Sociology 111 – Cultural Anthropology

General Education #3 Assessment

Dr. Sabine Hyland

I included the following essay question on my final exam to test the assessment rubric:

What is a materialist perspective in anthropology? Describe how Marvin Harris used a materialist perspective to explain (1) Aztec human sacrifice; and (2) Amazonian warfare. Why are Harris’s explanations wrong in each of these instances? What is problematic about Harris’s theory of cultural materialism?