ANT 254: Final Research Paper Guidelines

**Goals**

The goal of the final writing assignment is to allow you to explore a topic of interest to you in greater depth. You should engage with concepts, debates, and arguments raised throughout the course of the semester, but specifically focus on one topic that you have found most interesting. The topic you choose may focus a religion in one geographic location, or it may look at religious phenomena cross-culturally.

**Sources**

The paper must draw at least 6 scholarly sources. These sources may have been discussed throughout the course or in your book review, however you are expected to draw on external sources as well. While you may cite websites, please try to draw on peer reviewed sources.

**Format**

The paper should be between 7-10 pages in length with 1-inch margins, double spaced and 12pt Times New Roman font. Include a bibliography at the end of your paper. You may select any citation style, just keep it consistent throughout your paper and bibliography.

**Grading**

While you have a wide degree of freedom in selecting the focus of your research paper, please be sure that your paper has a central argument or thesis statement. I will grade the papers according to the rubric titled, “Essay Scoring Guide,” which is uploaded on Blackboard. Keep in mind that your paper should have a clear structural organization, insightful and well-developed points, powerful supporting detail, varied sentence structure and vocabulary, and few mechanical errors. I encourage everyone to exchange a draft of their paper with a colleague and/or visit the Writing Center prior to submitting their final draft.

**Important Dates**

While this paper requires out-of-class independent research, we will also be working together in class on it. During Week 4 discuss the paper assignment and expectations, as well as brainstorm possible topics. By Wednesday, **November 16th** your research paper topics will be due. I will create a google doc where you can list the research topic that you chose.

On **November 23rd** we will have an in-class research proposal and bibliography peer exchange. You must come to class with three hard copies of your proposal/draft and bibliography. The more work you put into the assignment, the more you will get in return. You may either come to class with full drafts of your paper, or two pages describing your research topic and central argument (including thesis).

The final paper must be **emailed** to me no later by **12pm on Wednesday, December 7th.** I will deduct 10% if a paper is late.