

Anthropology 1160
Readings Questions for McMillan and Yellowhorn
Fall 2008

Note: Questions for Jarvenpa are located in the back of his book *Northern Passage*.

Week 1&2: September 2, 4, 9, 11

Chapter 1

1. Is 'narrative' a useful or accurate metaphor for the study of anthropology?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the maps on pages 6-7 and page 9?
3. Why is anthropology sometimes viewed unfavorably by First Nations people?
4. What ethical issues arise for anthropologists working in Canada?
5. Are there problems with the term 'prehistory'?

Chapter 2

1. What is meant by 'terra nullius'? How many perspectives on the term can you identify?
2. How did aboriginal people get to North America? How many perspectives can you identify?
3. Note the characteristics of three archaeological sites and identify their relevance to the archaeology of Canada.
4. How does the archaeological record look different when it is created by people who hunt or people who farm?

Week 3: September 16, 18

Chapter 3

1. What are the critical archaeological 'indicators' in the Maritimes?
2. What happened to the Beothuk?
3. Identify the characteristics of contemporary Mi'kmaq life? What has been the impact of colonialism?

Weeks 4-5: September 23, 25, 30

Chapter 4

1. What is the difference between the terms Iroquois and Iroquoian?
2. How do we know about Iroquoian history?
3. What are the major groups of Iroquoians? Are they similar enough to lump them together? On what do you (anthropologists) base similarity?
4. What is the basis of contemporary violence in Mohawk communities?

Weeks 6-7: October 7, 9, 14

Chapter 5

1. Distinguish the terms Algonquin and Algonquian.
2. What role did the Anishinabeg play in the fur trade?
3. Are the Ojibwa more like the Iroquoians or the Atlantic Algonquians? Why do you make the decision you do?
4. How are different groups of Cree distinguished by anthropologists?
5. Note the story of the James Bay power project and its affect on the Cree.

Weeks 7-8: October 16, 21

Chapter 6

1. The cultures of the Plains provide Canadians with some of our most enduring images of native people. What are those images?
2. What is a medicine wheel? What are its expressions in the archaeological record and in contemporary society?
3. What effect did the horse have on Plains cultures?
4. What role do women have in Plains cultures?

Weeks 8-9: October 23, 28

Chapter 8

1. Characterize the importance of salmon for Northwest Coast groups. Have we seen a comparable economic resource so far in the course?
2. What does it mean when one says that coastal societies are 'ranked' societies? What is the connection between salmon and social rank?
3. What, in particular, characterizes the northern coastal peoples (especially when compared to the Coast Salish or the Wakashan)?
4. What is the significance of the Delgamuukw decision for aboriginal land rights?

Weeks 9-11: October 30, November 4, 6

Chapter 9

1. What is the Chipewyan seasonal round?
2. How is the organization of Athapaskan families different from those families living on the coast?
3. How has oil and gas exploration affected Dene life? Have treaties helped the few groups in this area that have completed them?

Week 11-13: November 13, 18, 20, 25

Chapter 10

1. What is the material basis of Inuit survival? (Consider tools and the seasonal round.)
2. What is the ideological basis of Inuit survival? (Consider religious beliefs and taboos.)
3. What family and other social groups are important in Inuit culture?