

<p style="text-align: center;">Anthropology 1160 Essay Assignment: A Review Essay Fall 2008</p>

This outline covers all written assignments for the term. They are:

- Prospectus – Worth 15% Due in Class September 30
- Introductory Paragraph(s) – Worth 10% Due in Class on October 30
- Essay – Worth 25% Due in Class November 25

Introduction

The purpose of the essay assignment is to allow you to explore a topic of specific interest related to the anthropology of Canada in greater detail than the course permits. There are two options. The first possibility is a “review of articles” assignment similar to the type of review essays commonly written by anthropologists in academic journals. Papers of this sort require that you choose two sources (book chapters, academic articles) on a particular topic, summarize the source material, and offer some evaluation of their value to the topic at hand.

The second option is a newspaper article review essay. This essay requires you to evaluate four weeks worth of newspapers or other news media in Canada and write about the media’s coverage of aboriginal issues. Your articles must be current, which is to say that they must be dated within this semester. You may, however, choose any newspapers you wish, from on-line papers like theyee.ca to traditional print papers like the Vancouver Sun. A review of the coverage in aboriginal papers is also possible.

For both types of assignments, I expect you to submit a prospectus outlining your topic, tentative thesis, and source material. Then, a few weeks later, I require you to submit your introductory paragraph or paragraphs. I see the preliminary work as critical to developing a sound essay and I will provide timely comments on both preliminary assignments.

I encourage you to spend a week or so considering a topic and then consult with me about your plans. I am happy to discuss topics and sources with you and, later in the term, the details of your analysis.

General Format for Both Final Essays

Your papers must be typewritten in sentences and paragraphs, double spaced, and have one inch margins. Please indent your paragraphs. You should aim for an essay of about seven or eight pages, or, of about 2000 words. Please include a title page and an original title which gives the paper some direction. Your paper must be built around a thesis statement. Evidence supporting your thesis will be presented in the body of the paper. You must acknowledge all quotations and paraphrased material with proper citations and provide a list of references cited for each source used in the text at the end of the paper. If you do not cite your sources sufficiently, your paper will be returned to you with a grade of zero.

Please note: good writing counts. Sloppy prose or arguments that are hard to follow will result in a lower grade. I would encourage you to make time to prepare more than one draft of your essay and to have it proof-read by a friend.

Essay Submission and Late Penalties

The prospectus is due in class on September 30. I will deduct 1 point / week starting October 1. Your introductory paragraphs are due in class on October 30. I will deduct 1 point / week starting October 31. Essays are due in class on November 25. I will deduct 2 points / week if it is late. No assignments will be accepted after the final quiz. All assignments must be submitted in hardcopy.

Option 1: Operational Details for a *Review Essay*, or, *A Critical Review of Sources*

Several steps are required for producing an essay of high quality. They include:

- a) Choosing a topic of interest to you related to the themes and material of the course. The topic must be related to Canada and First Nations people (past or present). If you have doubts about your topic, please see me.
- b) Using library research, select two journal articles, books, or book chapters about your topic. No more than one article, report, or chapter from a single issue of a journal or book is allowed. The documents you choose must be anthropological in nature and taken from scholarly publications only. These publications might include: *Anthropologica*, *BC Studies*, *American Anthropologist*, *American Antiquity*, *The Handbook of North American Indians*. If you are unsure about a source, please ask me. Class readings are not acceptable.
- c) Preparing a prospectus outlining your topic, the two sources, and a tentative thesis. See below. (This is due on September 30, 2008.)
- d) Writing an introductory paragraph which tells me your topic, the sources you are reviewing, and your thesis. This thesis will include a statement about the direction of your critique. (This is due on October 30, 2008.)
- e) Writing an essay which discusses the topic and its coverage of your articles. You must:
 - a. Introduce the paper: Here, you should identify the theme of the essay and your thesis.
 - b. Summarize the articles: The summaries should emphasize the material within the sources that pertains to your topic.
 - c. Identify the value of the source material to your topic. You might ask whether or not the sources are actually useful for studying this topic. If you find that your source materials are weak or not overly useful, let me know in the paper.
 - d. Apply what you have learned in the course lectures and readings: You should demonstrate the relevance of the sources to the Anthropology of Canada. This is the context for your summaries.
 - e. Draw a conclusion: This usually happens at the end of the paper and often includes a restatement of your thesis with a general review of the summarized material.

