HOW CAN YOU DO WELL ON MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAMS FOR THIS COURSE?

THESE PAGES ARE DESIGNED TO:

- Provide you with study tips
- Provide sample exam questions for cultural anthropology to help you prepare for exams
- Explain the ACID Principles of Studying

Research shows that students who adopt the following study skills earn higher grades on college exams:

1) Read ahead: Every successful student read 6 or 8 pages each night. By the time they got to lecture, they were already familiar with the material that would be covered.

2) Made connections: All of the A/B students made a conscious effort to connect the new material they were learning with something else in their lives. They analyzed themselves and their friends, and learned vocabulary by thinking up examples about it and discussing them with friends.

3) Studied Smart: Our research showed that all students, whether they earned A’s or F’s, studied about the same number of hours each week. This means that studying “more” might not improve your grade. Studying “smarter” is the most important thing.

Read on for tips on how to, and how not to study.
The Three Deadly Studying Sins

**Deadly sin # 1: Memorization**
Remember, you can memorize something and have absolutely no idea what it means. Many of the test questions will require you to **apply** the information you are learning.

**Example of Deadly Sin #1:**

Cultural relativism involves:

- a. evaluating another culture through the lens of your own culture
- b. the belief that one's own culture is relatively superior to that of other cultures
- c. viewing the values, beliefs, and behaviors of other cultures as valid and meaningful designs for living
- d. refraining from imposing judgments on other cultures unless their practices and beliefs are morally wrong

*(Note: you need to know more than the definition of cultural relativism and must understand how it is used in context)*
Deadly Sin #2: Recognition
Many students think multiple choice tests are easy because they think they will simply remember the correct answer when they see it on the tests. The questions are too long and require too much thought, interpretation, and understanding for this to be a good strategy.

Example of Deadly Sin #2:
The study of a single culture by an anthropologist is referred to as:

a. anthropology
b. ethnology
c. ethnography
d. comparativism

(Note: few questions will be this simple; most will ask you to put ideas together from different parts of the reading or to synthesize ideas from reading and lecture. This brings us to the issue of “orphanizing”
Deadly Sin # 3: Orphanizing

Basically, it means that a student studies in such a way that he or she sees all new information as separate from the information he or she learned before. They keep information isolated from the things that relate to it.

Example of Deadly Sin #3:

According to lecture, contemporary problems such as terrorist attacks on the U.S., violence in Darfur, the killing of Vincent Chin by unemployed auto workers, the U.S. government's policy toward Native American cultures, and immigration issues illustrate that:

a. Americans are less ethnocentric than other people
b. Americans tend to view the world in a culturally relative way
c. Americans are largely insular people, lacking an understanding of other ways of life
d. most of these issues are beyond the realm of anthropological understanding

(Note: here you need to use examples from lecture and relate them to American's perspectives on cultural diversity)
The ACID Principles of Test Taking

Application

When you apply information you take it out of the situation in which you learned it and use it somewhere else. You must understand the definition so well you can think of examples of it.

Which anthropological concept is most useful for understanding whether the domination of women by men is universal, i.e., characteristic in all the world's societies?

a. holism
b. comparativism
c. cultural relativism
d. ethnocentrism
**Compare/ contrast**

Some questions will be easier to answer if you can not only tell what the answer is, but why it isn't one of the others.

Two examples were given in class of anthropologists' use of idealism and materialism in interpreting culture; select the correct statement:

a. Geertz focused on how Balinese men were acting in their own economic interests in his analysis of the Balinese cockfight  
b. Geertz used an idealist approach, focusing on symbolic aspects of the Balinese cockfight  
c. Harris believed that the ritual pig feasts of New Guinea were primarily symbolic, idealist expressions of religious belief  
d. Harris and Geertz both used the same theoretical approach to analyze two different cultures
Integration

Some questions on the tests will ask you about the idea as a whole or how ideas relate.

The article "Rituals at McDonalds":

a. shows that ritual behavior at McDonalds is individualized and unpredictable
b. shows that secular behavior at McDonalds differs from sacred behavior in the rituals of more traditional cultures
c. shows how anthropology can be used to interpret McDonalds as a sacred place
d. shows how behavior of McDonalds customers differs, depending on their ethnic, religious, gender, or age differences
Distillation

When you distill something, that means you take away what is not essential and retain what is.

What cultural differences contribute to the formation of the distinct legal systems depicted in the film "Little Injustices"?

   a. North Americans have more democratic attitudes
   b. the Zapotec value social harmony, thus prevent escalation of conflict
   c. suspicion and distrust in the Zapotec community make people take the law into their own hands
   d. consumerism in the U.S. has reduced the gap between producers and consumers