



UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

November 2020 SPECIAL EXAM

COURSE: Anthropology (2020)

DATE: TBA

DURATION: Take Home Exam

TIME: 48 hours

PAPER: 1

MARKS: 100 marks

SUBJECT CODE: ATL2B

EXAMINERS:

1. Dr Justin Bradfield 2. Prof. Catherine Burns 3. Dr Melinda Barnard

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF *4 PAGES AND CONSISTS OF 2 SECTIONS (SECTION A and SECTION B).

Section A

Question 1: (Total 15 Marks – 5 marks for each of three paragraphs)

*Write short paragraphs (± 10 lines) on **three** of the following.*

1. In your own words, explain how and why site formation is critical for an understanding of human behaviour in the past.
2. Using examples describe how archaeologists use animal bones to learn about human/animal interactions in the past.

3. In your own words explain what use-trace analysis is and how it is used in functionalist studies of artefacts.
4. What are some of the methods used to study stone tools?

Question 2: (35 Marks)

Select one of the following and write a short essay of about 1000 words (or 4 double spaced pages):

2. A

In the website anthropology journal, *Somatosphere*, Saxema and Johnson argue that digital cultures and lives are new sites for ethnography. In their paper “Cues for Ethnography in Pandamning Times: Thinking with Digital Sociality in the Covid-19 Pandemic” they say:

“Covid-19 has made the world strange. For many, efforts to stall the pandemic have initiated an unprecedented enclosure of our lives within the familiar walls of our homes, while simultaneously increasing our reliance on digital media to maintain personal and professional connections. This reordering of social worlds and blurring of boundaries between our public lives and private spaces raises a fairly obvious anthropological question: in an online age, what is “social” about social distancing?”

Taking this quotation as your starting point explore the limits and possibilities of ethnography at this time. Draw on at the work of at least two anthropologists in your analysis of “the social” and your own class work and essay.

OR

2. B

Read this extract from the article by Leslie Bank “Beyond a Biomedical Fix” in *African World News* 30 April 2020, and respond to the question that follows:

“In the emerging COVID-19 crisis in South Africa, there is clearly still some way to go before Africans, together with medical scientists and epidemiologists, can co-produce locally appropriate body-based technologies and caring practices, such as those adopted to counter Ebola. This process of learning and sharing has hardly started in South Africa and has still a way to go before an effective people’s science emerges for the management and elimination of the virus. Meanwhile, the state’s response has failed to produce a number of sought-for behavioural impacts. For example, the evidence suggests that, despite the government’s warnings, social distancing is being widely ignored ... There is, of course, great difficulty in effectively implementing social distancing in compressed shack areas. However, there are also plenty of suburban-style townships and settlements where people wander around and socialise as if there were no danger. ... Top-down, heavy-handed actions by the army and the police in the townships and suburbs

against liquor traders, errant street joggers and wayward taxi owners, and charitable drives to distribute food parcels, will have little long-term impact in helping to combat the virus unless civil society is organised to manage the disease locally.

In initiating a process of appropriate street- and neighbourhood-level responses, the state could rely much more on the insights of social scientists who research, and participate in, the lives of those in high-risk and poor communities. The experience and findings of these experts could inform and help to produce strategies that might bridge the current gap between the present bio-medical imagination of the outbreak and the future possibility of an evidence-based people's science. In this field, the state might pay particular attention to the work of social anthropologists, whose in-depth ethnographic research of communities in their historical and cultural contexts reveals aspects of everyday social and cultural life at the local level which might guide life-saving interventions."

Reflect on Leslie Bank's arguments here, and provide your own analysis of the power of ethnographic insights during a time of crisis. (Draw on at least 2 anthropologists whose work we have read in the course, as well as your own essays and tasks, in your answer.)

Total: 50 marks

Section B

QUESTION 1:

50 Marks

Write an essay (2000 words) on any one of the following topics:

1. What is the problem with the idea of the "Universal woman"?

OR

2. What is the ontological turn and why is it important?

OR

3. How can mimicry be understood as a form of colonial power, and how does it apply within postcolonial contexts?

Total: 50 marks

Special instructions:

- Do NOT simply copy your work from previous assignments or use class discussions, and hand it in as your exam paper.
- You must make use of assigned articles pertinent to the question you chose.
- Please note, you may not plagiarize either from your own previous work or other's work. If you do, it will be treated as cheating under exam conditions and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.