

ANT 101: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology  
Fall 2005, M,W,F 9:30 — 10:20, Chambers 1027

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### Planning for the First Review

The First Review is a closed-book, take-home examination, with questions chosen from the following list. Notes, books, or other supporting materials may not be used during the exam. All students registered for this course must take this **closed-book essay exam** in the allotted time of **one hour** and submit the essay to me by email by **10:30 am, Monday, 3 October 2005** (there will be no class on that day, so you may use the class time to do the exam). The essays can be submitted to me in person at my office, as an email attachment (preferred), or in the class Blackboard electronic dropbox.

The First Review will consist of **two** questions chosen from the following list. I will make the *choice* of which questions will be on the exam. You will receive two emails on Friday, 1 October; one will have a subject line of “instructions for the first review,” and the second will say “first review – do not open until ready to take the exam.” Do not open the second email until you have put away your notes and other material, and are ready to take the exam.

A good answer will be more argumentative and less descriptive. Make sure you have a clear line of argument, supported by specific evidence from the readings, films, and lectures. Avoid duplicating ethnographic case materials in your two answers. Whenever possible use different examples to support your arguments. Please refer to my handout on “making an argument,” a.k.a. “How Prof. Lozada grades review essays.”

**Note: Your arguments must be supported by evidence drawn from lectures, films and (especially) course readings. Be specific and cite authors (in-text citation, however, is not required) when relevant.**

### Possible Exam Questions:

1. How does the process of fieldwork shape anthropological knowledge? How do issues of objectivity and subjectivity shape anthropological methodology and the analysis of culture? Be explicit with your definitions of particular terms and anthropological concepts that you use in answering this question.
2. What is love? How does love fit in with the different studies of kinship that we have read? In your answer, make sure to clearly relate how the cultural concept of love fits into the structural analysis of families that we have discussed in class, especially the film *Dadi's Family* and Margery Wolf's ethnography. Why is love relevant to understanding kinship?

3. What is marriage, and how do anthropologists study marriage? How does a society's marriage practice reflect wider sociopolitical, cultural, and economic processes? Be specific in your discussion of ethnographic details and theoretical approaches to marriage.

4. "As long as the focus of interest is on the culture of the Chinese male, these two forms of marriage (major form and uxori-local marriage, my addition) are simply alternate means of continuing a line of descent, but for the other half of Chinese society, specifically for the uterine families of the women, the emotional climate of the domestic units, and the solidarity of the women's community, they have very different effects" (Wolf 1972:172).

What do you think Margery Wolf is really saying in the above quote? How does Wolf's perspective impact upon wider anthropological methodology and the study of society and culture? How does Wolf's study of kinship relate to the methodological and theoretical issues on culture that we read earlier in the semester?

5. What is race, and how do anthropologists study it? What is the connection between race, ethnicity, and power? Is race biological, cultural, or some combination of the two? Be specific in your use of examples in your discussion.