

# ANTH 500

## SEMINAR IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY

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*Instructor: Dr. Daromir Rudnyckyj*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course explores a range of perspectives in anthropological theory, paying particular attention to their underlying epistemological frames and implications for anthropological practice. More specifically the focus is on: understanding the central conceptual innovations and debates in contemporary anthropological theory; processes of anthropological knowledge production; and the problems and opportunities of anthropological representation. The course begins with a focus on foundational interventions and debates that will lay the groundwork for our consideration of topical foci that the department has identified as integrative research themes:

- 1) Visual Anthropology & Materiality
- 2) Space, Place, Knowledge, Power
- 3) Culture, Inequality & Health
- 4) Ecology & Evolution

We will explore these topics and others by critically engaging with selected readings, working to identify their grounding assumptions and analytical frames, and exploring the implications for analytical understanding and conceptual development.

### **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

Assignments aim to foster critical engagement central both to the design of research and to the articulation of intellectual fields; comprehension of contemporary debates in anthropological representation; analytical writing skills; and modes of oral presentation and effective communication.