

Anthropology 1120 – Winter 2012
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