



STUDYDADDY

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Study Guides for the first half of the semester:

General Terms and Concepts

Cultural relativism

Ethnocentrism

The 4 subfields

Holism

History of anthropology

- Unilineal cultural evolutionism
- Historical particularism

Biological anthropology

The idea of “race” versus the concept of population

- Explanation of skin color variation
- Explanation of sickle-cell prevalence
- Autosomal dominant and recessive inheritance patterns

Evolution

Mechanisms of evolution, differences between them, and examples of each

- Genetic Drift
- Gene flow
- Natural Selection
- Mutation

Archaic humans

- Approximate time when they appear/go extinct
- Geographic distribution
- Time scale of migration (when which species got where)
- Some morphological characteristics of each

Oldowan and Achulean tools

H. sapiens skeletal morphology related to bipedalism

“Muddle in the middle”

Questions for study:

1. What are some of the ways biological anthropologists differentiate between different archaic hominines (specifically members of the genus *Homo*)?
2. What is the difference between the modern concept of race and the concept of a population used by geneticists?
3. What are some biological characteristics that are unique to *H. sapiens*?

4. What are some cultural, behavioral, or cognitive characteristics that are unique to *H. sapiens*?
5. How did biological evolution influence early theories of culture?

Archaeology

Dating methods

Provenance

Stratigraphy

Features of state societies

Timescale of urbanism → when the first large settlements form in human history

Political systems (state, chiefdom, tribe, band)

Modes of production (foraging, horticulture, agriculture, industry)

Achieved vs. inherited status

Fission-fusion social cycles

VG Childe

Questions for study:

1. What is the importance of a surplus product? What changes in social organization has this usually entailed?
2. What are some theories of how social stratification first arose? What evidence exists for these?
3. What is the importance of provenance and how do archaeologists try to preserve it?
4. The Sungir graves feature the remains of two adolescents adorned with thousands of beads that would have taken 10,000 labor hours to produce. How/why does this archaeological site complicate the idea that human history has been a gradual “progression” towards something called “civilization”?

Linguistic Anthropology

Sociolinguistics

Dialect vs language

Mutual intelligibility

Language evolution/change

Dialect continuum

Marked/unmarked

Sociolinguistics

“Standard” language

Prestige dialect
Morphology
Phonology
Morpheme
Phoneme
Productivity + Displacement
Indexicality
Linguistic relativity/Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis
Code-switching
Speech acts
Language revitalization
Endangered languages
Dead languages

Questions for Study:

1. How are language and dialect an integral part of identity?
2. How can determining the difference between a language and a dialect be a political decision?
3. What does it mean to say that speech acts *do* something? In other words, how is speaking in itself an action?
4. What makes a dialect the “standard” dialect versus being considered “slang” or “vernacular”?
5. In what ways are humans “biologically wired” for language, and in what ways is language acquisition cultural?

General Study Questions

1. What makes *H. sapiens* different from other animals (behaviorally, cognitively, biologically)?
2. How was early anthropology influenced by colonialism?
3. How do biology and culture overlap with one another?
4. How is evolution measured?
5. What kinds of lifestyle change accompany changes in the mode of production? Why?
6. Race is a social construction and there is no biological basis for it. But race is still a real factor in people’s lives. How are both of these things true?



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