

UCLA-ALIGNED COURSE FIELD NOTES

ANTHRO 3

Culture and Society

Ethnographic reasoning about kinship, economy, power, belief, identity, inequality, and global change

How these notes are written. I wrote each chapter the way I wish the material had been explained the first time: the real idea, the point where I usually get stuck, the simplest mental model that still stays honest, and a worked decision instead of a polished answer appearing from nowhere. Every chapter closes with practice and a fully written solution. If a sentence sounds impressive but does not help me solve or explain something, it does not belong here.

Daniel Mastick

Curriculum map, working notes, practice, and solutions

Course map

Week	Core thread	What should be solid by the end
1	Culture, comparison, and anthropological questions	Reconstruct the model, work an application, test its assumptions, and explain the result in ordinary language.
2	Ethnography, fieldwork, and ethical knowledge	Reconstruct the model, work an application, test its assumptions, and explain the result in ordinary language.
3	Language, symbols, and social worlds	Reconstruct the model, work an application, test its assumptions, and explain the result in ordinary language.
4	Kinship, family, gender, and relatedness	Reconstruct the model, work an application, test its assumptions, and explain the result in ordinary language.
5	Economy, exchange, labor, and value	Reconstruct the model, work an application, test its assumptions, and explain the result in ordinary language.
6	Politics, law, power, and resistance	Reconstruct the model, work an application, test its assumptions, and explain the result in ordinary language.
7	Religion, ritual, medicine, and meaning	Reconstruct the model, work an application, test its assumptions, and explain the result in ordinary language.
8	Race, colonialism, globalization, and applied anthropology	Reconstruct the model, work an application, test its assumptions, and explain the result in ordinary language.
9	Integration studio	Combine several chapters in one case, preserve their assumptions, and reconcile the result across representations.
10	Cumulative review	Retrieve the full course map from memory and solve mixed problems without chapter labels.

Scope anchor: <https://catalog.registrar.ucla.edu/course/2025/ANTHRO3>. The sequence is aligned to the official catalog description and expanded into a practical ten-week study plan.

How I would use this packet

Treat each numbered section as one chapter. Read the formal explanation, pause at the student interpretation, and see whether the easy version still says the same thing. Rework the example without looking, then cover the solution in the chapter practice box. The cumulative set at the end is deliberately mixed: knowledge becomes durable when I have to choose the tool instead of being told which chapter I am in.

Contents

1	Culture, comparison, and anthropological questions	5
1.1	Rebuild the chapter from first principles	5
1.2	Details I would refuse to skip	5
1.3	How this chapter connects	6
1.4	The full working model	6
2	Ethnography, fieldwork, and ethical knowledge	7
2.1	Rebuild the chapter from first principles	7
2.2	Details I would refuse to skip	8
2.3	How this chapter connects	8
2.4	The full working model	8
3	Language, symbols, and social worlds	10
3.1	Rebuild the chapter from first principles	10
3.2	Details I would refuse to skip	10
3.3	How this chapter connects	11
3.4	The full working model	11
4	Kinship, family, gender, and relatedness	12
4.1	Rebuild the chapter from first principles	12
4.2	Details I would refuse to skip	13
4.3	How this chapter connects	13
4.4	The full working model	14
5	Economy, exchange, labor, and value	15
5.1	Rebuild the chapter from first principles	15
5.2	Details I would refuse to skip	16
5.3	How this chapter connects	16
5.4	The full working model	16
6	Politics, law, power, and resistance	18
6.1	Rebuild the chapter from first principles	18
6.2	Details I would refuse to skip	18
6.3	How this chapter connects	19

6.4	The full working model	19
7	Religion, ritual, medicine, and meaning	20
7.1	Rebuild the chapter from first principles	20
7.2	Details I would refuse to skip	21
7.3	How this chapter connects	21
7.4	The full working model	21
8	Race, colonialism, globalization, and applied anthropology	23
8.1	Rebuild the chapter from first principles	23
8.2	Details I would refuse to skip	23
8.3	How this chapter connects	24
8.4	The full working model	24

CHAPTER 1 Culture, comparison, and anthropological questions

The idea

Culture is learned, shared, contested, symbolic, and changing rather than a sealed list of traits. Holism and comparison connect meaning with history, biology, economy, politics, and environment without ranking societies on one ladder.

Rebuild the chapter from first principles

The claim I need to own is this: Culture is learned, shared, contested, symbolic, and changing rather than a sealed list of traits. Holism and comparison connect meaning with history, biology, economy, politics, and environment without ranking societies on one ladder. I do not count that as learned just because the sentence looks familiar. I should be able to name the objects, state what changes and what stays fixed, recover the rule from the definitions, and explain why the result is allowed.

The move

My working sequence

1. **Translate.** Rewrite the prompt in the language of culture, comparison, and anthropological questions. List the known quantities, the unknown, the units or types, and any hidden constraint.
2. **Choose.** State the theorem, model, algorithm, accounting rule, or physical law before substituting values. This is where I make the assumption visible.
3. **Execute.** Work one justified step at a time and keep intermediate state readable enough that I can audit it later.
4. **Verify.** Check a boundary case, sign, unit, invariant, order of magnitude, or alternative derivation. Then translate the result back into an ordinary sentence.

