Writing Assignment I
Cultural Values and Beliefs About Hair, Dress, and Food

Number of Points: 05 for draft; 45 for final paper
Paper length: Cover page, 3-4 pages of text, reference pages
Due Dates: Draft _______________ Final paper ____________

Purpose of Paper: The purpose of this paper is to help you understand patterns of culture in your own specific culture whether it is American culture or any other. You should be able to discuss culture and use and use anthropological perspectives to explore what you do as a member of a specific culture and what is the cultural significance of these experiences. The final product will combine personal reflection, anthropological analysis, and library research.

I am looking for essays that are well written, comprehensive, and display independent thought. The best papers apply anthropological concepts and vocabulary to understanding cultural values and beliefs regarding dress, hair, and food. A well written essay includes correct grammar, syntax, and spelling. A typical essay has an introduction, discussion, and conclusion. Your paper should be typed with print at this size (Microsoft Word Arial 12 font). All of these are part of your grade which totals to 50 points.

Select ONE of the three topics below for your writing assignment. Write three to four, typed double spaced pages with one inch margins in response to the question of your choice. Do not rewrite the question but be sure to incorporate it into your answer.

Place a cover page over your paper with the following information: your name, title of paper, Anthropology 250 and date. Use the library’s databases to find a minimum of three scholarly references which are to be cited and referenced in a standard format. No Googling! You may use MLA, APA, AAA, Chicago Style or any other standard format of your choice. Papers turned in after the collection time are marked "LATE" and are down graded accordingly. Late papers are accepted until the next class period. Emailed papers are not accepted.

Draft – you may take your draft copy to the University Writing Center in the Palmer Wing of the library or come to my office hour with a printed copy. Be sure to get a receipt from the Writing Center. Doing so by the announced deadline earns 05 points.

Topics – pick ONE

1. Style of dress - Describe your dress style. How do you vary it for different social situations (e.g., work, school, home, date, wedding)? Explain why you do or do not vary it. What do these varying styles symbolize for you? What does your dress style mean in terms of cultural values and beliefs?

2. Style of hair - Describe your hair style. How do you vary it for different situations (e.g., work, school, home, date, wedding)? Explain why you do or do not vary it. What do these varying styles symbolize for you? What does your hair style mean in terms of cultural values and beliefs?
3. Food - What are some of our values and beliefs about food? You might want to consider what we eat and do not eat. How do we label something as food or nonfood? Discuss the process wherein we eat, become full, and push our plate away; good food becomes leftovers or garbage, even though there is only a change of labeling, not a change of the food's condition.

**Final Product** – your finished term paper should have a cover page, a three to four page essay with one inch margins, citations within the text and a separate reference page. Place a staple in the upper left hand corner.

**Helpful References:**


Raby, Rebecca. 2011. Tank tops are ok but I don’t want to see her thong. Youth and Society. 41(3): 333-356.

**Grading criteria:** The papers will be graded on the basis of:

- Following the guidelines of the assignment
- Clarity
- Organization
- Grammar, syntax, spelling
- Content - demonstrates a grasp of the subject through appropriate use of evidence and data
- Content - demonstrates a grasp of the subject through application of course concepts and terms
- Reasonableness of your arguments and conclusions
- Correct and appropriate citing and referencing
- Evidence of a thorough library research