ANTH 398 E – VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY – Winter 2007

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Course website: http://www.centrelink.org/ANTH398/

Assignment: Concept Essay
Due: Weds., 14 March, 2007, in class.
Value: 15% of the final course grade

Format: **1 inch margins on all sides, Times New Roman, 12 pt font**
Length: **750 words, not including Reference List, not including list of major works**
Bibliographic and citation format: see
http://www.library.mcgill.ca/human/SUBGUIDE/pdf/turab.pdf

(make sure that you follow the "**parenthetical references** with a **reference list** at the end of the paper" option as outlined in the document above. *Do not use footnotes or endnotes* in your paper, for any purpose)

See also the course website for further items to aid you in preparing a research paper.

Nature of the assignment:
This is a research paper for which you will do readings beyond, but not necessarily excluding, assigned class readings. There is no specified limit on how many sources, or which kinds (books, chapters in edited volumes, journal articles) you should use, but clearly initiative will be rewarded.

Purpose of the assignment:
Visual Anthropology is built and developed with the aid of a number of critical concepts, some of which are peculiar to visual anthropology, while others pertain to the wider anthropological discipline. In this essay, what we want to learn from you is:
  (a) what does the concept mean?
  (b) how is the concept used?
  (c) how did the concept emerge?
  (d) how is the concept important to visual anthropology?

Guidelines and Questions:
1. Choose *one* of the following concepts:

Ciné direct | Cine vérité | Documentary film | Erklarung | Ethnographic Present | Emic | Etic | Expressivism | External narrative | Formalism | Illustrative Ethnographic Film | Kino Pravda | Naturalism | Objective Recording | Observational cinema | Positivism | Realism | Reflexivity | Reportage Film | Revelatory Ethnographic Film | Romantic Primitivism | Salvage Ethnography | Scripted Filming | Verstehen

2. Research the concept—numerous strategies and sources are available, and your imagination and initiative will find the best combination. In the meantime, consider the following possible sources (locating them is left to you):
   (a) dictionaries of concepts in anthropology
   (b) encyclopedias of concepts and theories in anthropology
   (c) glossaries, in print and online
   (d) journal article searches using your chosen concept as a search term
   (e) web searches using your chosen concept as a search term

Note: be very cautious in how you use Internet sources. Make sure that you carefully evaluate the credibility and validity of the source, and while you may use sources such as *Wikipedia* it is recommended that you use such sources *only as a provider of leads to more credible sources*. In general terms, *do not* restrict your research to web pages alone. As a rule of thumb, your paper should be based on at least five print sources and no more than three web sources. Precisely indicate, using parenthetical references in your paper, where your information came from.

3. Address the four questions listed above under "Purpose of the assignment."

***At the very end of your assignment, please type, and then sign, as to whether or not you give me permission to *possibly* use all or part of your work to be published on future versions of the course website, with credit to you. My aim is to develop a definitive database of visual anthropology, with the aid of students, and as a resource uniquely offered by Concordia University to the wider public, and its students of course. *However, your decision to make your work available, or not, will have no bearing on the assessment of your paper.*

Deductions:

See the course policies on lateness in the syllabus.

Papers that show lack of proof reading, with repeated typographic or spelling errors, will lose 5% of the points assigned to the paper.

Papers without references or a bibliography will be treated as plagiarized productions.

Papers that exceed the specified length limit will lose 5% of the points assigned to the paper.

Finally, papers that do not follow the require citation and reference format will incur a deduction of 5% of the points for the paper.