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**ANTH 1102**

**Attendance/Participation Questions for Week 5: Totem (Learning key concepts)**

**Attendance/Participation:** Today I will use the film to illustrate key concepts in Anthropology (Cultural Relativism, Ethnocentrism, Emic, Etic). This films raises various issues particularly in terms of gender equity and cultural relativism. You will need to watch both the Masai Woman film and the Ted talk in order to answer the following. (pick one option)

# Watch Film & Ted Talk:

Davis, Melissa Llewelyn. 1974. [*Masai Woman*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSqqPbk9CUo). Documentary Film. Directed by Christopher Curling. Produced by British Granada Television Series. Faces of Culture. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSqqPbk9CUo>

Ntaiya, Kakenya. 2012. [A Girl Who Demanded School.](https://www.ted.com/talks/kakenya_ntaiya_a_girl_who_demanded_school?language=en) October. Accessed March 18, 2021. <https://www.ted.com/talks/kakenya_ntaiya_a_girl_who_demanded_school?language=en>.

***Option 1***: ***Cultural Relativism*** means “The position that the values and standards of cultures differ and deserve respect. Anthropology is characterized by methodological rather than moral relativism: In order to understand another culture fully, anthropologists try to understand its members’ beliefs and motivations. Methodological relativism does not preclude making moral judgments or taking action” (Kottak 2010: 452, 37).  Female Genital Mutilation is a difficult topic to address, because on the one hand you want to be “culturally relative” and respect the society’s cultural beliefs.  Can you describe scenes from the Movie that express the culture’s belief in this practice (the emic view)?  On the other hand, this practice can be harmful to the young girls.  Look at the TED talk and describe how this issue is addressed (An emic view).  If you were an anthropologist studying this culture, how would you apply cultural relativism, what would you do (the etic view)?

***Option 2:*** ***Ethnocentrism*** means “The tendency to view one’s own culture as the best and to judge the behavior and beliefs of culturally different people by one’s own standards” (Kottak 2010: 453, 37).  Coming from a society that believes polygamy is immoral, how is this view “ethnocentric” when looking at another culture’s practices? Can you describe scenes from the Movie that express the culture’s belief in this practice (the emic view)?  If you were an anthropologist studying this culture, how would you try not to be ethnocentric, what would you do (the etic view)?