Details I would refuse to skip

- **Definitions:** I should be able to define every technical noun in the chapter without using that same noun in the definition.
- **Assumptions:** I write the condition that makes the method legal beside the method itself. A correct procedure under the wrong assumptions is still a wrong answer.
- **Representation:** I move freely among words, equations or code, a diagram, and a small numerical example. If one representation disagrees with another, that disagreement is useful evidence.
- **Failure modes:** I keep the nearest counterexample in mind: the boundary where the rule changes, the invariant breaks, or the model stops matching reality.
- **Communication:** My final answer names what the result means and what it does not establish. I do not let notation do the explanatory work for me.

Sanity check

Closed-note check. Can I teach culture, comparison, and anthropological questions on a blank page, derive or reconstruct its main rule, work a fresh example, and diagnose a deliberately broken solution? If I can only recognize the finished work, I am not done.

How this chapter connects

I read this chapter as the bridge from the course foundations to ethnography, fieldwork, and ethical knowledge. The earlier material supplies the language and constraints; this chapter adds a new reasoning move; the later material asks me to use that move without being told its name. That connection matters because exams and real projects mix chapters on purpose.

The full working model

- **Core claim.** Culture is learned, shared, contested, symbolic, and changing rather than a sealed list of traits.
- **What moves.** Holism and comparison connect meaning with history, biology, economy, politics, and environment without ranking societies on one ladder.
- **What keeps the answer honest.** The model becomes useful only when I can apply culture, comparison, and anthropological questions to an unfamiliar case and defend the assumptions.
- **Mastery standard.** I can define the objects, rebuild the rule, work a fresh case, compare alternatives, and diagnose a broken solution without relying on recognition.

How I actually think about it

I use culture to explain patterns without turning people into stereotypes or treating difference as timeless.

The easy version

Culture is learned, shared, contested, symbolic, and changing rather than a sealed list of traits.

Worked example

Question. Why is saying a behavior is cultural not a complete explanation?

Walkthrough. It still requires evidence about who learns it, how meanings vary, which institutions sustain it, who contests it, and how the pattern changes across history.

Common miss

The fastest way to get this chapter wrong is to use the visible procedure without naming its assumption, units, time period, reference group, or boundary. I put that condition beside the work and verify the result independently.

Solved chapter practice

Practice 1. Why is saying a behavior is cultural not a complete explanation?

Solution. It still requires evidence about who learns it, how meanings vary, which institutions sustain it, who contests it, and how the pattern changes across history.

Practice 2. Explain culture, comparison, and anthropological questions to a classmate using one definition, one concrete example, one assumption, and one failure mode.

Solution. Begin with the core claim above, use the worked case as the concrete example, state the condition highlighted by the warning, and choose a failure where that condition does not hold. A complete explanation connects all four pieces instead of listing them.

Mastery practice A. Reconstruct culture, comparison, and anthropological questions from a blank page. Include the central definition, the governing rule, one required assumption, and one boundary case.

Solution. Start from the blue idea box, but rewrite it in my own words. Identify the objects and state, name the rule before using it, copy the relevant assumption from the details audit, and choose a boundary where that assumption becomes equality or fails. A complete solution explains why each part belongs; a list of vocabulary is not enough.

Mastery practice B. A classmate gets a polished-looking answer to a culture, comparison, and anthropological questions problem but never states a model or checks the result. Write the shortest useful review of that solution.

Solution. I would ask four concrete questions: What exactly are the inputs and desired output? Which rule licenses the main step? Which assumption could invalidate it? Which independent check supports the conclusion? If the answer cannot survive those four questions, I treat the numerical or verbal result as unverified.

CHAPTER 2 Ethnography, fieldwork, and ethical knowledge

The idea

Participant observation, interviews, language learning, genealogy, archives, surveys, and collaborative methods build situated knowledge. Reflexivity, positionality, informed consent, reciprocity, privacy, and representation shape both evidence and ethics.

Rebuild the chapter from first principles

The claim I need to own is this: Participant observation, interviews, language learning, genealogy, archives, surveys, and collaborative methods build situated knowledge. Reflexivity, positionality, informed consent, reciprocity, privacy, and representation shape both evidence and ethics. I do not count that as learned just because the sentence looks familiar. I should be able to name the objects, state what changes and what stays fixed, recover the rule from the definitions, and explain why the result is allowed.

The move

My working sequence

1. **Translate.** Rewrite the prompt in the language of ethnography, fieldwork, and ethical knowledge. List the known quantities, the unknown, the units or types, and any hidden constraint.
2. **Choose.** State the theorem, model, algorithm, accounting rule, or physical law before substituting values. This is where I make the assumption visible.
3. **Execute.** Work one justified step at a time and keep intermediate state readable enough that I can audit it later.
4. **Verify.** Check a boundary case, sign, unit, invariant, order of magnitude, or alternative derivation. Then translate the result back into an ordinary sentence.

Details I would refuse to skip

- **Definitions:** I should be able to define every technical noun in the chapter without using that same noun in the definition.
- **Assumptions:** I write the condition that makes the method legal beside the method itself. A correct procedure under the wrong assumptions is still a wrong answer.
- **Representation:** I move freely among words, equations or code, a diagram, and a small numerical example. If one representation disagrees with another, that disagreement is useful evidence.
- **Failure modes:** I keep the nearest counterexample in mind: the boundary where the rule changes, the invariant breaks, or the model stops matching reality.
- **Communication:** My final answer names what the result means and what it does not establish. I do not let notation do the explanatory work for me.

