Nutritional Anthropology

Spring 2006

Exam 2

This exam is to be written as a take-home exercise. Write your essay to answer the assignment in a word document and give it a filename using your last name as: lastnameexam2.doc. Send your document to me as an e-mail attachment at jbindon@tenhoor.as.ua.edu by Friday, May 12, 6:00 p.m. Use your word processor "Word count" function (on the Tools menu in Word) to make sure that your answer is NO MORE THAN 2,000 WORDS—text beyond 2000 words will NOT be read or counted in your answer. Be sure that your answers are concise, complete, and correct. Do not make unsupported assertions. Use specific examples from lecture, class discussions, and the readings to make each point. Be sure to provide full references for any refereed source material you bring in from outside our class notes or readings. This class is a writing class so your grade will depend on how well you structure and write your answers as well as how factually correct they are.

Early in your career as an anthropologist you conducted nutritional anthropology fieldwork among an isolated population of hunters and gatherers or pastoralists or horticulturalists (your choice). Now, 25 years later, you are returning to visit the same group, but in the meantime, they have become part of the global economic system and are experiencing dietary delocalization because of huge oil and gold (or diamond or bat guano) reserves on their land. Their traditional subsistence regimen has been all but abandoned and they are using their new found wealth to purchase foods from all over the world. For your essay, describe the foodways and nutritional status of this group at baseline from your first visit, and compare that to their foodways and nutritional status today. By foodways I mean tell about their subsistence ecology, how their ideology affects their food choices, and how social organization and social status interacts with their diet both before and after globalization. When describing the foodways of your group, it will be important to document that they are doing the same kinds of things that other groups do, so you should refer heavily to our presentations and readings to illustrate how your group compares to others. For example, you might compare the beliefs and use of monkey meat in this group to how the Samoans use taro—but make sure you get the taro information correct from our reading.

Have fun and be safe over summer break.