

ESSAYS

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

University of Houston / Spring 2004 / J. Crowder

OBJECTIVE

In this exercise you will take an anthropological perspective in your personal response to presented material. You will have the choice of reacting to either an assigned movie or reading from P&B (see the below options for the appropriate essays). Please do not summarize or paraphrase the text or film, instead write about how it is anthropological in scope. For example, what concepts are considered? How? Why? Become the anthropologist and describe what issues are important and whether these are adequately covered. What is overlooked? What did you learn? What part of the argument do you agree or disagree with, why? Explain.

LAYOUT

In no more than two typed pages (1.5 or 2 spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 pt. font, stapled) react to the movie or article in the first person. Be sure to use complete sentences and watch for grammatical and spelling mistakes. **NO COVER SHEETS!** At the upper left hand side of page one place your name, and on the next line place your social security number. Center your title on the third line and begin your essay on the fourth line (these top three lines may be single-spaced). If your paper does not conform to *any* of these regulations, it will NOT be accepted. DO NOT include citations or outside sources; this essay should only be from your perspective. If you have any questions, PLEASE ask me well before the due date.

GRADING

Your essay will be graded on the identification of anthropological issues and explanation of why they are important to the film or article. As well, it should present your own opinion about the issue(s) based upon readings, lectures or other personal experiences. In other words, you have limited space to express yourself, so take some time to think about the points you want to make and present them in a concise, straightforward manner, including a logical introduction, body and conclusion. While spelling and grammar errors will not directly decrease your grade, such mistakes detract from the content and message of the essay. Good anthropological content is the goal of this exercise. There will be two ESSAYS this term, each is worth 10% of your final grade.

- A — Exceptional papers; these will clearly illustrate thoughtful consideration and logical presentation of the material without errors.
- B — Good essays; these will have solid content and structure with above-average discussion concerning your personal reaction to the presented material.
- C — Average essays; these will satisfactorily address the objective and comply with the methodology.
- D — Poor essays; these will have little structure and content that does not adequately discuss anthropological issues nor successfully present a thoughtful personal perspective.
- F — Failing essay; these essays will not demonstrate much energy directed toward the exercise and contain significant factual, grammatical and structural errors.

ESSAY 1 (March 22nd)

Movies: any film or slide show presented in class before the due date.

Readings: P&B CHs: 4, 8, 13, 20.

ESSAY 2 (April 26th)

Movies: any film presented in class before the due date.

Readings: P&B CHs: 28, 30, 35, 36