The goal is to demonstrate your insights into anthropological research about First Nations people through the evaluation of the sources. There are components of both summarizing your articles and critiquing or commenting on them based on the materials in the course. And, while I expect to see each of the above components in your essay, the actual structure of your text might vary. Some of you might write summaries and then the critiques; others might integrate those two components.

Requirements for the Prospectus (Due on September 30, 2008)

You must submit a 350 word statement about your research plans. I expect that you will tell me what your topic is and provide me with the citations to the two articles, book chapters, reports, etc. you have chosen to use. I also expect a general or tentative thesis related to the topic and a brief discussion of the relationship of the articles to that thesis. Please also provide a working title for your essay. The prospectus must be typewritten and presented in sentences and paragraphs.

Requirements for the Introductory Paragraph (Due on October 30, 2008)

You must submit a paragraph or two which you expect to use to introduce your essay. (This should be the actual introductory paragraph you would submit with your final essay if the final essay was due today.) I expect anything from 1-2 paragraphs and one half to a full page of text. In the paragraph, you will introduce the topic covered by your two sources. You will also provide your thesis statement outlining the direction of your critique of the sources. A statement of introduction for each of the two sources would also be useful.

Evaluation of the Essays

Marks are based on:

- Writing succinct and effective summaries of each source;
- Evaluating the source material;
- Connecting the article topics to the themes of the course;
- Showing insight into the anthropology of Canadian First Nations;
- Writing in proper essay format, including paragraphs, sentences, and using proper bibliographic citations (see below).

Option 2: Operational Details for a *Review of Newspaper Articles*

Several steps are required for producing an essay of high quality. They include:

- a) Collecting a current news clipping file of at least four weeks worth of newspaper articles about aboriginal issues in Canada. The articles will come from one or more Canadian newspapers. Your file should include at minimum 12 articles (roughly 3/week) although the more coverage you find, the more robust your analysis will be. The articles must be current, within the time frame of our course.
- b) Writing a critical commentary on the quality of news coverage and its consequences for public opinion and understanding about aboriginal issues in Canada. In doing so, introduce your paper with an opening paragraph which identifies the direction and thesis of your essay. Then, summarize the themes found in your articles in subsequent paragraphs, and conclude your paper at the end. You should comment on the content of the articles and on their connection to themes in our course and readings. Your write-up should also include specific commentaries on the types of topics covered and omitted in the newspapers and the biases you see in the writing. Note: you need not summarize in detail every article you find. You should, however, quote and cite most articles as you build your list of themes and find support for your impressions of the coverage.
- c) Presenting a scrap book of some sort of your clippings with your written paper.

Requirements for the Prospectus (Due September 30, 2008):

You must submit a 350 word statement about your research plans. This includes, at minimum, a summary of the news sources you are using to conduct this research, a list of two or three themes identified in your newspaper article search, and a general and tentative thesis pertaining to the coverage of aboriginal issues in the news. The prospectus must be typewritten and presented in sentences and paragraphs.

Requirements for the Introductory Paragraph (Due on October 30, 2008)

You must submit a paragraph or two which you expect to use to introduce your essay. (This should be the actual introductory paragraph you would submit with your final essay if the final essay was due today.) I expect anything from 1-2 paragraphs and one half to a full page of text. In the paragraph, you will introduce the coverage of aboriginal affairs in the news with a statement about your overall thesis. This may be something like: 'news coverage is fair;' or, 'news coverage is highly biased towards non-native concerns about treaties,' or something like that. You should also identify a few of the themes that you discovered in your work and that you will be discussing in the paper.

Evaluation of Essay

Marks are based on:

- Producing a scrapbook of articles, relevant in number and topic;
- Summarizing the articles and overall themes;
- Connecting the news to themes in the class and to anthropology;
- Providing insight into the anthropology of Canada;
- Writing your paper in essay format, including paragraphs, sentences, and using proper bibliographic citations.

