



Bridgewater State University Syllabus
Summer 2021, 3 Credits
May 31 – June 25
ANTH 204: GLOBAL HUMAN ISSUES

Instructor: TBA

E-mail: TBA

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.

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 31: Course Introduction

UNIT 1: Challenges of Globalization

June 1 & 2: Urbanization and Development

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

June 3 & 4: **Global Security**

- Mead, “The Return of Geopolitics”

June 7 & 8: **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 9 & 10: **Neoliberalism and the Global Economy**

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

June 11 & 14: **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 15 & 16: **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 17 & 18: **Environmental Issues**

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

June 21 & 22: **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 23: **Final Exam**

June 24 & 25: Course Conclusion