

End of Year Reflection

As a matter of praxis, reflection is part of my academic year. At this point, one aspect I am particularly focused on is the de-colonization of the curriculum in anthropology; who gets a voice in the classroom, and in what context? What is the balance between emic and etic sources? Why it is the only book we have from the African continent is about the Mbuti, who are so physically different they were considered, for many years, “a link in the evolutionary chain”. What should be the balance between “traditional” anthropology and a more “ethical” or activist approach to the field? What other issues should demand my attention?

Please help me in this endeavor by taking some time and thought in evaluating this year’s content (and into SL, if you’re so inclined). You may address the questions point by point, pick only one or two, combine them in ways that make sense for you, or add any additional constructive feedback you feel would benefit my teaching, and ultimately, the class; aim for more than a page.

- This is only the second year as a stand alone HL class, what in the class worked for you? What advice would you give in terms of classroom organization, the general structure of the day, the kinds of classroom activities we engage in?
- Where could we have gone further, what did you want more of, wanted to discuss but we missed it...?
- What books, lessons, or units did you enjoy, what challenged you, what helped you see the world a little differently?
- Write about something important that you’ve learned from class this year. It could be about some particular concept, social issue, world event, or simply a different way of looking at how society works. Or it could be something that you have learned about yourself or other people. You could write about an idea or ideas that you’re struggling with, that you’ve found challenging or perhaps even disturbing. Are you “thinking anthropologically”? When, how?
- Give an overview for your performance in class this year. Write about what you’ve contributed, how you’ve changed, grown, developed. What areas do you hope to improve as you move forward to the next phase in your academic life? Where have you already made improvement; tell stories, give examples... If you like, you could quote specific pieces of writing or things you’ve said in class.
- Choose someone else in class to write about. What have you learned from this person? What do you think other class members have learned from the individual?
- What about the IA process was most helpful, irrelevant, etc? What advice would you give to students in next year’s class involving the IA?
- Talk about ways that what we’ve done in class have gone beyond Room 143: discussions or arguments with friends, parents, other teachers.