

**DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY
ANTH 303 ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY
MIDTERM TEST TEMPLATE**

Instructor: Dr. Susan Vincent

Date: 2 pm, 16 December 2019

NAME: _____

This exam is marked out of 85 and is worth 30 % of your final mark in this course. The goal is to test your ability to understand and explain major features of the theoretical perspectives, as well as to think critically about them. FOR PARTS A AND B YOU MAY NOT WRITE ON A THEORIST ON WHOM YOU WROTE FOR YOUR ESSAY. While I indicate the reading we studied for each theorist, you are also responsible for what we discussed in class.

PART A. (20 marks) Choose TWO of the following concepts to explain. Be clear in your explanation. It is helpful to include a clear and comprehensive explanation, provide an example to show you know how it works, and to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the concept.

This section will have five choices.

1. Example: Explain what Goffman means by “discreditable.” Give an example and outline strengths and weaknesses of this concept.
Goffman, Erving. 1959. “The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life”.

PART B. (25 marks) Write on ONE of the following questions with a short essay. Strong suggestion: Use the following format to present your argument. “In this essay I argue that [give your position] because [or ‘on the basis of’] [your reasons, that you will support with evidence in the evidence section.]” Remember to give a thesis statement with your argument; to BRIEFLY outline the two approaches to the concept; and to present evidence to support your reasons. You should finish with a short conclusion.

This section will include four choices.

5. Example: Compare and contrast how Butler and Mullings approach the study of gender. Which is the better approach? Why?

PART C. (40 marks). At the beginning of the course what you then considered to be your anthropological question. Having completed the course, write an essay in which you reflect on your original answer, and discuss whether you would still frame the question the same way, or whether you would modify it. Which theorist/theorists do you find most helpful in addressing it? You may include the theorist on whom you wrote your paper for the course, but also discuss at least two others whose ideas might be helpful or are clearly unhelpful. You may not refer to those on whom you write in parts A or B of this exam. Remember I am looking to see that you have a broad understanding of the theoretical ideas we discussed in the course.

THE END