Other Notes

- Think about writing the review essay for a friend who is going to conduct research on your topic next semester. Your goal is to tell your friend about the sources you read and to describe their value to his or her upcoming research project.
- I would recommend you talk with me about your topic. I can help you refine the specific details of your study and direct you towards appropriate sources.
- You are welcome to propose to me 'different' kinds of sources for the review essay. In the past, I have allowed people to substitute one of their two academic/written sources for maps, videos, and websites. You must clear these alternatives with me.
- Examples of review essays (that is, reviews of multiple sources on general topics) are available in most scholarly journals. *BC Studies*, for example, publishes review essays in almost every issue. Check out the current issue (Summer/Autumn 2004) for an example of a review essay about environmental history in BC. It is on page 287.
- This paper is not simply a general research paper where you are permitted to cite only two sources. This is a specific kind of essay in which you summarize your source material and attend to the value of the sources to the topic at hand. You will do poorly if you try and write a general research paper for this assignment.
- You do not need to cite me or our lectures. Rather, if you use some general information about Canadian anthropology or history, cite the readings from the course. (Remember, these citations would be in addition to your two main sources.)
- If it makes it easier for you to organize your thoughts, you are welcome to break up your paper into subsections with section headings.

- Websites are not acceptable sources unless they are cleared with me in advance.
- Citing your source material, acknowledging quotations properly, and identifying paraphrased material is part of a proper and fair intellectual process. Please give credit where credit is due. You will receive a grade of zero if you are caught plagiarizing the work of others and you may be reported to the college dean. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, ask me or pick up the Douglas College guide to plagiarism. (Note: I have identified examples of plagiarized work several times in the past two years.)
- You may cite your material using the MLA, APA or anthropological citation systems. I have added a short guide to citing materials in anthropology and would encourage any of you planning to continue in anthropology to use this method. It is relatively straightforward and will be required for essays in anthropology at SFU or UBC.
- Your references cited page must have complete citations including both the name of the book or journal and the chapter title or article title.

A Short Guide to Citations and Bibliographies in Anthropology

Anthropologists use a system of 'internal footnoting' in their writing. The sources of all direct quotations must be cited in this way, as should any information paraphrased by you. Then, only the sources actually cited in the paper are listed on the 'References Cited' page at the end of your essay. The general style is illustrated with the following example from a research paper.

Note: I am happy to answer any questions about this style. Other examples are found throughout the *Handbook of North American Indians* series, available in the library.

Sample Text

First, Ellen and Harris note that the representation of traditional ecological knowledge results in its presentation *outside* of culture, despite a regular call to stop separating this knowledge from the people and situations in which it is generated, reproduced and transformed (Ellen and Harris 2000:25-26). In my mind, the sum of the data points on topographical maps is not equal to the entire social context despite the fact that the data is often used that way. Second, it is assumed that the value of TEK is derived from an origin in lived experience (Kuhn and Duerden 1996:74). Nadasdy comments:

... there are those who do not subscribe to this rigid distinction between humans and the environment [and] ... in the absence of a strict separation between humans and the environment, the very idea of separating 'ecological' from 'non-ecological' knowledge becomes nonsensical (Nadasdy 1999:4).

To use a Western definition of the physical environment denies native peoples the opportunity to teach me about their knowledge and conception of the world.

Explanations

Citations are offered after quoted and paraphrased material. Direct quotations shorter than three sentences are typed directly into the essay text and offset with quotation marks. Direct quotations longer than three lines are set off from the rest of the text using single spacing and indentations.

References Cited

Ellen, Roy F. and Holly Harris 2000 Introduction. In *Indigenous Environmental Knowledge and its Transformations: Critical Anthropological Perspectives*, Roy F. Ellen, Peter Parkes, and Alan Bisker, eds. Toronto: Harwood Academic Publishers, pp 1-35. (This is an example of a BOOK CHAPTER)

Kuhn, Richard G. and Frank Duerden 1996 A Review of Traditional Environmental Knowledge: An Interdisciplinary Canadian Perspective. *Culture* 16(1):71-84. (This is an example of a JOURNAL ARTICLE)

Maffi, Luisa 2001 *On Biocultural Diversity: Linking Language, Knowledge, and the Environment*. Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution Press. (This is an example of a BOOK)

Nadasdy, Paul. 1999. The Politics of TEK: Power and the 'Integration' of Knowledge. *Arctic Anthropology*. 36(1-2):1-18. (This is an example of a JOURNAL ARTICLE)