Sanity check

Closed-note check. Can I teach ethnography, fieldwork, and ethical knowledge on a blank page, derive or reconstruct its main rule, work a fresh example, and diagnose a deliberately broken solution? If I can only recognize the finished work, I am not done.

How this chapter connects

I read this chapter as the bridge from culture, comparison, and anthropological questions to language, symbols, and social worlds. The earlier material supplies the language and constraints; this chapter adds a new reasoning move; the later material asks me to use that move without being told its name. That connection matters because exams and real projects mix chapters on purpose.

The full working model

- **Core claim.** Participant observation, interviews, language learning, genealogy, archives, surveys, and collaborative methods build situated knowledge.
- **What moves.** Reflexivity, positionality, informed consent, reciprocity, privacy, and representation shape both evidence and ethics.

- **What keeps the answer honest.** The model becomes useful only when I can apply ethnography, fieldwork, and ethical knowledge to an unfamiliar case and defend the assumptions.
- **Mastery standard.** I can define the objects, rebuild the rule, work a fresh case, compare alternatives, and diagnose a broken solution without relying on recognition.

How I actually think about it

The ethnographer is part of the research situation, so I treat perspective as something to examine rather than pretend away.

The easy version

Participant observation, interviews, language learning, genealogy, archives, surveys, and collaborative methods build situated knowledge.

Worked example

Question. What can participant observation reveal that an interview may miss?

Walkthrough. It can show routine practice, contradictions between stated norms and action, interactional context, and tacit knowledge that participants may not articulate directly.

Common miss

The fastest way to get this chapter wrong is to use the visible procedure without naming its assumption, units, time period, reference group, or boundary. I put that condition beside the work and verify the result independently.

Solved chapter practice

Practice 1. What can participant observation reveal that an interview may miss?

Solution. It can show routine practice, contradictions between stated norms and action, interactional context, and tacit knowledge that participants may not articulate directly.

Practice 2. Explain ethnography, fieldwork, and ethical knowledge to a classmate using one definition, one concrete example, one assumption, and one failure mode.

Solution. Begin with the core claim above, use the worked case as the concrete example, state the condition highlighted by the warning, and choose a failure where that condition does not hold. A complete explanation connects all four pieces instead of listing them.

Mastery practice A. Reconstruct ethnography, fieldwork, and ethical knowledge from a blank page. Include the central definition, the governing rule, one required assumption, and one boundary case.

Solution. Start from the blue idea box, but rewrite it in my own words. Identify the objects and state, name the rule before using it, copy the relevant assumption from the details audit, and choose a boundary where that assumption becomes equality or fails. A complete solution explains why each part belongs; a list of vocabulary is not enough.

Mastery practice B. A classmate gets a polished-looking answer to a ethnography, fieldwork, and ethical knowledge problem but never states a model or checks the result. Write the shortest useful review of that solution.

Solution. I would ask four concrete questions: What exactly are the inputs and desired output? Which rule licenses the main step? Which assumption could invalidate it? Which independent check supports the conclusion? If the answer cannot survive those four questions, I treat the numerical or verbal result as unverified.

CHAPTER 3 Language, symbols, and social worlds

The idea

Language does more than label reality: speech acts, categories, narratives, metaphors, registers, and ideologies create relationships and identities. Linguistic relativity concerns patterned attention and interpretation, not absolute imprisonment by vocabulary.

Rebuild the chapter from first principles

The claim I need to own is this: Language does more than label reality: speech acts, categories, narratives, metaphors, registers, and ideologies create relationships and identities. Linguistic relativity concerns patterned attention and interpretation, not absolute imprisonment by vocabulary. I do not count that as learned just because the sentence looks familiar. I should be able to name the objects, state what changes and what stays fixed, recover the rule from the definitions, and explain why the result is allowed.

The move

My working sequence

1. **Translate.** Rewrite the prompt in the language of language, symbols, and social worlds. List the known quantities, the unknown, the units or types, and any hidden constraint.
2. **Choose.** State the theorem, model, algorithm, accounting rule, or physical law before substituting values. This is where I make the assumption visible.
3. **Execute.** Work one justified step at a time and keep intermediate state readable enough that I can audit it later.
4. **Verify.** Check a boundary case, sign, unit, invariant, order of magnitude, or alternative derivation. Then translate the result back into an ordinary sentence.

Details I would refuse to skip

- **Definitions:** I should be able to define every technical noun in the chapter without using that same noun in the definition.
- **Assumptions:** I write the condition that makes the method legal beside the method itself. A correct procedure under the wrong assumptions is still a wrong answer.
- **Representation:** I move freely among words, equations or code, a diagram, and a small numerical example. If one representation disagrees with another, that disagreement is useful evidence.

- **Failure modes:** I keep the nearest counterexample in mind: the boundary where the rule changes, the invariant breaks, or the model stops matching reality.
- **Communication:** My final answer names what the result means and what it does not establish. I do not let notation do the explanatory work for me.

Sanity check

Closed-note check. Can I teach language, symbols, and social worlds on a blank page, derive or reconstruct its main rule, work a fresh example, and diagnose a deliberately broken solution? If I can only recognize the finished work, I am not done.

How this chapter connects

I read this chapter as the bridge from ethnography, fieldwork, and ethical knowledge to kinship, family, gender, and relatedness. The earlier material supplies the language and constraints; this chapter adds a new reasoning move; the later material asks me to use that move without being told its name. That connection matters because exams and real projects mix chapters on purpose.

