

DUE: MARCH 18, 2009

Anthropology, Ethnography, and Colonialism

[You can download a copy of this assignment sheet from the course website:
<http://www.openanthropology.org/ANTH601/essay2.pdf>]

Diane Lewis wrote, "Anthropology emerged from the colonial expansion of Europe. Colonialism structured the relationship between anthropologists and the people they studied and had an effect on methodological and conceptual formulations in the discipline. For example, the role of 'objective outsider' with its resultant professional exploitation of subject matter can be viewed as an academic manifestation of colonialism."

In the second section of the course, we examined some of the history, and interpretations of the history of anthropological practice putatively in the service of colonialism. There appear to be differing levels of disagreement among a number of the authors concerning the extent to which one can justifiably argue that anthropology has been a so-called "handmaiden" of colonialism. There also appear to be differences in understanding on what level, and in what form, we are to perceive the coloniality of anthropology, whether on epistemological, methodological, social, or political levels.

Overall, what is your evaluation of the state of the argument that anthropology has been colonialist? What conclusions do you draw from the diverse points of view that were presented? Which of the arguments presented do you think was strongest, and why?

You should not aim for a series of (possibly disjointed) summaries of all of the readings, nor is a complete and faithful overview of each article or chapter expected. Aim for synthesis. Focus on common threads, key debates, central questions, leading concepts.

Format:

The *maximum* allowed length for the body of this essay is 5 pages.

Format: double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, with 1-inch margins on all sides of the paper, stapled, with your name on the paper.

Do not use footnotes or endnotes, for any purpose.

Citation & references format (clickable link on the course website for essay1.pdf):

<http://www.library.mcgill.ca/human/SUBGUIDE/pdf/turab.pdf>

[follow the "parenthetical references with reference list at the end of the paper" option...except that you are **not** required to produce a list of references unless you used sources in addition to assigned readings]