

VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY -- Concordia University -- Dr. Maximilian Forte
Winter 2007
Mid-Term Exam

Preamble:

At one time it was common to hear or read the definition of anthropology as being "the science of man." Yet, what was most apparent is that the discipline fashioned itself as a "science" of *difference* in particular, with difference conceived in terms of either "race" or "culture." Then along came new technological ways of "picturing the Other." Seeing how pioneers of this discipline were driven to fashion the discipline as a respectable and credible science, the image had to be handled in very specific ways.

The problem:

Anthropologists had to demonstrate that they had precise ways of handling images scientifically, that they could fashion practices for exhibiting the Other in patently scientific ways.

The question:

How did anthropologists set about addressing the problem above? Develop your answer by considering the social context of early ethnographic photography, the reigning paradigms, the dominant conventions, the preferred techniques for creating a "scientific" ethnographic photography. In your conclusion, provide your own assessment of the value, validity and consistency (or otherwise) of this anthropological quest for scientific visual research.

This exam covers the period from session #1 up to and including session #5.

Mandatory format:

- ◆ name at the top of the first page
- ◆ all pages must be numbered
- ◆ 1 inch margins on all sides
- ◆ double-spaced
- ◆ Times New Roman 12 pt. font
- ◆ *No* footnotes or endnotes
- ◆ Use parenthetical references (see the style guide on the Assignments page of the course website) to refer to readings
- ◆ There is no need for a bibliography, unless you use any materials beyond assigned readings (which is not expected, nor necessarily credited)
- ◆ Essay format (no bullet points; complete sentences are required; introduction, main body, conclusion; proper grammar, correct spelling, absence of typographic errors)

Length:

No more than 1,000 words (or approximately four [4] double-spaced typed pages). You should avoid the "cut and paste" approach--work towards synthesis, and keep direct quotations to an absolute minimum.

Grade & Points:

This exam is worth 15% of the final course grade and will be marked out of 15 points. Five percent of the points will be deducted for any neglect of any one of the above guidelines.

Due date and time:

Your printed exam is due at the *start* of class on Wednesday, February 7, 2007, at 10:15am. No late exams will be accepted. (Anticipate possible setbacks and prepare backup plans: loss of computer files; damaged computer; inability to print at one given location--no computer-related, work-related nor transport-related issues will be accepted as excuses for a late exam. See the syllabus for all other relevant details concerning late exams.)