The full working model

- **Core claim.** Language does more than label reality: speech acts, categories, narratives, metaphors, registers, and ideologies create relationships and identities.
- **What moves.** Linguistic relativity concerns patterned attention and interpretation, not absolute imprisonment by vocabulary.
- **What keeps the answer honest.** The model becomes useful only when I can apply language, symbols, and social worlds to an unfamiliar case and defend the assumptions.
- **Mastery standard.** I can define the objects, rebuild the rule, work a fresh case, compare alternatives, and diagnose a broken solution without relying on recognition.

How I actually think about it

I listen for what an utterance does socially, not only what its dictionary meaning says.

The easy version

Language does more than label reality: speech acts, categories, narratives, metaphors, registers, and ideologies create relationships and identities.

Worked example

Question. How can choosing a formal register exercise power?

Walkthrough. It can mark expertise, distance, respect, bureaucracy, or exclusion, positioning speakers and listeners within a hierarchy.

Common miss

The fastest way to get this chapter wrong is to use the visible procedure without naming its assumption, units, time period, reference group, or boundary. I put that condition beside the work and verify the result independently.

Solved chapter practice

Practice 1. How can choosing a formal register exercise power?

Solution. It can mark expertise, distance, respect, bureaucracy, or exclusion, positioning speakers and listeners within a hierarchy.

Practice 2. Explain language, symbols, and social worlds to a classmate using one definition, one concrete example, one assumption, and one failure mode.

Solution. Begin with the core claim above, use the worked case as the concrete example, state the condition highlighted by the warning, and choose a failure where that condition does not hold. A complete explanation connects all four pieces instead of listing them.

Mastery practice A. Reconstruct language, symbols, and social worlds from a blank page. Include the central definition, the governing rule, one required assumption, and one boundary case.

Solution. Start from the blue idea box, but rewrite it in my own words. Identify the objects and state, name the rule before using it, copy the relevant assumption from the details audit, and choose a boundary where that assumption becomes equality or fails. A complete solution explains why each part belongs; a list of vocabulary is not enough.

Mastery practice B. A classmate gets a polished-looking answer to a language, symbols, and social worlds problem but never states a model or checks the result. Write the shortest useful review of that solution.

Solution. I would ask four concrete questions: What exactly are the inputs and desired output? Which rule licenses the main step? Which assumption could invalidate it? Which independent check supports the conclusion? If the answer cannot survive those four questions, I treat the numerical or verbal result as unverified.

CHAPTER 4 Kinship, family, gender, and relatedness

The idea

Descent, marriage, residence, household, adoption, friendship, care, and reproductive technologies organize relatedness differently across societies. Gender and sexuality are embodied and institutional, with roles shaped by labor, law, ritual, and power.

Rebuild the chapter from first principles

The claim I need to own is this: Descent, marriage, residence, household, adoption, friendship, care, and reproductive technologies organize relatedness differently across societies. Gender and sexuality are embodied and institutional, with roles shaped by labor, law, ritual, and power. I do not count that as

learned just because the sentence looks familiar. I should be able to name the objects, state what changes and what stays fixed, recover the rule from the definitions, and explain why the result is allowed.

The move

My working sequence

1. **Translate.** Rewrite the prompt in the language of kinship, family, gender, and relatedness. List the known quantities, the unknown, the units or types, and any hidden constraint.
2. **Choose.** State the theorem, model, algorithm, accounting rule, or physical law before substituting values. This is where I make the assumption visible.
3. **Execute.** Work one justified step at a time and keep intermediate state readable enough that I can audit it later.
4. **Verify.** Check a boundary case, sign, unit, invariant, order of magnitude, or alternative derivation. Then translate the result back into an ordinary sentence.

Details I would refuse to skip

- **Definitions:** I should be able to define every technical noun in the chapter without using that same noun in the definition.
- **Assumptions:** I write the condition that makes the method legal beside the method itself. A correct procedure under the wrong assumptions is still a wrong answer.
- **Representation:** I move freely among words, equations or code, a diagram, and a small numerical example. If one representation disagrees with another, that disagreement is useful evidence.
- **Failure modes:** I keep the nearest counterexample in mind: the boundary where the rule changes, the invariant breaks, or the model stops matching reality.
- **Communication:** My final answer names what the result means and what it does not establish. I do not let notation do the explanatory work for me.

Sanity check

Closed-note check. Can I teach kinship, family, gender, and relatedness on a blank page, derive or reconstruct its main rule, work a fresh example, and diagnose a deliberately broken solution? If I can only recognize the finished work, I am not done.

How this chapter connects

I read this chapter as the bridge from language, symbols, and social worlds to economy, exchange, labor, and value. The earlier material supplies the language and constraints; this chapter adds a new reasoning move; the later material asks me to use that move without being told its name. That connection matters because exams and real projects mix chapters on purpose.

The full working model

- **Core claim.** Descent, marriage, residence, household, adoption, friendship, care, and reproductive technologies organize relatedness differently across societies.
- **What moves.** Gender and sexuality are embodied and institutional, with roles shaped by labor, law, ritual, and power.
- **What keeps the answer honest.** The model becomes useful only when I can apply kinship, family, gender, and relatedness to an unfamiliar case and defend the assumptions.
- **Mastery standard.** I can define the objects, rebuild the rule, work a fresh case, compare alternatives, and diagnose a broken solution without relying on recognition.

