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**ANTH 1102**

**Attendance/Participation Questions for Week 3: Worldview**

***Option #1: Weber’s “The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism”***

Weber, Max. 2001. “[The Spirit of Capitalism](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/citytech-ebooks/reader.action?docID=242182&ppg=55)” in Protestantische Ethik und der Geist des Kapitalismus. Florence: Taylor & Francis Group. Accessed March 16, 2021. ProQuest Ebook Central.

A.(Topic) What is the main point of Max Weber’s article? (one sentence)

B.(Thesis) A “worldview” is way of understanding how the world came to be, its design, and how and individual views their place in it. An atheist has a world view, but not a religious one.  It is the lens through which you see the world that can be related to your culture.  Though Weber does not define the concept of worldview, his description of the spirit of capitalism is a description of an American Worldview. Weber says:

“Since asceticism undertook to remodel the world and to work out its ideals in the world, material goods have gained an increasing and finally an inexorable power over the lives of men as at no previous period in history (2008: 55).”

After reading the article, explain in your own words what the above quotation means and how it contributes to Weber’s over all thesis argument? (What is Weber’s understanding of American worldview/ what is the “spirit of capitalism”?) (At least three sentences)

C.(Cultural example) The cultural example the Weber uses to illustrate his point is Benjamin Franklin’s autobiography.  Can you describe an American worldview giving an example from your own experience? (Explain how your example relates to the Weber article).

***Option 2 (Montague & Morais)***

Montague, Susan P and Robert Morais “[Football Games and Rock Concerts:  The Ritual Enactment of American Success Model”](https://bbhosted.cuny.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-2667921-dt-forum-rid-423228151_1/xid-423228151_1) ” in The American Dimension: Cultural Myths and Social Realities, edited by W. Arens and Susan Montague.  Sherman Oaks, California: Alfred Publishing, 1981.

A.(Topic) What is the main point of the Montague and Morais article? (one sentence)

B.(Thesis) Montague and Morais use Geertz understanding of ritual as a model of and for a cultures worldview in order to understand American worldview, specifically what they call the traditional success model (or utilitarian individual) and the creative success model (or Expressive individual). For the traditional success model they state:

“Within the traditional American success model, love is defined as altruistic self-sacrifice” (Montague & Morais 1981: 14).  Men’s work is a measure of success. “The success system rewards moral character, which is manifested for men through work, and for women by domestic performance (Montague & Morais 1981: 14).” The creative model “argues that love is manifested through self-expression, rather than altruistic self-denial.  Each individual possesses unique talents, and by allowing these to flower, he makes his contribution to the world (Montague & Morais 1981: 14).”

Having read the entire article can you explain what the above quotations mean and how it contributes to the authors’ overall argument?  You can discuss either the traditional success model or the creative success model (you do not need to do both unless you want to). (This should be at least 3 sentences)

C.(Cultural example) Montague and Morais use Rock concerts and football games to apply or illustrate their thesis argument.  Can you think of another example of something that symbolizes the traditional (utilitarian) individual and/or the creative (expressive) individual?  (Explain how your example relates to the Montague & Morais article)