Second essay assignment for current topics in psychological anthropology
Due May 16

Assignment: Consider the case of the collapse of an Azande granary. Pick two of the relational models and show how they organize the Azande response to the injuries people sustain. Relate at least one of these two relational models to Azande witchcraft beliefs or their use of oracles.

Provide clear grounds for identifying the relationships or social interactions as implementations of each specific relational model. That is, rather than just saying, X is, for example, authority ranking, you must show that it is, imagining that you have to persuade a moderately skeptical reader. Your essay should demonstrate how relational models theory illuminates Azande life and beliefs beyond what would be evident without the theory.

Please answer the question in light of the course lectures, readings, and discussions.

Audience: Write this paper as if you were explaining it to a peer in this class. They are relatively aware of the theoretical ideas, but you should explain the concepts briefly, and persuasively demonstrate how they illuminate the phenomenon.

Purpose: Our aim in giving you this assignment is for you to learn how to carefully and rigorously apply a theory to understand some aspect of human life.

Give your essay an appropriate, meaningful title, and put your name, TA’s name, and section letter in the heading. Your essay should be at round two pages, but you may write up to a maximum of 3 pages. It should be double-spaced, paginated, pages stapled together, with your name on each page. Use Times New Roman, 12pt. font, 1-inch margins all around. Make sure you have proofread the paper at least twice.

Cite all sources. Citation format is not crucial, so long as it is complete and consistent. References at the end do not count toward the allotted length of the paper.

At the bottom of the paper, paste in and sign the following statement (it also does not count toward the allotted length of the paper):

“This essay is entirely my own work, except where sources for text or ideas are clearly cited. I understand that it is plagiarism to use anyone else’s work without citation, and that plagiarism is inconsistent with honest scholarship. I acknowledge that if I plagiarize I will receive a zero for this essay and will be referred to the Dean for disciplinary action.”

Your essay is due on paper in class by 12:29pm, Tuesday, May 16. Please do not interrupt class by bringing your essay in after class starts. In any case, late essays will not be accepted. So print early and get to Haines early.

Have fun with this, think creatively, and learn a lot writing it. That’s the point of the assignment!