

Dr. Leanna Wolfe
Anthropology 121

Anthropology and Religion

Quiz 1

1. How many exams will there be?

3

2. How will the final exam be different from the midterm exams?

Midterms include two essays; final is just an objective test

3. Is it possible to pass the class without doing any written assignments?

Possible, but not a good idea...

4. How long should the field observation be?

2-3 double spaced typed pages

5. How many photos should be in the photo field observation?

10-well selected photos

6. How is *participation* assessed for this class?

No grade for participation, but students should nonetheless attend for the full class period and participate in class activities and discussions

7. What are the five fields of anthropology?

1. Social – Cultural

2. Physical (Biological)

3. Archeology

4. Linguistics

5. Applied

8. T/F Culture shock is a rare experience among anthropologists.

False – anyone visiting an unfamiliar culture can experience it

9. T/F An arm's length is the proper social distance for all humans.

False – social distance depends on cultural beliefs and practices; Gender can impact it, too

10. Contrast Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativism.

Ethnocentrism is believing that one's own culture is superior;

Cultural Relativism sees value in all cultural beliefs and practices

11. Contrast emic and etic research strategies.

Emic – considers Native categories, perspectives and experience

Etic – uses the lens of the observer/scientist

12. What is participant observation?

Ethnographic research strategy where the anthropologists becomes a member (as much as possible) of the culture s(he) is studying...and then steps back to observe

14. T/F All cultural behaviors are learned.

True – no such thing as a cultural trait that is innate

15. T/F All humans have culture.

True; animal primates only have the beginnings of culture

16. What is a human universal?

Something that all humans have (e.g. a biological trait like year round sexual receptivity)

17. What is an ethnography? Who is likely to produce one?

A description of a culture. Cultural Anthropologists produce them

18. What is meant by the “ethnographic present?”

A description of a culture as if it still exists in the present (some cultural practices that have been studied no longer exist, e.g. foragers who have become pastoralists and/or horticulturalists)

19. Describe three ethnographic research techniques.

Participant Observation- becoming a member of a culture as a means to know it from the inside

Interview Schedule – asking a series of questions that are tailored to uniquely to each respondent (can be rephrased for better clarification)

Life History Method – Interviewing a subject, usually focusing on a particular aspect of their life history as it reveals cultural experience

20. How is the genealogical method applied to contemporary urban cultures?

Rather than focusing on blood relatives, focus is on other means that people are connected (e.g. friends, social clubs, school, church, sports, special interests)

21. T/F Religion is found in all human societies.

True

22. The theory of religion that states that each person has a double or soul is:

a. animatism b. Tylorism c. animism d. polytheism e. reincarnation

C

23. What is the earliest evidence of human religious practice?

Neanderthal burials, cave paintings

24. How do science, magic and religion differ? In what ways might they overlap?

All try to explain and potentially control natural phenomena.

Science measures things empirically (via observation) and employs the scientific method, magic attempts to bring on change through spells and processes and religion does so through gratitude and prayer

25. T/F Religious believers can take their beliefs to be absolutely true, while scientifically proven theories and law are never irrefutably correct.

True

26. T/F Anthropologists contend that human cultures create religions.

True

27. T/F People get religion from God

False – People get religion from other people

28. What sorts of things has religion been called upon to explain?
Earthquakes, Floods, sudden death, conception, birth, tragedies

29. Do you believe there is an all-knowing god? Why? Why not?
(Discussion)

30. Why might we say that the human brain is hard-wired for religion?
Condition under which humans are born—very helpless, they cannot survive without the care of fully attentive parents... This kindles the appetite for there being an omniscient and omnipotent god or gods.

31. T/F Religion is a cognitive illusion.

True – our brains create the sensation

32. T/F In some cultures dead people become ghosts.

True

33. T/F Salvation is a central concern of all religions.

False – some are much more focused on ghosts

34. Why do you think humans have such passion for the idea that there are invisible persons who have a great interest in our behavior?

Comes from being hard-wired for religion; we savor the idea that there is a being who really is noticing all that we do.

35. Do we need religion to support morality?

(Discussion)

36. T/F The human mind is very selective in what supernatural claims it finds plausible.

True

37. Why has there been an intensification of religiously motivated violence?

Reaction to secularism; fears of loss of unique culturally based religious moralities

38. What are the characteristics of today's modern religions?

(select those that apply)

a. charismatic leader b. tolerance for other faiths c. zoomorphic gods
 d. rigid ethical code e. communal ceremonies f. professional clergy

A, D, F

39. Match the level of social development with the religious practice

Foragers Ecclesiastical

Horticulturalists Shamanic

State Society Communal

Foragers - Shamanic

Horticulturalists – Communal

State Society - Ecclesiastical

40. The holistic perspective is:

- a. seldom used by anthropologists today b. used principally by linguistic anthropologists
c. one of the fundamental principles of anthropology d. gained by working with holy men or shamans e. c and d

C

41. What is a syncretic religion? Give an example.

A blend of two or more religions like Voodoo and Candomble which derive from Yoruba (A West African religion) and Catholicism

42. How is magic different from prayer?

Prayer requests while Magic compels

43. How do Americans practice divination?

Astrology, psychic readings, medical tests

Match the Concept with the definition

44. Revitalization response to rapid social change **D**

a. Mana

45. Belief in souls and doubles **E**

b. Totem

46. A Supernatural force that may inhabit people/objects **A**

c. Taboo

47. Sacred emblem that symbolizes common social identity **B**

d. Cargo Cult

48. Prohibition backed by supernatural sanctions **C**

e. Animism

49. Where can students access the class videos?

Under “class links” on the website