Assessment Guidelines – ANTH4100 Core Themes in Contemporary Anthropology. Spring 2021.

General assessment guidelines:
The exam is a take-home exam, where the student has to answer one question out of two. The exam essays are assessed with the aid of the grading scale with letter values where A is the best grade, E the lowest pass grade and F is fail.

A well-written essay documents the student's overview and understanding of the literature and his/her ability to use the literature in an independent manner and shape an argument of interest. In addition, the essay is a well-organized text, and is written clearly and precisely.

Specific assessment guidelines:

Question 1: Why does kinship continue to be an important interest among anthropologists? Draw on at least seven of the assigned course readings in answering, quoting from them as relevant.

An excellent or very good answer draws on at least seven of the assigned course readings and shapes an argument that does at least two things simultaneously. The essay both (a) discusses how one can best conceptualize and understand "kinship", and (b) demonstrates and explains *why* anthropologists (in examinations of contemporary forms of economic, political, religious and/or symbolic life) continue to work on, and explore, forms of kinship. Assigned course readings that can be used are, for example, those by McKinnon and Cannell; Yanagisako; Carsten; Lazar; Wellman; Ferguson; Uribe; Rubin; Abarca and Coutin; Gupta; and Abrams.

Question 2: Discuss how Uribe in his book *Frontier Road* examines and analyses the relation between state and frontier in the Putumayo region of Colombia. Use, in addition to Uribe's book, at least six of the other assigned course readings.

An excellent or very good answer uses Uribe's monograph and at least six of the other assigned course readings in order to shape an argument about how Uribe's analysis can be said to convey theoretically anchored perspectives on, and understandings of, the relation between state and frontier. An excellent or very good essay problematizes and discusses the use of the categories "the (modern) state" and "(the) frontier" – and it conveys how Uribe's discussion of the relation between state and frontier in the Putumayo region of Colombia forms part of a complex analysis of history and relationships of power. Assigned course readings that can be used (in addition to Uribe's book) are, for example, those by Abrams; Gupta; Folch; Rubin; Trouillot; Stoler; Palmié and Stewart; Ferguson; Mintz; and Ferguson and Gupta.