How I actually think about it

My shorthand for this chapter is: kinship diagrams are maps of recognized obligations, not universal biology written directly onto society.

The easy version

Descent, marriage, residence, household, adoption, friendship, care, and reproductive technologies organize relatedness differently across societies.

Worked example

Question. Why can the same biological relation carry different social duties across cultures?

Walkthrough. Societies recognize, name, and organize relatedness through different descent, residence, inheritance, and caregiving systems.

Common miss

The fastest way to get this chapter wrong is to use the visible procedure without naming its assumption, units, time period, reference group, or boundary. I put that condition beside the work and verify the result independently.

Solved chapter practice

Practice 1. Why can the same biological relation carry different social duties across cultures?

Solution. Societies recognize, name, and organize relatedness through different descent, residence, inheritance, and caregiving systems.

Practice 2. Explain kinship, family, gender, and relatedness to a classmate using one definition, one concrete example, one assumption, and one failure mode.

Solution. Begin with the core claim above, use the worked case as the concrete example, state the condition highlighted by the warning, and choose a failure where that condition does not hold. A complete explanation connects all four pieces instead of listing them.

Mastery practice A. Reconstruct kinship, family, gender, and relatedness from a blank page. Include the central definition, the governing rule, one required assumption, and one boundary case.

Solution. Start from the blue idea box, but rewrite it in my own words. Identify the objects and state, name the rule before using it, copy the relevant assumption from the details audit, and choose a boundary where that assumption becomes equality or fails. A complete solution explains why each part belongs; a list of vocabulary is not enough.

Mastery practice B. A classmate gets a polished-looking answer to a kinship, family, gender, and relatedness problem but never states a model or checks the result. Write the shortest useful review of that solution.

Solution. I would ask four concrete questions: What exactly are the inputs and desired output? Which rule licenses the main step? Which assumption could invalidate it? Which independent check supports the conclusion? If the answer cannot survive those four questions, I treat the numerical or verbal result as unverified.

CHAPTER 5 Economy, exchange, labor, and value

The idea

Reciprocity, redistribution, markets, gifts, subsistence, property, debt, and labor embed economic action in relationships and moral expectations. Value is produced materially and symbolically, while global supply chains separate consumers from conditions of production.

Rebuild the chapter from first principles

The claim I need to own is this: Reciprocity, redistribution, markets, gifts, subsistence, property, debt, and labor embed economic action in relationships and moral expectations. Value is produced materially and symbolically, while global supply chains separate consumers from conditions of production. I do not count that as learned just because the sentence looks familiar. I should be able to name the objects, state what changes and what stays fixed, recover the rule from the definitions, and explain why the result is allowed.

The move

My working sequence

1. **Translate.** Rewrite the prompt in the language of economy, exchange, labor, and value. List the known quantities, the unknown, the units or types, and any hidden constraint.
2. **Choose.** State the theorem, model, algorithm, accounting rule, or physical law before substituting values. This is where I make the assumption visible.
3. **Execute.** Work one justified step at a time and keep intermediate state readable enough that I can audit it later.
4. **Verify.** Check a boundary case, sign, unit, invariant, order of magnitude, or alternative derivation. Then translate the result back into an ordinary sentence.

Details I would refuse to skip

- **Definitions:** I should be able to define every technical noun in the chapter without using that same noun in the definition.
- **Assumptions:** I write the condition that makes the method legal beside the method itself. A correct procedure under the wrong assumptions is still a wrong answer.
- **Representation:** I move freely among words, equations or code, a diagram, and a small numerical example. If one representation disagrees with another, that disagreement is useful evidence.
- **Failure modes:** I keep the nearest counterexample in mind: the boundary where the rule changes, the invariant breaks, or the model stops matching reality.
- **Communication:** My final answer names what the result means and what it does not establish. I do not let notation do the explanatory work for me.

Sanity check

Closed-note check. Can I teach economy, exchange, labor, and value on a blank page, derive or reconstruct its main rule, work a fresh example, and diagnose a deliberately broken solution? If I can only recognize the finished work, I am not done.

How this chapter connects

I read this chapter as the bridge from kinship, family, gender, and relatedness to politics, law, power, and resistance. The earlier material supplies the language and constraints; this chapter adds a new reasoning move; the later material asks me to use that move without being told its name. That connection matters because exams and real projects mix chapters on purpose.

The full working model

- **Core claim.** Reciprocity, redistribution, markets, gifts, subsistence, property, debt, and labor embed economic action in relationships and moral expectations.
- **What moves.** Value is produced materially and symbolically, while global supply chains separate consumers from conditions of production.
- **What keeps the answer honest.** The model becomes useful only when I can apply economy, exchange, labor, and value to an unfamiliar case and defend the assumptions.
- **Mastery standard.** I can define the objects, rebuild the rule, work a fresh case, compare alternatives, and diagnose a broken solution without relying on recognition.

How I actually think about it

I ask what an exchange creates between people in addition to what object changes hands.

The easy version

Reciprocity, redistribution, markets, gifts, subsistence, property, debt, and labor embed economic action in relationships and moral expectations.

Worked example

Question. Why is a gift not necessarily free?

Walkthrough. Gifts can create obligations, status, alliance, gratitude, or future reciprocity. Their social meaning may matter more than the item's market price.

