

Final Examination
Research Methods - ANTH 416/516 Soc 416

Due by 5:00 pm on Friday May 11th, if not sooner.

Hard-copy to drop off at Phinney Hall 116

Points will be docked for late submittals

Name: _____

Answer the following three sets of questions. The sets include questions relating to participant observation, interpretation of research, and presentation of research. There are fifteen (15) possible points for this exam. In illustrating your answers, the greatest credit will be awarded essays that include reference to specific illustrative examples from the **textbooks**, **class lectures**, and **graduate student presentations**.

Research Project: As part of an on-going research project focusing on local community perspectives on the environment, you have been invited by a timber-based community to do their ethnography, and you have accepted to do so, telling their story, from their perspective, to the larger world. You will be conducting interviews, participant-observations, as well as listening to an address given by one of their prominent community leaders (see below). Discuss and develop the following parts of your research.

1. Interviewing and Participant Observation.

- A. Outline the key research skills that are often needed, as well as the typical steps involved in conducting sound interviewing and participant-observations.
- B. Discuss the issues and roles of reflexivity, as well as the depth and degree of engagement in conducting interviewing and participant-observation.

2. Interpretation.

- A. Offer an ethnographic interpretation of the following observational text, an address given by a community leader to his community (see below). Use the coding and interpretative methods provided to you as presented in this course.

B. Discuss the role of your audience, as well as yourself in this interpretive process.

3. Presentation of Research.

A. Consider and fully discuss the particular presentation style and formatting you will use in presenting your interpretation (in question 2). In your discussion, consider and apply insights gained from textbook readings and course presentations. Also provide a sample of your particular style/formatting to illustrate your approach to presenting this research, e.g., a paragraph or two.

B. Depending on the style you will utilize, contrast that style with a more formal, positivist's approach, or a more reflexive, constructivist's approach to presenting research.

C. Consider any ethical questions associated with presenting research.

* * * * *

The Observational Text

I would like to welcome you here this evening. I see out in the audience so many good friends, representing ranchers, and timber workers, our families and churches. We truly are a grass roots movement. Before we get started, could we all stand and pledge our allegiance to our Flag. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

This evening I would like to talk to you about two great dangers to our families and way of life. The first threat comes from our very own government. Our recent history has shown, time and time again, how the Washington bureaucrats are seeking

to destroy our local enterprise and our very values. They call for yet greater controls over our lands, placing them under federal regulations. And as we know, far too much of our lands are already tied up under their controls. One-third of our nation's land is in the hands of the government. An overwhelming majority of that land is in the West where the federal government is the dominant landowner. Nearly half the land in Wyoming, Oregon, and California is federally owned. It's even higher in Idaho. And in Nevada and Alaska, more than 85 percent of the land is in federal hands. The President has recently announced an aggressive federal land acquisition program to buy yet more land from private landowners, to take it off the tax rolls, and to put it into federal hands. The budget of the Bureau of Land Management, for buying privately owned lands, went up 200 percent and the budget for the U.S. Forest Service up 38 percent in for next fiscal year.

We need to stop this attack and turn it around by opening-up these so-called "protected public lands" for private use. As private property owners, we know we can manage natural resources much better than the federal government. After all, our forefathers tamed these once wild lands and our families have lived off these lands, making a good living for our families, for generations. The land is in our veins. We have the best interests of the land in our hearts. The Washington bureaucrats have no idea how to run our forests, our grazing lands, our rivers. We all know of friends and families who have lost their jobs to senseless and cold-hearted federal regulations. There are many of you right here this evening who know firsthand. We must make a stand.

In fact, it is not that they are not only destroying our local enterprise, but the Washington bureaucrats are destroying our most important God-given freedom, the right of the people to control and use their own property. This land was settled on the

tradition of individual freedom, free enterprise, and the rights of the people as individuals to the use and enjoyment of the lands and resources. We must stand up against all forms of federal regulation and environmental protection. We must eliminate excessive government, and get the government out of our lives. Private property ownership always leads to the greatest resource enhancement. It is our responsibility, a stewardship responsibility, to our lands.

