

Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft Midterm #1 Review

Midterm #1 will be on Thursday October 5, 2017. Exam questions will be based on, readings (Stein & Stein, ch. 1-4), the first assigned readings, videos, slide shows, class discussions, and quizzes 1-5. Please study them carefully! The exam will contain true/false, multiple choice, matching questions as well as two essays. Please be prepared to write several paragraphs on **two** of the following questions.... Bring a #882 scantron, a #2 pencil and two pages of blank paper for the exam.

1. Reflect upon the religious history panels presented in class. What did you learn about other students' backgrounds and experiences? If you participated in a panel (or your own background was reflected by a panel) how did you feel about the questions posed and issues raised by non-member students?
2. How is the practice of religion adaptive for human survival?
3. Compare and contrast examples of how human cultures have altered their bodies. Consider symbolism, identity and cultural adaptations.
4. Reflect on your participation in the class ritual. Reflect on planning, the event itself and the aftermath? What did you learn about the creation and functions of ritual?
5. Why is "information" offered by psychics appealing?
6. Why do humans have such passion for the idea that there are invisible persons who have a great interest in our behavior? (Consider the theory that humans are "hard wired" for religion.)
7. Why might the health food movement be considered a "religion?"
8. What are some of the cultural practices and ritual behaviors that occur at the Burning Man Festival? Why might the Burning Man be considered a "religion?"
9. In regards to the causes of alien abduction, contrast the views of Carl Sagan with those of John Mack and Bud Hopkins.
10. What religions are practiced in Malaysia? How do the Bumiputra and the Chinese regard each other's cultural and spiritual practices?