Common miss

The fastest way to get this chapter wrong is to use the visible procedure without naming its assumption, units, time period, reference group, or boundary. I put that condition beside the work and verify the result independently.

Solved chapter practice

Practice 1. Why is a gift not necessarily free?

Solution. Gifts can create obligations, status, alliance, gratitude, or future reciprocity. Their social meaning may matter more than the item's market price.

Practice 2. Explain economy, exchange, labor, and value to a classmate using one definition, one concrete example, one assumption, and one failure mode.

Solution. Begin with the core claim above, use the worked case as the concrete example, state the condition highlighted by the warning, and choose a failure where that condition does not hold. A complete explanation connects all four pieces instead of listing them.

Mastery practice A. Reconstruct economy, exchange, labor, and value from a blank page. Include the central definition, the governing rule, one required assumption, and one boundary case.

Solution. Start from the blue idea box, but rewrite it in my own words. Identify the objects and state, name the rule before using it, copy the relevant assumption from the details audit, and choose a boundary where that assumption becomes equality or fails. A complete solution explains why each part belongs; a list of vocabulary is not enough.

Mastery practice B. A classmate gets a polished-looking answer to a economy, exchange, labor, and value problem but never states a model or checks the result. Write the shortest useful review of that solution.

Solution. I would ask four concrete questions: What exactly are the inputs and desired output? Which rule licenses the main step? Which assumption could invalidate it? Which independent check supports the conclusion? If the answer cannot survive those four questions, I treat the numerical or verbal result as unverified.

CHAPTER 6 Politics, law, power, and resistance

The idea

Authority ranges across households, councils, states, corporations, and informal networks. Power can be coercive, institutional, disciplinary, or hegemonic; law and violence define categories while everyday negotiation and collective action resist them.

Rebuild the chapter from first principles

The claim I need to own is this: Authority ranges across households, councils, states, corporations, and informal networks. Power can be coercive, institutional, disciplinary, or hegemonic; law and violence define categories while everyday negotiation and collective action resist them. I do not count that as learned just because the sentence looks familiar. I should be able to name the objects, state what changes and what stays fixed, recover the rule from the definitions, and explain why the result is allowed.

The move

My working sequence

1. **Translate.** Rewrite the prompt in the language of politics, law, power, and resistance. List the known quantities, the unknown, the units or types, and any hidden constraint.
2. **Choose.** State the theorem, model, algorithm, accounting rule, or physical law before substituting values. This is where I make the assumption visible.
3. **Execute.** Work one justified step at a time and keep intermediate state readable enough that I can audit it later.
4. **Verify.** Check a boundary case, sign, unit, invariant, order of magnitude, or alternative derivation. Then translate the result back into an ordinary sentence.

Details I would refuse to skip

- **Definitions:** I should be able to define every technical noun in the chapter without using that same noun in the definition.
- **Assumptions:** I write the condition that makes the method legal beside the method itself. A correct procedure under the wrong assumptions is still a wrong answer.
- **Representation:** I move freely among words, equations or code, a diagram, and a small numerical example. If one representation disagrees with another, that disagreement is useful evidence.
- **Failure modes:** I keep the nearest counterexample in mind: the boundary where the rule changes, the invariant breaks, or the model stops matching reality.
- **Communication:** My final answer names what the result means and what it does not establish. I do not let notation do the explanatory work for me.

Sanity check

Closed-note check. Can I teach politics, law, power, and resistance on a blank page, derive or reconstruct its main rule, work a fresh example, and diagnose a deliberately broken solution? If I can only recognize the finished work, I am not done.

How this chapter connects

I read this chapter as the bridge from economy, exchange, labor, and value to religion, ritual, medicine, and meaning. The earlier material supplies the language and constraints; this chapter adds a new reasoning move; the later material asks me to use that move without being told its name. That connection matters because exams and real projects mix chapters on purpose.

The full working model

- **Core claim.** Authority ranges across households, councils, states, corporations, and informal networks.
- **What moves.** Power can be coercive, institutional, disciplinary, or hegemonic; law and violence define categories while everyday negotiation and collective action resist them.
- **What keeps the answer honest.** The model becomes useful only when I can apply politics, law, power, and resistance to an unfamiliar case and defend the assumptions.
- **Mastery standard.** I can define the objects, rebuild the rule, work a fresh case, compare alternatives, and diagnose a broken solution without relying on recognition.

How I actually think about it

I look for power in ordinary rules and assumptions, not only in dramatic commands from leaders.

The easy version

Authority ranges across households, councils, states, corporations, and informal networks.

Worked example

Question. What is hegemony?

Walkthrough. It is power stabilized partly through consent and common sense, where a social order appears natural even though it benefits some interests more than others.

Common miss

The fastest way to get this chapter wrong is to use the visible procedure without naming its assumption, units, time period, reference group, or boundary. I put that condition beside the work and verify the result independently.

Solved chapter practice

Practice 1. What is hegemony?

Solution. It is power stabilized partly through consent and common sense, where a social order appears natural even though it benefits some interests more than others.

Practice 2. Explain politics, law, power, and resistance to a classmate using one definition, one concrete example, one assumption, and one failure mode.

Solution. Begin with the core claim above, use the worked case as the concrete example, state the condition highlighted by the warning, and choose a failure where that condition does not hold. A complete explanation connects all four pieces instead of listing them.

Mastery practice A. Reconstruct politics, law, power, and resistance from a blank page. Include the central definition, the governing rule, one required assumption, and one boundary case.

