Azande attribute much of their suffering and many death to witches — although no Azande has ever observed a witch attack or kill anyone. Californians attribute much of their suffering and many deaths to viruses — although no Californian has ever seen a virus with her own eyes and no one has ever observed viruses attack or kill anyone. Compare and contrast Azande attitudes and practices regarding witches with Californian attitudes and practices regarding viruses. In what ways are Azande witchcraft concerns and practices similar to Californian virus concerns and practices, and how do they differ?

Don’t address all of the similarities or differences: focus on just one, or two close related ones. For example, you could show how the differences occur within a framework of some fundamental similarity, or how an important similarity is realized in a difference between the them. Make your analysis cogent and your explanations clear and precise. Frame your answer with reference to specific ethnographic details and concepts from Evans-Pritchard’s ethnography and other readings, lectures, and discussion sections.

Give your essay an appropriate, meaningful title, and put your name, TA’s name, and section day and time on the top. Your essay should be no more than 800 words (about 2 pages). Your essay should be double spaced, pages stapled together, with your name on each page.

Cite all sources. Citation format isn’t crucial, so long as it is complete and accurate. For assigned readings you may simply provide the author and page number; for lectures, simply the title or date.

At the bottom, paste in and sign the following statement (it doesn’t count in the 800 words):

“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 essay and will be referred to the Dean for disciplinary action.”

Your essay is due on paper in class at 10:58am Tuesday, February 11. Please don’t interrupt class by bringing your essay in after class starts. 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.