On the following pages are study questions to organize your thoughts about the readings and lecture and to help you prepare for the coming exam.

Anthropology of War

2/12/08
Material Covered on Exam

- Meggitt Chapters 1-5
- Fry Chapters: 5-7, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18
- Kelly Chapter: 1-2
- Keeley Chapters: 1-5, 11
- On-line readings:
  - Wrangham (Coalitionary Violence)
  - Walker (Bioarchaeology and Violence)
  - Killer instincts (this replaces the “Counterinsurgency” article which is now slated for the second segment)
- Films:
  - Dani: Dead Birds
  - The New Chimpanzees
First Exam Questions I

- The nature of chimpanzee coalitionary violence
  - What are the design features and goals of incursions?
  - What do incursions have to do with the imbalance of power hypothesis?
  - Is coalitional violence adaptive?
  - What do incursions have to do with human warfare?
  - Do other animals engage in coalitionary violence?
  - Why do bonobos not engage in coalitionary violence and why are they relatively internally peaceful?

- Describe some of the early evolutionary biological theories of warfare proposed by Lorenz and others and contrast them to modern evolutionary models proposed by Wrangham and others?
First Exam Questions II

- Using territoriality how is warfare seen as a strategic and adaptive pattern of behavior? Under what conditions is it likely to occur?
- Following Kelly, what are some of the social and cultural features that distinguish warless from warlike societies?
- According to Kelly, what are the social organizational factors that differentiate non-segmented from segmented societies and how do they lead to social substitutability and warfare in segmented societies?
- How do various theorists define warfare? What definition do you favor and why is it superior to other definitions? How do we deal with the issue of homicidal violence that we cannot characterize as warfare? Is it related to warfare in terms of causes and goals?
- Human warfare and aggression in the EEA figure in the writings of Wrangham, Fry (chapters 17-18), and Kelly. How does the EEA help us understand the evolution of human aggression?
First Exam Questions III

- What is Keeley’s assessment of Turney-High and Wright’s characterization of the nature of non-state warfare?
- What are the “faulty assumptions” that Fry believes anthropologists and others employ in their understanding of tribal warfare?
- How does Fry use the “tribal zone” theory of tribal war and how does it compare to the positions taken by Walker and Keeley?
- What evidence do Keeley and Walker provide about the archaeological and bioarchaeological evidence for warfare and homicide?
- What positions do Fry, Kelly, and Wrangham take on the use of evolutionary biology for our understanding of warfare?
First Exam Questions IV

- Fry claims that the “pervasive intergroup hostility model” is the dominant among the public and scientific communities while Keeley says that anthropologists have “pacified” the past. Evaluate these opposite points of view.

- Revenge appears to be a common motivation for war. Discuss its cultural background using examples from the Dani, Mae Enga, and web readings. Does it serve any instrumental utility? Why does it appear to be so common among these peoples?

- Kelly in his PNAS article suggests that Wrangham’s model of coalitionary violence may not be extendable to certain phases of early human history. What are the issues that divide these two scholars? Hint: weapons and knowledge of one’s territory.

- Among the Mae Enga Meggitt describes four types of fights among and/or between phratries, clans, and subclans. Compare and contrast them in terms of frequency, peace-making, duration, organization, and deadliness.