Solution. Start from the blue idea box, but rewrite it in my own words. Identify the objects and state, name the rule before using it, copy the relevant assumption from the details audit, and choose a boundary where that assumption becomes equality or fails. A complete solution explains why each part belongs; a list of vocabulary is not enough.

Mastery practice B. A classmate gets a polished-looking answer to a politics, law, power, and resistance problem but never states a model or checks the result. Write the shortest useful review of that solution.

Solution. I would ask four concrete questions: What exactly are the inputs and desired output? Which rule licenses the main step? Which assumption could invalidate it? Which independent check supports the conclusion? If the answer cannot survive those four questions, I treat the numerical or verbal result as unverified.

CHAPTER 7 Religion, ritual, medicine, and meaning

The idea

Ritual, myth, cosmology, spirit practice, secularism, and institutions organize uncertainty, morality, belonging, and authority. Medical systems combine biological effects with diagnosis, trust, symbolism, access, and social suffering.

Rebuild the chapter from first principles

The claim I need to own is this: Ritual, myth, cosmology, spirit practice, secularism, and institutions organize uncertainty, morality, belonging, and authority. Medical systems combine biological effects with diagnosis, trust, symbolism, access, and social suffering. I do not count that as learned just because the sentence looks familiar. I should be able to name the objects, state what changes and what stays fixed, recover the rule from the definitions, and explain why the result is allowed.

The move

My working sequence

1. **Translate.** Rewrite the prompt in the language of religion, ritual, medicine, and meaning. List the known quantities, the unknown, the units or types, and any hidden constraint.
2. **Choose.** State the theorem, model, algorithm, accounting rule, or physical law before substituting values. This is where I make the assumption visible.
3. **Execute.** Work one justified step at a time and keep intermediate state readable enough that I can audit it later.
4. **Verify.** Check a boundary case, sign, unit, invariant, order of magnitude, or alternative derivation. Then translate the result back into an ordinary sentence.

Details I would refuse to skip

- **Definitions:** I should be able to define every technical noun in the chapter without using that same noun in the definition.
- **Assumptions:** I write the condition that makes the method legal beside the method itself. A correct procedure under the wrong assumptions is still a wrong answer.
- **Representation:** I move freely among words, equations or code, a diagram, and a small numerical example. If one representation disagrees with another, that disagreement is useful evidence.
- **Failure modes:** I keep the nearest counterexample in mind: the boundary where the rule changes, the invariant breaks, or the model stops matching reality.
- **Communication:** My final answer names what the result means and what it does not establish. I do not let notation do the explanatory work for me.

Sanity check

Closed-note check. Can I teach religion, ritual, medicine, and meaning on a blank page, derive or reconstruct its main rule, work a fresh example, and diagnose a deliberately broken solution? If I can only recognize the finished work, I am not done.

How this chapter connects

I read this chapter as the bridge from politics, law, power, and resistance to race, colonialism, globalization, and applied anthropology. The earlier material supplies the language and constraints; this chapter adds a new reasoning move; the later material asks me to use that move without being told its name. That connection matters because exams and real projects mix chapters on purpose.

The full working model

- **Core claim.** Ritual, myth, cosmology, spirit practice, secularism, and institutions organize uncertainty, morality, belonging, and authority.
- **What moves.** Medical systems combine biological effects with diagnosis, trust, symbolism, access, and social suffering.

- **What keeps the answer honest.** The model becomes useful only when I can apply religion, ritual, medicine, and meaning to an unfamiliar case and defend the assumptions.
- **Mastery standard.** I can define the objects, rebuild the rule, work a fresh case, compare alternatives, and diagnose a broken solution without relying on recognition.

How I actually think about it

I compare truth claims respectfully while still asking what practices do for bodies, relationships, and institutions.

The easy version

Ritual, myth, cosmology, spirit practice, secularism, and institutions organize uncertainty, morality, belonging, and authority.

Worked example

Question. How can a rite of passage change social status?

Walkthrough. A structured separation, transition, and reincorporation publicly reclassifies a person, aligning identity, obligations, and community recognition.

Common miss

The fastest way to get this chapter wrong is to use the visible procedure without naming its assumption, units, time period, reference group, or boundary. I put that condition beside the work and verify the result independently.

Solved chapter practice

Practice 1. How can a rite of passage change social status?

Solution. A structured separation, transition, and reincorporation publicly reclassifies a person, aligning identity, obligations, and community recognition.

Practice 2. Explain religion, ritual, medicine, and meaning to a classmate using one definition, one concrete example, one assumption, and one failure mode.

Solution. Begin with the core claim above, use the worked case as the concrete example, state the condition highlighted by the warning, and choose a failure where that condition does not hold. A complete explanation connects all four pieces instead of listing them.

Mastery practice A. Reconstruct religion, ritual, medicine, and meaning from a blank page. Include the central definition, the governing rule, one required assumption, and one boundary case.

Solution. Start from the blue idea box, but rewrite it in my own words. Identify the objects and state, name the rule before using it, copy the relevant assumption from the details audit, and choose a boundary where that assumption becomes equality or fails. A complete solution explains why each part belongs; a list of vocabulary is not enough.

Mastery practice B. A classmate gets a polished-looking answer to a religion, ritual, medicine, and meaning problem but never states a model or checks the result. Write the shortest useful review of that solution.

