

## ANTH 3006 Contemporary Theories in Anthropology – TAKE-HOME EXAM

Due: Wednesday December 22, 2010 by 4 pm. Please drop a hard copy at the Department of Sociology & Anthropology drop-box (B742 Loeb) AND send me an electronic copy at [blair\\_rutherford@carleton.ca](mailto:blair_rutherford@carleton.ca) .

Worth: 40 % of final mark

NB: Proper citation in your exam is necessary (e.g. Author Year: Page Number[]). However, only put sources used from outside the syllabus in a Bibliography – though you do NOT need to cite sources from outside the syllabus. Marks will be deducted for poor citations.

PLAGIARISM will NOT be tolerated, including of sources from the syllabus.

Answer Question 1 (30% of final grade) and EITHER Question 2 or Question 3 (worth 10% of final grade)

1. Henrietta Moore (1999:5) has written “it has become clear that it is no longer possible to speak of coherent theoretical approaches that are neatly delineated from others. Theories are themselves more composite, more partial and more eclectic.” Common conceptual foci in this eclectic conceptual toolkit for socio-cultural anthropologists in North America today include practice, power, history, and meaning. With this in mind, briefly discuss the following 7 approaches discussed in this course, drawing out the key concepts put forth in each as discussed in the readings and/or in the lectures (4 points for each; 2 points for overall argument).

- i) Bourdieu’s approach to *habitus*;
- ii) a focus on performance in terms of gender (Butler) and race (McCallum);
- iii) Political economy approaches to hegemony and neoliberalism;
- iv) Foucauldian understandings of power and discourse;
- v) Postcolonial approaches to categories of analysis;
- vi) Approaches to globalization that focus on scale and flow (Tsing and Appadurai);
- vii) Approaches to material objects and affect

2. “Culture” continues to be a key concept in the discipline while it is also increasingly problematized and criticized. Explain this by a) discussing the hermeneutic approach to “culture” as exemplified by Geertz’s writings in the 1970s (3 points); b) the challenge to it coming from the “literary turn” and the focus on the “invention of culture” approaches (4 points); and c) any other approach that examines “culture” from this course which you do NOT discuss in your answer to Question 1 (3 points).

3. Anthropological research relies heavily on the anthropologist as the tool of research, which has always led to a disciplinary focus on disciplining the observation of the anthropologist. However, increasingly there has been a growing theoretical focus in socio-cultural anthropology on observing the observer. Explain what this means and describe some of this emergent theoretical focus through a) David Scott’s postcolonial critique; b) Gupta and Ferguson’s analysis of “the field” in Anthropology; and c) the focus on engaged anthropology, as exemplified by 2 of the three readings for that topic in the course (10 points total).