

Possible exam essay questions

Exam 2

Anthropology 101

Spring 2008

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ONE of the following questions will be the essay on your second exam.

1. Explain what anthropologists mean by the cultural construction of gender, and how gender connects with other social institutions such as kinship, religion, sexuality, subsistence patterns, etc. Use multiple examples from at least three different cultures. Be sure to include the Gebusi, and explain the notion of third gender.
2. Discuss anthropological approaches to ritual and religion. How does Geertz's definition of religion help anthropologists begin to examine the importance of religion and ritual within monotheistic, polytheistic, and animistic religions. What role does ritual play in bringing communities together? Be sure to discuss examples from at least three different cultures.
3. Discuss the importance and meaning of reciprocity as a system of exchange in at least three different cultures. When and how is reciprocity used? How does its use and meaning shed light on other social institutions within a culture (such as family/kinship, religion, subsistence, etc)? Be sure to include the Gebusi in both their longhouse and Nomad Station cultural forms.