacanti Brondo	Anthropological Theory for the Twenty-First Century: A Critical Approach	2022
2.	Article	Nader, Laura	"Ethnography as Theory"	2011
3.	Article	Simpson, Audra	"On Ethnographic Refusal: Indigeneity, 'Voice' and Colonial Citizenship"	2007
4.	Online resource	McGranahan, Carole and Uzma Z. Rizvi, eds	Decolonizing Anthropology (*https://savageminds.org/2016/04/19/decolonizing-anthropology/*)	2016
5.	Online resource	Thomas, Deborah A. and Kamari Maxine Clarke	Can Anthropology be Decolonized? (*https://www.sapiens.org/culture/can-anthropology-be-decolonized/*)	2023

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

Course Content and Topics

- How to read theory
- The relationships of theory and methods
- Genealogy of theory, 1: from the armchair
- Genealogy of theory, 2: into the field
- Genealogy of theory, 3: functionalism and structuralism
- Evolution of theory, 1: feminist anthropology decentres androcentrism
- Evolution of theory, 2: interpretive, reflexive, and cultural turns
- Evolution of theory, 3: men writing cultures / women writing back
- Indigenous epistemologies and indigenous anthropologies
- Post-coloniality and decolonization
- Evolution of theory, 4: queer theories
- Evolution of theory, 5: the ontological turn and the post-human