

The midterm exam will be composed of 2 essay questions (55 pts. Each) and a short multiple choice and matching section (20 questions=40 pts.).

You will write an essay (1 page) **for EACH question.**

*****Please feel free to ask me for guidance at any time.**

An outline for your essay for EACH question:

1. An introduction to your argument. Make sure to include a clear thesis statement. What is the general point you are presenting?
2. Choose at least **TWO examples of art objects from the midterm study slides** for each essay to support your thesis. **Do NOT choose the same examples for both essays.** You may add other examples discussed in class as well as the two study slides. Briefly describe your examples.
3. As best as possible, discuss the context of the art you are addressing. What does the art reveal about the artist or culture that produced it? How is the artwork used? Context may include how people from outside of an indigenous community have responded to, collected or exhibited the art.
4. Conclusion.

Base your arguments on class reading, notes and discussion.

You will be asked to answer 2 out of the 4 questions listed below:

1. Why is an understanding of oral history important in the study of indigenous arts? Using examples discussed in class or in assigned readings, demonstrate how oral history, such as myth, tribal (community) history, story telling, can be used to better understand the value and meaning of indigenous art objects.
2. Ceremonies and ceremonial art objects provide the means for people to give thanks, ask for help, and renew their relationship to the natural and spiritual worlds. They also play an important role in maintaining family and community relationships and ties to the ancestors. In what ways do indigenous art objects function in ceremony? How does ceremony reinforce a sense of indigenous identity and community?
3. The arrival of Europeans in many parts of the world resulted in drastic changes for indigenous peoples, their cultures and their art forms. In what ways do indigenous art objects illustrate transition and change for indigenous peoples under the impact of colonialism? How do the objects demonstrate continuity despite drastic change?
4. People from outside of an indigenous community often attempt to understand or define indigenous arts through misconceptions, such as seeing indigenous arts as “primitive.” How are these misconceptions part of the colonial past? What do they tell us about Western European perceptions of indigenous arts? How might these views differ from indigenous understanding of art objects?