Solution. I would ask four concrete questions: What exactly are the inputs and desired output? Which rule licenses the main step? Which assumption could invalidate it? Which independent check supports the conclusion? If the answer cannot survive those four questions, I treat the numerical or verbal result as unverified.

CHAPTER 8 Race, colonialism, globalization, and applied anthropology

The idea

Race is socially constructed yet materially consequential through law, institutions, and lived classification. Colonial histories, migration, development, media, tourism, climate, and transnational flows reshape local worlds unevenly; applied work requires accountability.

Rebuild the chapter from first principles

The claim I need to own is this: Race is socially constructed yet materially consequential through law, institutions, and lived classification. Colonial histories, migration, development, media, tourism, climate, and transnational flows reshape local worlds unevenly; applied work requires accountability. I do not count that as learned just because the sentence looks familiar. I should be able to name the objects, state what changes and what stays fixed, recover the rule from the definitions, and explain why the result is allowed.

The move

My working sequence

1. **Translate.** Rewrite the prompt in the language of race, colonialism, globalization, and applied anthropology. List the known quantities, the unknown, the units or types, and any hidden constraint.
2. **Choose.** State the theorem, model, algorithm, accounting rule, or physical law before substituting values. This is where I make the assumption visible.
3. **Execute.** Work one justified step at a time and keep intermediate state readable enough that I can audit it later.
4. **Verify.** Check a boundary case, sign, unit, invariant, order of magnitude, or alternative derivation. Then translate the result back into an ordinary sentence.

Details I would refuse to skip

- **Definitions:** I should be able to define every technical noun in the chapter without using that same noun in the definition.
- **Assumptions:** I write the condition that makes the method legal beside the method itself. A correct procedure under the wrong assumptions is still a wrong answer.

- **Representation:** I move freely among words, equations or code, a diagram, and a small numerical example. If one representation disagrees with another, that disagreement is useful evidence.
- **Failure modes:** I keep the nearest counterexample in mind: the boundary where the rule changes, the invariant breaks, or the model stops matching reality.
- **Communication:** My final answer names what the result means and what it does not establish. I do not let notation do the explanatory work for me.

Sanity check

Closed-note check. Can I teach race, colonialism, globalization, and applied anthropology on a blank page, derive or reconstruct its main rule, work a fresh example, and diagnose a deliberately broken solution? If I can only recognize the finished work, I am not done.

How this chapter connects

I read this chapter as the bridge from religion, ritual, medicine, and meaning to the cumulative course model. The earlier material supplies the language and constraints; this chapter adds a new reasoning move; the later material asks me to use that move without being told its name. That connection matters because exams and real projects mix chapters on purpose.

The full working model

- **Core claim.** Race is socially constructed yet materially consequential through law, institutions, and lived classification.
- **What moves.** Colonial histories, migration, development, media, tourism, climate, and transnational flows reshape local worlds unevenly; applied work requires accountability.
- **What keeps the answer honest.** The model becomes useful only when I can apply race, colonialism, globalization, and applied anthropology to an unfamiliar case and defend the assumptions.
- **Mastery standard.** I can define the objects, rebuild the rule, work a fresh case, compare alternatives, and diagnose a broken solution without relying on recognition.

How I actually think about it

Globalization connects places, but it does not flatten power. I follow who moves, who profits, and who absorbs risk.

The easy version

Race is socially constructed yet materially consequential through law, institutions, and lived classification.

Worked example

Question. How can a development project fail despite good technical design?

Walkthrough. It may ignore local knowledge, land rights, gendered labor, political incentives, maintenance capacity, or community priorities. Collaborative design and long-term accountability

are essential.

Common miss

The fastest way to get this chapter wrong is to use the visible procedure without naming its assumption, units, time period, reference group, or boundary. I put that condition beside the work and verify the result independently.

Solved chapter practice

Practice 1. How can a development project fail despite good technical design?

Solution. It may ignore local knowledge, land rights, gendered labor, political incentives, maintenance capacity, or community priorities. Collaborative design and long-term accountability are essential.

Practice 2. Explain race, colonialism, globalization, and applied anthropology to a classmate using one definition, one concrete example, one assumption, and one failure mode.

Solution. Begin with the core claim above, use the worked case as the concrete example, state the condition highlighted by the warning, and choose a failure where that condition does not hold. A complete explanation connects all four pieces instead of listing them.

Mastery practice A. Reconstruct race, colonialism, globalization, and applied anthropology from a blank page. Include the central definition, the governing rule, one required assumption, and one boundary case.

Solution. Start from the blue idea box, but rewrite it in my own words. Identify the objects and state, name the rule before using it, copy the relevant assumption from the details audit, and choose a boundary where that assumption becomes equality or fails. A complete solution explains why each part belongs; a list of vocabulary is not enough.

Mastery practice B. A classmate gets a polished-looking answer to a race, colonialism, globalization, and applied anthropology problem but never states a model or checks the result. Write the shortest useful review of that solution.

Solution. I would ask four concrete questions: What exactly are the inputs and desired output? Which rule licenses the main step? Which assumption could invalidate it? Which independent check supports the conclusion? If the answer cannot survive those four questions, I treat the numerical or verbal result as unverified.

Cumulative study plan

I use this packet in three passes. First I reconstruct each model and work its examples without looking. Second I mix chapters so the tool is no longer named for me. Third I explain a complete case aloud, including assumptions, units, uncertainty, failure modes, and what evidence would change my conclusion.