After World War II, economists somehow pulled a fast one, convincing political authorities that, alone among the social sciences, economics in particular has important insights into the way the world works. As a result, there is a Council of Economic Advisors that analyzes the economy and makes policy recommendations to the President of the United States. Now, imagine that a new Council of Anthropological Advisors has been created to make recommendations to address major problems and opportunities in the US and around the world. You have been selected as a member of the new Council of Anthropological Advisors. Indicate how you would advise the President to tackle one significant issue. Show how the tools of psychological anthropology, in particular, could be used effectively to understand that issue and assess promising approaches to it. In short, make an appropriate policy recommendation, showing how it is based in scientific psychological anthropology. Of course, you must draw on the material of the class (readings and/or lectures). But you may also use other materials and sources in psychological anthropology to complement the material from the class.

You need not concern yourself with whether Donald Trump is likely to take your advice, but you should make your case cogent and compelling – be persuasive.

Your essay should be just as long as it needs to be to answer the question clearly, persuasively, and effectively – and no longer. What matters is not the length, but the cogency of the argument, in conjunction with the clarity and precision of the writing. Depending on your policy recommendation and how your support it, five or six pages might be about right, but there is no minimum or maximum length.

Give your essay an appropriate, meaningful title, and put your name, and your section day and time, on the top. Your essay should be double spaced, pages stapled together, with your name on each page. At the bottom, paste in and sign the following statement:

“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 such citation, and that plagiarism is inconsistent with honest scholarship. I acknowledge that if I plagiarize I will receive a zero for this final and will be referred to the Dean for disciplinary action.”

Your essay must be turned in online by 4:00pm Monday, March 19. (Yanina will give you instructions on how to do this Late essays will not be accepted.

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