ANTH 380/Traditional Cultures
Fall 2013
Final Exam Study Guide

The exam is scheduled for Tuesday December 17th at 11:30 AM. It will be worth 100 points and it will not be cumulative. The exam format will be multiple choice, true-false, and matching questions, as well as an essay or two. There will be questions from the assigned ethnographies: The Trobriand Islanders, The Headman Was a Woman, and Nunavut Generations.

If you’re in doubt about the basics of the following topics I suggest you check the following website:
http://anthro.palomar.edu/tutorials/cultural.htm

Political organization, law & social control; power vs. authority; what keeps tribes together?

Read: James Woodburn: Egalitarian Societies; Marshall Sahlins: Poor Man, Rich Man, Big Man, Chief; Marvin Harris: Life Without Chiefs (Life Without Chiefs reading questions); Jeane Briggs: Conflict Management in a Modern Inuit Community. Political Organization; Social Control

- Be familiar with the 4 basic types of political organization identified by anthropologists.
- How are power and authority distributed in each type?
- How did The Sultan’s Burden illustrate changes taking place in traditional political systems in West Africa?
- How (and why) does Woodburn distinguish between different types of egalitarian societies?
- How is order and control maintained in the absence of centralized political authority? Think tribes dude.
- What are sodalities? In what types of societies are they found? Why are they important?
- What are sumptuary rules? In what types of societies are they found? Why are they important?

Religion, the supernatural, and ecology; ancestral spirits and the living; shamanism.

Read: G. Reichel-Dolmatoff: Cosmology as Ecological Analysis: A View From the Rainforest; Lyle B. Steadman, Craig T. Palmer, and Christopher F. Tilley: The Universality of Ancestor Worship; Lyle B Steadman and Craig T. Palmer: Visiting Dead Ancestors: Shamans as Interpreters of Religious Tradition; Roy Rappaport: Ritual Regulation of Environmental Relations Among a New Guinea People. Anthropology of Religion

- What do anthropologists mean by religion?
- What are possible functions of religion identified by anthropologists and other social scientists?
- How can religion interface with ecology? What examples can you identify from the assigned readings? (e.g., Rappaport on the Tsembaga Maring of New Guinea & Reichel-Dolmatoff on the Tukano or Colombia)
- What are myths and what functions do they have?
- What are rituals? What functions do they have in traditional societies? Specifically, what do rites of passage do?
- Why are ancestors so important in African and Asian traditional societies? (Steadman, Palmer, & Tilley’s article)
- What role(s) do shamans play in traditional societies/cultures? (Steadman & Palmer’s article).

ANTH 380 Videos/video clips since midterm

- The Sultan’s Burden (film distributor’s website only; transcript available on class handout page)
- The Trobriand Islanders of Papua New Guinea (description only)
- Hunters of the Seal (not available online. Alternatively, you can try “A Glimpse of Human Ecology Through the Nomadic Life of Netsilik Inuit”)
- Hungry Ghost Festival
  - Taboos (Hungry Ghost Festival Pt1)
  - They struck lottery...(Hungry Ghost Festival Pt 2)
  - Origins of the Ghost Month (Hungry Ghost Festival Pt 3)
  - Cars & iPods offered (Hungry Ghost Festival Pt 4)