

Bridgewater State University

Syllabus

May 27 – June 21 Summer 2019

ANTH 204: GLOBAL HUMAN ISSUES

Instructor: Dr. Joshua A. Irizarry

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Course Description:

This course is designed to bring students face-to-face with the pressing issues and current events that are influencing the way people throughout the world live their lives. This course takes an *anthropological* approach to the issues and problems of globalization and modernity: we will look at each issue from a variety of cultural and social viewpoints, taking care to properly contextualize and compare different perspectives. Students are encouraged to develop more nuanced and informed perspectives on global issues.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the historical, political, and cultural factors behind contemporary global issues, and how these issues are currently developing.
- Explain how perspectives on these issues are influenced by social factors such as culture, ethnicity, nationality, and class.
- Describe how global issues play out in “local” contexts, and how individuals can learn to “think globally.”

- Debate whether cultural globalization and economic development leads to positive or negative developments for the modern world.
 - Consider how awareness of these issues will help make more informed policies and decisions as global citizens.
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Grading Breakdown:

Attendance:	20%
Preparation and Class Participation:	50%
In-Class Final Exam:	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Grade	Quality Points
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

Tentative Course Schedule: (all readings will be made available electronically)

May 27: Course Introduction

UNIT 1: Challenges of Globalization

May 28 & 29: **Urbanization and Development**

- Glenn, “Our Global Situation and Prospects for the Future”
- Harf and Lombardi, “Does Global Urbanization Lead Primarily to Undesirable Consequences?”

May 30 & 31: **Global Security**

- Mead, “The Return of Geopolitics”

June 3 & 4: **Human Rights**

- Lahav, “The Global Challenge of the Refugee Crisis”
- Harf and Lombardi, “Is the International Community Making Effective Progress in Securing Global Human Rights?”

UNIT 2: Economic and Resource Inequality

June 5 & 6: **Neoliberalism and the Global Economy**

- Irwin, “The Truth About Trade”
- Harf and Lombardi, “Is the Global Economic Crisis a Failure of Capitalism?”

June 7 & 10: **Global Inequality**

- Dadush, “Trade, Development, and Inequality”
- Harf and Lombardi, “Is the Global Income Inequality on the Rise in the International Community?”

UNIT 3: Global Health Issues

June 11 & 12: Population and Natural Resources

- Goldstone, “The New Population Bomb”
- Harf and Lombardi, “Will the World Be Able to Feed Itself in the Foreseeable Future?”

June 13 & 14: Environmental Issues

- Dunn, “Water Wars”
- Harf and Lombardi, “Can the Global Community Successfully Confront the Global Water Shortage?”

June 17 & 18: Globalization and Disease

- Ryan, “Can a Post-Crisis Country Survive in the Time of Ebola?”
- Harf and Lombardi, “Is the International Community Adequately Prepared to Address Global Health Pandemics?”

June 19: Final Exam

June 20 & 21: Course Conclusion