University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Theories in Anthropology, PG_00200967		
Field of study	Ethnology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	4.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	exam
Conducting unit	Division of New World Anthropology and Ethnic Studies -> Institute of Anthropology -> Faculty of History -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Anna Zadrożna	
	Teachers	dr Anna Zadrożna	

Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30	22.0	48.0	100

Subject objectives
1. To familiarize students with selected key theories in social and cultural anthropology, from the twentieth century to contemporary issues. 2. To situate ethnology and social and cultural anthropology within the theoretical landscape of the humanities and social sciences. 3. To develop the ability to relate anthropological theories to the topics and phenomena under study. 4. To acquire skills in synthesis and critical analysis of texts.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[ETNOMU2_U07] Has the ability to argue substantively using their own views and those of other authors, to formulate conclusions and produce synthetic summaries	K_U07 Has the ability to argue substantively using his own views and the views of other authors, formulate conclusions and create synthetic summaries in the field of theory in anthropology	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[ETNOMU2_W05] Has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the major trends in the development of cultural and religious studies within the field of ethnology, as well as their significance in explaining the fundamental dilemmas of modern civilization	K_W05 Has in-depth knowledge of the main developments and major new developments in anthropological theories	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[ETNOMU2_U05] Has the ability to integrate knowledge in the field of ethnology and cultural anthropology, and to apply it in non-typical professional situations	K_U05 Has the ability to integrate knowledge of theory in anthropology and its applications in unusual professional situations	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[ETNOMU2_K01] Critically evaluates acquired knowledge, personal and social competences; is prepared to critically evaluate information received	K_K01 Critically evaluates one's knowledge, personal and social competences; is ready to critically evaluate received information in the field of anthropological theories	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[ETNOMU2_W04] Has in-depth knowledge of the relationship between ethnology and cultural anthropology and other humanities and social sciences	K_W04 Has in-depth knowledge of the relationship of anthropological theories with other humanities and social sciences, allowing the integration of perspectives appropriate to several scientific disciplines.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[ETNOMU2_W01] Has in-depth knowledge of the specific subject matter and methodology of ethnology and cultural anthropology, which they are able to develop and creatively apply in professional activity	K_W01 Has in-depth knowledge of the theoretical specifics of ethnology and cultural anthropology, which he is able to develop and creatively apply in professional activity	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[ETNOMU2_U06] Is able to carry out a critical analysis and interpretation of various types of cultural products, applying original approaches, taking into account new developments in the humanities in order to determine their meanings, social impact, place in the historical-cultural process	K_U06 Be able to carry out critical analysis and interpretation of different types of theory in anthropology	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion

Subject contents

- Mapping Paradigms and Theoretical Orientations in Anthropology
- The Boasian School: Historical Particularism, Cultural Relativism, Culture and Personality
- Structuralism and the French School
- Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology: Culture as Meaning, Ritual, and Performance
- The Crisis of Representation and Postmodernism
- Power, Politics, and Economy: Marxism, Discourse, Bourdieu, and Foucault
- Orientalism, Postcolonialism, and Globalization
- Gender, the Body, and Intersectionality: Feminist Critique and Embodiment
- The Ontological Turn: Perspectivism, Nature-Culture Relations, and Relationality
- Posthumanism, Materialism, and New Materialism
- Affect Theory
- Temporality: Anthropology of the Past, Future, Hope, and Anxiety
- More-than-Human Anthropology and the Anthropocene
- Anthropology and Other Fields of Knowledge: Science and Technology Studies (STS), Philosophy, Human Geography; Transdisciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
exam	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	(selected chapters) Barnard, Alan (2000) History and Theory in Anthropology. Cambridge (tłumaczenie książki na język polski dostępne jest w bibliotece UG). Moore, H. L., & Sanders, T. (Eds.). (2013). *Anthropology in theory: issues in epistemology*. John Wiley & Sons. Herzfeld, M. (1997). Anthropology: a practice of theory. *International social science journal*, *49*(153), 301-318.
	Supplementary literature	T. Bulinski, M. Kairski, Introduction, in T. Bulinski, M. Kairski (eds.), Dreams, trophies, genes and the dead. "Warfare" in pre-state societies on the example of the Amazon, 2006 M. Harris, Cows, pigs, wars and witches, ch. III S.A. Tyler, Introduction to the methods of cognitive anthropology, in M. Buchowski (ed.), American Cognitive Anthropology, 1993 S. Ortner, On cardinal symbols, in M. Kempny, E. Nowicka (eds.), Cultural research, vol. I, 2003; C. Geertz, Interpretations of Cultures, Cracow 2005, ch. 15. J. Turner, Structure of sociological theories, 2012, pp. 593-603 Foucault, Michel (2013). *Archaeology of knowledge*. Routledge. Okely, Judith (2020). *Anthropological practice: Fieldwork and the ethnographic method*. Routledge.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Explain the difference between posthumanism and interpretative approach in anthropological theories.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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