

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER & AFRICAN STUDIES

INSTRUCTOR : DR. S. M. NANGENDO

NAF 304 : CONTEMPORARY THEORIES IN ANTHROPOLOGY

THIRD YEAR 2014/2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to contemporary theories in anthropology. What is theory?
2. Symbolic anthropology and interpretive anthropology (Some of the major theorists include Victor Turner, Clifford Geertz, Mary Douglas, David Schneider, Sidney Mintz, J. S. La Fontaine, Sherry B. Ortner, A. I. Richards, Max Weber).
3. Cognitive anthropology (Also known as semantic anthropology and ethnoscience. (Some the main theorists include Ward Goodenough, Stephen A. Tyler, Anthony F. C. Wallace).
4. Materialism, cultural ecology and human ecology. (The principal theorists include Marvin Harris, Pelto and Pelto, Julian Steward, Carol Ember, Elman Service, Robert F. Murphy, Eric Wolf, Morton Fried).
5. Functionalism and structuralism (including Structural-functionalism, psychological functionalism, neo-structuralism and post-structuralism (The main theorists are Claude Levi-Strauss, Radcliffe-Brown, Malinowski, Max Gluckman, Rodney Needman, Edmund Leach, Mary Douglas, Marcel Mauss, Evans E. Pritchard, Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, Louis Dumont, Marshall Sahlins).
6. Marxist anthropology, neo-Marxist anthropology, post-Marxist anthropology and socioecology. (Numerous proponents).

7. Modernism and post-modernism. (The major theorists are numerous but some are Foucault, Clifford Marcus, Melford Spiro).
8. Feminist theory and feminism: Waves of feminism including first-wave feminism, second-wave feminism, third-wave feminism and post-feminism. (Various proponents).

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