After all, wasn't it said, "Let us make man in our own image, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, over the cattle, and over the whole earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Clearly in that tradition man was to be given dominion over nature, to use it wisely. And God surely shed His grace upon American for a very special reason when He provides us with such rich farm lands and forests, with abundance of minerals and oil. We, you and I, are to use these natural God-given resources wisely. They are not to be tied up in bureaucratic red tape. How true it has become when we find ourselves asking, "Oh, EPA, can we farm my own lands? Oh, Fish and Wildlife Services, can we harvest our own trees?" And these are natural God-given resources that are not to be enjoyed only by a few environmental elitists, out for a weekend hike. Wilderness? Wilderness, land of no use!

And speaking of our Christian heritage, there is another freedom our federal government is trashing – the freedom of religion. Our current administration is wrapped-up in and espousing this new "green religion." This government-sponsored religion is a cloudy mixture of new age mysticism, Native American folklore, and primitive and pantheistic earth worship. Our President is in violation of our rights and freedoms. Recently, the Vice-President, in a speech at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John, said "God is not separate from the Earth." The entire justification of the re-

introduction of the wolf into Idaho and Montana is a devastating example of the impact of the policies inspired by this new green religion. Espousal of this "environmental religion" by our political leaders and regulators carries profound constitutional implications. This is a clear violation of the establishment clause of our Constitution, upholding a separation of Church and State. It smothers our values and it threatens our liberties.

It is not only the federal government, but the environmental movement itself that is also destroying our great American economy and way of life. We are in a war. We should never forget that. They will make the argument that certain species – like snails, squirrels and owls? – are going out of existence, that our natural resources are dwindling, and that we are polluting our environment beyond repair. And that, as a result, we must stop the mining of our mountains, the grazing of our lands, and the harvesting of our forests. Well I'm here to tell you this evening that these so-called "global environmental problems" are wildly exaggerated. History has always witnessed the dying out of species. It is part of natural selection, the survival of the fittest. The big issue is, that if the environmentalist and their partners in Washington would get out of our way, we as private property owners, could best provide the necessary stewardship to manage our resources and still maintain clean forests and rivers for our children.

We have all been witnessing the agony in the Pacific Northwest – in Washington, Oregon and northern California – over the Northern Spotted Owl. Experts from the University of Washington and the University of Oregon predict that 100,000 men and women will lose their jobs; \$100 million in timber revenues will be lost to counties and local government; and America will begin spending \$4.3 billion to purchase timber from Russia and New Zealand because we will not be able to harvest trees in the Pacific Northwest. Because of the environmentalist-government partnership, the Washington

bureaucrats have adopted a draconian critical habitat plan under which nearly 6 million acres of land in Washington, Oregon, and California will be placed off limits to timber harvesting. Those 6 million acres is equivalent to a three-mile swatch stretching from Portland, Oregon, to Portland, Maine, all in two and one-third states. As if this weren't enough trauma for the timber communities of the Pacific Northwest, the Administration announced it was all but abandoning clear cutting as a harvesting technique. You cannot grow Douglas Fir without clear cutting.

The environmentalists are not only a threat to our jobs, but they are a threat to our families, to our communities, the very fiber of our nation. Our great nation was founded on the principles of private property rights, Judeo-Christian values, and the free enterprise system. Leaders of these so-called "environmental movements," with their earth-worship, pantheistic religion, would eliminate all three of those principles. And you know Communism is very much alive and functioning in the minds of these environmental leaders, leaders of what can be called the "green party." It's like a water melon. They are green on the outside and they are red on the inside.

At a time when owls and wolves have become more important than people and their civil rights, including the right to own and use property; at a time when snails and mushrooms have become more important than the ability of men and women to earn a decent living, to support their families, to build their communities, to live with dignity and self respect, I hope you are with me. I hope you are as mad as hell and you're not going to take it anymore. I hope you plan to do something about it.