

WRITING ASSIGNMENT 3 – “Gift” Exchange

Write a four-page essay on non-market exchange. In addition to examples from the assigned readings, you may bring in other examples from your reading or experience (though you should keep in mind that this is an essay, not a research paper). You may focus in on one or two main points, or you may cover a few of what seem the most important points to you.

In case, it is essential that: 1. You relate your essay to Mauss's work on the gift and other readings; 2. You avoid taking for granted our culture's assumptions about, e.g., individualism and altruism; 3. You **analyze** material, making sense out of it and not just repeating facts; 4. you develop an **argument**. It is probably better to think first of what points you want to make and then decide what material to use.

You need not agree with Mauss or the lecturer or anyone else, so long as you argue your point of view cogently and do not take our culture's assumptions for granted. Although you need not refer to every last one of the readings, make sure you do not blindly make a point that is contradicted or supported by one of the readings or otherwise demonstrate your ignorance of the readings.