

ETHNOGRAPHIC INSIGHTS ACROSS CULTURES

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

AN INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

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DO CULTURAL UNIVERSALS EXIST?

An eHRAF research essay

ETHNOGRAPHIC INSIGHTS ACROSS CULTURES

DESCRIPTION



Choose any aspect of human life or anthropological theme and evaluate whether or not you believe it to be a cultural universal based on ethnographic evidence.

Refer to the eHRAF articles that we have read and discussed for each week as a model. However, endeavor to choose an original subject to focus on. If you choose to explore one of the subjects from the weekly syllabus or aspects of it, you must use predominantly new examples and a new angle, supplemented with original theoretical and ethnographic research.

Any of the listed textbooks are valid sources for theoretical background, but you are welcome to go beyond these texts by visiting anthropological journals.

INSTRUCTIONS



While you are free to write about something that you have experienced in your own culture, use the [eHRAF World Cultures database](#) to decide on your topic or trait, and to conduct research **across several cultures**, to ensure that you will be able to gather enough ethnographic data for comparison.

You may refer to the [Outline of Cultural Materials \(OCM\)](#) to decide on a topic.

Paper topics and proposed titles must be emailed to the professor for approval at least 3 weeks before the deadline.

Aim for **3-5 ethnographic examples** from various parts of the world.

You may choose any cultures that interest you as long as they are not all in the same world region (refer to Browse Cultures and/or the Search Results in eHRAF for a regional breakdown).

As long as you meet the minimum content requirements, you may include additional ethnographic materials from outside of eHRAF.

Remember to conclude your essay with reflections on cross-cultural differences and similarities.

RESEARCH GUIDELINES



Word limit: Essays have a word limit of 2000 words. If including an original video or photo narrative, word limit is flexible at around 1,500 words in addition to the media. High resolution files must be hosted somewhere accessible by the essay due date.





THANK YOU FOR DISCOVERING

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DESIGNED FOR ONLINE LEARNING

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