

Anthropology 1001, Introduction to Anthropology

Early Summer (May and June), 2012
Instructor: Daniel Tubb

CRITICAL REFLECTION AND FOLLOW-UP POST GUIDE

Each Critical Reflection Post is intended to demonstrate your understanding and engagement with each class's reading, with course material (the Weiner text, any films, as well as class lectures), and with the core anthropological themes taught, through reflection on course content and by making connections to everyday phenomena (e.g., media reports, public events, and your own personal experience). The purpose is also to stimulate online discussion with other students.

In place of conventional academic writing, Critical Reflection Posts and Follow-up Posts (i.e. Posts) will not be graded for style, spelling, or grammar. However, Posts will be read by other students, and you are encouraged to carefully edit them to present your ideas in the best possible light

With each Follow-up Post students are encouraged to engage with, respond to, and discuss other people's Posts. You should expand on points, raise issues, ask questions, discuss critical concerns, and politely further the discussion. You may not agree with the Post you are following up on, but your follow-up should be polite, constructive, and substantive. Follow-up Posts on responses to your own Critical Reflection Posts are acceptable and encouraged.

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate that you have completed the required readings for the week and have given those readings some thought. It is expected that you put some effort into your Posts, which are not meant to be your notes.

Your Critical Reflection Posts may either be on what you feel is the *most* interesting, confusing, exciting, contradictory, or even frustrating about the text and class material etc., etc. Or, you may respond to questions that I will post to each discussion thread before class.

Critical Reflection Posts must be posted by 5:00 pm the day following the class (i.e. Wednesday and Friday). All Follow-up Posts must be posted by 11:55 pm on the Sunday night at the end of the week you are responding to. After these deadlines, no further Posts will be graded.

You are required to reach a specific word count of 300 words for Critical Reflection Posts, and 50 words for Follow-up Posts. Although I will not grade responses that are shorter than this, but a post may be slightly longer.

Critical Reflection Posts and Follow-up Posts are to be posted to the WebCT discussion board feature in the thread for the class your are posting on. The intention is to facilitate discussion, and your posts will be accessible by your class mates who are encouraged to write Follow-Up Posts to your comments.

Grading Guidelines

Each Critical Reflection Post will be worth two marks, and each a Follow-up Post will be worth one mark. Shortly following the posting deadline, I will provide grades via WebCT and I may

comment privately to you on your work. Each Post will be graded out of 10, based on the following factors.

- Does the Post show evidence of having read all the material?
- Is the Post *concise* and *to the point*? Make every word count, and don't waste space.
- Does the Post show evidence of thinking about the course material beyond just summarizing it?
- Does your Post include your reflections on and reactions to course material (with reasons for your opinions etc.)?
- Does your Post cover many points raised in the course material, or just a few?
- Does the Post include relevant evidence to support its own argument?
- Do you *explain what you think* about the issues raised in the course material and *why*?
- Do you contribute to online discussion, or do you *just* summarize the readings or tell your classmates what the authors have to say, what I said, or what a film was about?
- Do you discuss *ideas* found in a class course material, or do you summarize it? *Don't* discuss a course content from beginning to end, rather, discuss what is most important, interesting, confusing, etc.
- Do you focus on the *content* of the course material rather than *its style*?
- Regarding the Follow-up Posts do they involve genuine interaction with and replies to other students Posts?
- Zero points will be given for a Post that is vague and general, indicating that the reading was not effectively done.

Grading Schema

- A+, A, A-: Consistently excellent work; wide knowledge of the course material; ability to integrate and synthesize
- B+, B, B-: Very good work; above average grasp of the course material
- C+, C, C-: Average performance; *reading requirements met*; no particular ability to integrate and analyze
- D+, D, D-: Less than satisfactory performance; reading requirements not met; but passing grade
- F: Failure; no academic credit

Netiquette

As all posts will be available to other students, and the purpose of the Posts are to facilitate critical reflection and discussion. The standard for online discussions of "netiquette" must be followed at all time. Networked discussions require that all participation and all Posts be focused on the topic at hand, they must not be personalized, and they must be substantive in nature. While you may certainly disagree with others, and I encourage you to do so respectfully. You may express strong beliefs or emotions, but you may not get so carried away that you lose all perspective on the course itself.