

Mid-term, take-home essay exam
ANTH 423, POLITICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Fall 2007

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Power. The concept is central to political anthropology, which raises the question of what is politics in relation to power, and where do we find power. For example, in some early anthropological work on “stateless societies” one dominant notion was that although we might find something that can be called politics, we cannot find “power.” (We should be careful not to trivialize definitions and the theoretical loads they carry, since we cannot communicate without these words and without some explicit understandings of what these words mean.) With respect to the readings assigned for Part One of the course, some of our class discussions, and some of the lecture material, please focus on the question of how power has been defined in different ways (and the perspectives these definitions entail), where power is to be found, and how power operates. As this is one of the cornerstones of this course, upon which the rest of the course is built, please invest a significant amount of time in, first, reflecting on this question, and second preparing and planning your essay response.

About the question:

In preparing your essays, aim for reasoned, logically organized, concise arguments. To assist you in better focusing your work, word limits apply (see below). Please proof read your work before submitting it. This essay exam is marked out of 25 points, and it is worth 25% of your final grade for the course. Please do not email the course director during the assignment period asking for advice on how to answer your questions, definitions of terms used, or asking for a review of drafts of your answers before you submit your work.

- **Due: Wednesday, October 10, 2007, in class, at the start of class.** Any exam received after the start of class on that day will receive a 5% point deduction, and an additional 5% point deduction for every day that it is late, including weekends, with each new day starting at 1:15pm. If you are late, email your exam to confirm that it is done, but in order to receive a grade, please deposit a printed copy in the Departmental mailbox for Max Forte. Papers not received in printed form will not be graded.
- For the purposes of this exam only, no formal referencing format is required. If quoting an author, simply refer to the author by surname, i.e., (Smith 1992: 54). You do not need to formally reference lecture notes.
- If you are quoting sources other than the assigned readings, please cite them within the main text of your essay, and then include them in a bibliography at the end. *However, please note, the mere fact of using and/or listing additional sources will not guarantee a higher grade.*
- The **maximum** allowable word limit is **1,250 words**, which is usually about five, typed, double-spaced pages in 12 point Times New Roman font. Your essay *can* be shorter than that.
- Please number all pages, and staple them together. Missing pages are not the responsibility of the course director, nor will “replacement” pages be accepted after receipt of the exam.
- At the top of your paper, write your full name **IN BOLD CAPITALS**. Papers received without a name will not be graded.