

Midterm exam study guide

The midterm exam will consist of written questions that you will answer in a blue book. You will answer your choice of five short-answer questions from a list of seven. Each of these will call for one to a few sentences. You will also answer your choice of four essay questions from a list of six options. Each of these will call for one to a few paragraphs. The questions will involve concepts and examples from the readings and class discussions. Some may ask you to apply ideas from the class to new material.

The material to review is all available from the class website, Monaghan and Just, and your own class notes. If you go through that material seeking the main themes, concepts, and examples, you will have an overview of what the exam may cover. You should have examples or illustrations in mind for many of these concepts, and you should be able to explain the more prominent examples used in the readings and class discussion. Some concepts and themes to review include (this may not be a complete list!):

four fields of anthropology	longitudinal study	productivity of language
material culture	ideal culture	displacement
comparative approach	real culture	duality of patterning
culture	superorganic	call system
society	cultural materialism	Sapir-Whorf hypothesis
culture shock	Marvin Harris	focal vocabulary
ethnocentrism	cultural configurations	AAVE, BEV
cultural relativism	Ruth Benedict	dialect
ethical relativism	culture as text	code switching
multiculturalism	Clifford Geertz	linguistic performance
naïve realism	infrastructure	subsistence
race	superstructure	hunting and gathering
social race	functionalism	foraging
cline	Bronislaw Malinowski	agriculture
hypodescent	structural functionalism	swidden
arbitrary social construct	A.R. Radcliffe-Brown	slash and burn
emic point of view	sign	shifting agriculture
etic point of view	icon	fallow
informant	index	intensification
cultural consultant	symbol	pastoralism
ethnography	reference; referent	sedentary/sedentism
participant observation	phonetics	semi-sedentary
comparative approach	phoneme	nomadic
genealogical method	morpheme	transhumant
interview schedule	minimal pair	agropastoralism
life history	cultural transmission	

- The concept of culture, its general characteristics, and various ways that it has been defined and subdivided
- Evidence that culture's effect on perception, thought, and behavior is profound

- Culture shock and what we can learn from it
- Problems with race as a biological concept; evidence that race is a cultural construct; and reasons why race *appears* to be a biological reality even though we know it is not
- General strategies of anthropological research and anthropological methods
- Genealogical notation: be able to read, draw, and use genealogical charts to explain aspects of social interactions
- Ethical issues raised by cultural relativism and the practice of ethnographic research
- Virtues and weaknesses of the ethnographic method
- Culture as adaptation, meaning, and system (Middleton)
- Cultural materialism and the examples in the reading about Marvin Harris
- Ruth Benedict's concept of cultural configurations
- Culture as text, and the examples in the reading about it
- Language or language-like communication among non-human primates, with relevant examples
- How language is a categorizing system, and how that relates to culture and thought; with illustrations such as those involving color
- The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis; illustrations involving vocabulary and grammar
- Concepts and issues surrounding BEV and the Oakland school district Ebonics episode
- Gender differences in language use; practical implications of them; explanations of how they might arise
- General subsistence practices of foragers (illustrated by the !Kung), farmers (illustrated by the Kapauku Papuans), and pastoralists (illustrated by the Ariaal)
- Lee's evidence and arguments concerning foraging as a subsistence strategy
- Ways in which subsistence strategies are interconnected with other aspects of society