ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE NEWS MEDIA

The purpose of this exercise is to acquaint you with the use of an anthropological approach in dealing with contemporary cultures (or sub-cultures), past cultures or the bioanthropology of humans. The popular press frequently reports on such research. Based on your knowledge of what anthropologists study, find a substantial article (not just a couple of paragraphs) published within the last 24 months in a weekly or monthly news magazine (e.g. Newsweek, Time, etc.) or daily newspaper dealing with some aspect of anthropology. You may also use the Internet as a source for an article. Use one of the web search engines (Yahoo, Google, etc.) to find an appropriate page. The subject matter must be anthropological, although the word anthropology may not be mentioned. If you are using the internet be careful to select a reputable web site; there’s a lot of bad information out there! I am willing to check your article to make sure it is appropriate.

Once you have chosen an article, write a two to three page word processed double-spaced essay answering the questions posed below from the information in the article:

1. What subdiscipline of anthropology is discussed in the article? Justify your answer.

2. What problems were the anthropologists trying to solve?

3. What were the findings or results of this research?

4. Relate the article to similar subjects discussed in class or the text.

At the top of the first page of your paper write the title, author (if known) and source of your article (if it is from the Web then also list its URL or address). Answer the questions in essay format. Do not use direct quotes from the article. Although I will not be marking grammar, spelling, etc., a poorly written paper will indicate sloppy work and result in a lower grade. Include a xerox copy (only) or printout of the article you have chosen with your paper. Do not put the paper in a plastic folder, simply staple it in the upper left hand corner.

The exercise, which is worth 30 points, is due December 2nd! You are responsible for making a copy of your paper so that if the original is lost, a copy can then be submitted for grading. Late papers will receive a lower grade.

Make sure you follow all of the instructions above and answer all four questions!!