This course tracks key developments in the history of anthropological theory from the late nineteenth century to the present. Readings and lectures will focus our attention on changing definitions of anthropology’s subjects, objects, and methods across several prominent schools of thought, including but not limited to British social anthropology, French structuralism, and American cultural anthropology.

How have these and other trends in anthropological theory conceived of the notions of culture, society, and the subject? How have they helped us think about meaning, practice, and power? How do contemporary anthropological works build on and challenge these intellectual legacies?