

**Anthropology 1120 – Winter 2008**  
**Week 3 Lecture Outline**

**A. Introduction**

i. Geography of the NWC

- classic example of a culture area

**B. Early Research**

i. Boas (1858-1942)

- salvage anthropology
- historical particularism
- cultural relativism; worked to refute racist evolution

ii. McIlwraith (1899-1964)

- salvage paradigm and genealogical method; culture reconstruction
- intensive study of a limited area
- lived with Nuxalk for longer than other field researchers tended to do

**C. NWC Social and Ceremonial Life**

i. Family Structures, Descent, and Marriage

- descent groups (family and extended family) are recognizable units of social organization
- descent systems – patrilineal, matrilineal, bilateral
- throughout the coast they are enduring and permanent; differ throughout coast
- go back to specific demonstrable or mythological ancestors (clans, lineages)
- they are ceremonial groups, marriage groups, resource owning groups
- crests versus names

ii. Social Organization and Stratification

- it is the corporate family group which dominates social organization on the northwest coast
- On-going debate over the importance of rank versus class
- Rank and class denoted by attention to crests and names
- Idea that rank and class actually work together in same system

iii. Potlatch and Discussion of Readings