

ANTH 204: GLOBAL HUMAN ISSUES

Bridgewater State University

(Online - Summer 2020)

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Duration: May 25- June 26

Class Credits: 3

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:

Video Lecture Journal Responses:

30%

Each week, you will be asked to watch video lectures – approximately two hours per lecture, broken into smaller segments. At the end of each lecture, you will write a **journal response** (250-500 words) in the prompt provided on Blackboard. Unlike a discussion board, journal entries are private: *only you and I will be able to see your responses*.

These responses are your opportunity to reflect on and continue your engagement with the material. As you write, consider the following questions: what were the most important things you learned from the lecture, and why? What insights did you have? What information surprised you? What questions do you have what?

Each journal response will be graded on a 0-2 point scale:

- 0 points: Response does not demonstrate engagement with lecture content.
- 1 point: Response demonstrates some engagement with lecture content.
- 2 points: Response demonstrates active engagement with lecture content.

You must put thought and effort into your journal entries if you want full credit.

Weekly Position Papers: 50% (5 x 10% each)

Each week, you will write a **position paper** (between 500-750 words) based on the assigned debate materials posted to Blackboard. You must illustrate in your position paper why you side with or were convinced by *either* PRO *or* CON's argument. (Important: you **must** take a side and be able to explain why!)

The debate question and the two sides of the debate are very clearly set out in the reading. Your position paper must rely primarily on the specific data and arguments drawn from the debate readings. **You do not need to use direct quotes, but you do need to use specific data points.**

While you can incorporate information from the lectures, outside sources are considered *secondary*, and will not count toward your point total. Papers that are primarily based on unsubstantiated opinion will not get credit for the assignment.

Final Exam: 20%

The final exam will be due on **Monday, June 29**. More information will be provided during the second week of the semester.

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

Week 1 (May 26 – May 29)

Video Lecture 1: “Course Introduction: Global Human Issues from an Anthropological Perspective”

Video Lecture 2: “Disinformation Inoculation”

Video Lecture 3: “Our Global Situation and Prospects for the Future”

Position Paper 1: “Does Global Urbanization Lead Primarily to Undesirable Consequences?”

Week 2 (June 1 – June 5)

Video Lecture 4: “Power and Global Security”

Video Lecture 5: “Human Rights”

Position Paper 2: “Is the International Community Making Effective Progress in Securing Global Human Rights?”

Week 3 (June 8 – June 12)

Video Lecture 6: “Neoliberalism and the Global Economy”

Video Lecture 7: “Global Inequality”

Position Paper 3: “Is Global Income Inequality on the Rise in the International Community?”

Week 4 (June 15- June 19)

Film: “Inequality for All”

Video Lecture 8: “The New Population Bomb”

Position Paper 4: “Will the World Be Able to Feed Itself in the Foreseeable Future?”

Week 5 (June 22 – June 26)

Video Lecture 9: “Environmental Issues”

Video Lecture 10: “Globalization and Disease”

Position Paper 5: “Can the International Community Successfully Confront the Global Water Shortage?”

FINAL EXAM DUE Monday, June 29