

# Bridgewater State University Syllabus

Summer 2020, 3 Credits

May 25 – June 19

## ANTH 204: GLOBAL HUMAN ISSUES

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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:**

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

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Quality Points</b>
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

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

May 25: Course Introduction

**UNIT 1: Challenges of Globalization**

May 26 & 27: **Urbanization and Development**

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

**May 28 & 29: Global Security**

- Mead, “The Return of Geopolitics”

**June 1 & 2: 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 3 & 4: Neoliberalism and the Global Economy**

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

**June 5 & 8: 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 9 & 10: 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 11 & 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**