Anthropology 340 – Living in a Pluralistic World
How Cultural Difference Made a Difference One-Pager

Pick a scene: Find a scene or section in Guests of the Sheik in which the difference between people's cultures played a significant role in what happened. If you have read ahead of the syllabus, feel free to use later parts of the book if you wish.

Write a one-page paper: Write a one-page (double-spaced) discussion of how the cultural difference between some of the people in the scene or section made a difference in the action, or in people's reactions. Explain as specifically as you can what the relevant difference(s) was(were) between the two cultures involved, and how they contributed to whatever occurred.

The differences might involve different values, rules of behavior, meanings or interpretations of things or events, concepts of gender roles, or many other kinds of cultural traits. These are often unconsidered assumptions, which may make encountering someone else with different assumptions result in confusion, misunderstanding, or unexpected (sometimes funny) outcomes. You will be explaining a specific case of this.

Indicate page numbers: Please indicate the page numbers of the scene or section that you have selected, so I know exactly what you are discussing.

Due: The one-page paper is due in class on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Computer version: You must also submit the paper as a computer file (Word, Wordperfect, Works, etc.) which you attach to an email message to me at

bruce.owen@sonoma.edu

Name the file in this format:

340-07s-difference-SmithJane.doc

Replace "SmithJane" with your own name, last name first. The term "difference" identifies this particular assignment. Other assignments will have other words in this position. Your word processing program may use a different three-letter extension, like ".wpd" instead of ".doc". Following this format makes it much easier for me to keep track of papers.

Due: The computer version is due by midnight of Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Good luck!