

## Introduction to Anthropology (SOAN 102) — Fall 2022 — Midterm Study Guide

### These will be the directions for the exam:

In answering the question below [one of the questions on the list provided in the study guide will be chosen], reflect on *all readings, lectures, and any additional content* from the first half of the course, and draw on them liberally, but appropriately, to formulate a clear, detailed, but concise response. This is a closed note, closed book test, but you will be provided with a list of all readings completed thus far as a reference.

Your response essay should demonstrate not just a thorough familiarity with course material, but a mastery of key ideas, theories, and examples, along with an ability to synthesize and draw connections between them. Excellent answers will cite a *wide variety of relevant examples* from readings and class sessions throughout the first half of the semester, demonstrate your ability to make *original connections*, as well as discuss that literature which is most directly referenced by the question.

### Grading rubric for exam essays – students will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Mastery of core concepts:** How clearly and accurately your response communicates core ideas, concepts, and theory from the course, as well as the depth of your discussion.
2. **Mastery of course material:** The diversity and detail of examples you bring into your discussion of those core ideas, including examples from a number of relevant lectures *and* readings. As specified in individual questions it is recommended you bring in approximately 4-5 or more varied examples *from the class*, focusing on those details that connect them coherently to the question.
3. **Focus and critical thinking:** The clarity and focus of your essay, and your ability to synthesize course material in a way that addresses the question thoughtfully while demonstrating critical thinking skills in forging original connections with course material and with your own outside example.

### One of the following questions will be chosen as the exam question:

1. How have the themes of naïve realism and symbolic interactionism manifested across the literature we have read thus far in the course, as well as our in-class discussions? Thinking critically about the course, where have you observed examples of these concepts in material wherein they were not overtly discussed? In answering this question, you should discuss 4-5 cases/examples from readings or lecture, covering 3 or more weeks of the class, and one outside example of your own.
2. In considering all the case studies we have read or discussed in class (including that majority that does not address it directly), where and in what contexts has the idea of linguistic relativity, or the notion that language shapes perception and worldview, manifested? In answering this question, you should discuss 4-5 or more cases/examples from readings or lecture, no more than 2 of which may be from Week 4, and one outside example of your own.

3. What is the concept of “holism” in anthropology, how is it put into practice through particular research methods or approaches, and in what ways does it distinguish the discipline from other social sciences? Looking across the semester thus far, how have holistic approaches to research and interdisciplinarity led to information, insights, or conclusions that might not have otherwise been discovered? In answering this question, you should discuss 4-5 cases/examples from readings or lecture, covering 3 or more weeks of the class, and one outside example of your own.
4. How have the themes of cultural relativism and ethnocentrism manifested across the literature we have read thus far in the course, as well as our in-class discussions? What messages have the authors communicated regarding them? Thinking critically about the course thus far, where have you observed these ideas coming up in material wherein it was *not overtly discussed*? In answering this question, you should discuss 4-5 cases/examples from readings or lecture, covering 3 or more weeks of the class, and one outside example of your own.
5. In thinking over the first half of the semester, what roles have kinship and family relationships played across different case studies and chapters/articles? In what ways have kinship concerns overlapped with other areas of social life, including gender identity, subsistence, and social organization? In answering this question, you should discuss 4-5 cases/examples from readings or lecture, from 3 or more weeks of class, and one outside example of your own.
6. Think back on the critiques of forager studies like Richard Lee’s and Marjorie Shostak’s discussed in class (e.g. emphasizing a “gentle moral critique of modernity”), and the “denial of coevalness.” In what ways do you think the authors we have read until now have fallen into the trap of shaping their ethnographies toward easily consumed messages that cast their subjects as representing an idealized “past” and/or offer an implied critique of modernity? Be specific in explaining how you believe they may have done this. In answering this question, you should discuss 3 or more cases/examples from readings or lecture, covering two or more weeks of the class, and one outside example of the denial of coevalness from scholarship, literature, or popular culture.