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

THESE PAGES ARE DESIGNED TO:

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

This information was prepared by Dr. Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Psychology instructor, and Kathryn Gonier Klopfeisch, of the Academic Assistance Center. To learn more, go to:
http://www.morris.umn.edu/academic/psychology/psy1051/index.htm

1) Read ahead: Every successful student we interviewed 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 we worked with 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.

Visit the web site 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.

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.

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 #2:
Recognition (few questions will be this simple)

The study of a single culture by an anthropologist is referred to as:

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

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?

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 course packet 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