

ANT 102 Final Exam Question Fall 2014

Please answer the following question in a 7-10 page paper. Please use only the sources we have covered in this class; no outside research is allowed. Please include internal citation for all direct quotes and summaries (author's name, page number). This essay is due by noon on December 19th to me by email (mellis@hws.edu).

In this class, we have covered hominin evolution, prehistory, the Neolithic, and early civilizations. Along the way we have considered specific times and locations as well as the archaeological evidence used to understand these sites. We have also considered pseudoscientific claims about these regions. In this essay, please pick two regions we have studied. Possible areas that you may choose from include the Near East (or Southwest Asia), Egypt, Mesoamerica, the Indus Valley, China, North America, South America, and Europe. (You will want to be specific about which sites within these regions you are discussing--for example, North America as a region, Cahokia as a specific site). For your two chosen regions, examine how archaeological evidence for their development counters hyper-diffusionist claims about how the areas developed.

In order to be successful in this essay, you will need to explain the basic trajectory of each of your two regions, drawing from the variety of sources we have used this semester (when were they settled? By whom? What was the local political structure? How did it change over time? etc). You will also need to explain the hyper-diffusionist claims that have been made about these regions. Finally, you will need to use appropriate archaeological evidence to show how these areas actually developed.

This essay will be graded on three main features: demonstration of an understanding of the region and its history; demonstration of an understanding of the problems of the hyper-diffusionist claims made about the site; and demonstration of an understanding of archaeological evidence for these regions. In addition, grammar, argument, and essay structure will be considered. I encourage you to pre-plan your essay, write, revise, and proofread carefully.