



ANTH 204: GLOBAL HUMAN ISSUES
Bridgewater State University
(Online - Summer I 2021)

Instructor: TBA

E-mail: TBA

Duration: May 31- June 25

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.

NOTE: This class is taught **asynchronously**, meaning that there are no scheduled class meetings. **All lectures, readings, and films will be available electronically on Blackboard.**

While this format allows you to work on your own schedule, it can also be risky since you are solely responsible for keeping up with the assigned class material.

Grading:**Video Lecture Journal Responses: 80% (10 responses x 8 points each)**

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** (about 250 words, approximately 1 double-spaced page) in the journal entry link 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 compose your response, consider the following: what were the most important things you learned from the lecture and reading? What insights did you have? What connections did you make? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

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

- 0: Response **does not demonstrate** engagement with lecture content and readings.
- 1: Response demonstrates **limited** engagement with lecture content and readings.
- 2: Response demonstrates **active** engagement with lecture content and readings.
- 2+: Response demonstrates **exceptional** engagement with lecture and readings.
 - Every two 2+ responses earns a point of **extra credit**.

You must put thought and effort into your journal entry if you want full credit. The journal entries take the place of both attendance and participation, and are your primary means of engaging with the course material and with me. It's vital, therefore, that you put your thoughtful work into these entries if you want full credit. Your journal entries must *productively* and *substantially* engage with information you have learned from the readings, lectures, and videos. **Entries that do not meaningfully engage with the material will not get credit.**

Journal entries are due **every Sunday by 11:59pm EDT (GMT -6)**, as listed in the course schedule. (**NOTE: Week 4 is due on Wednesday, June 23**). Entries received the following day will lose one point. Entries more than a day late or not at all will forfeit all points for that assignment and cannot be made up.

Final Assignment: 20%

A comprehensive assignment which will serve as the course final will be due **by 11:59pm EDT (GMT -6) on Saturday, June 26**. More information on this assignment will be provided.

Course Schedule: (all course materials are available on Blackboard)

Week 1 (May 31 – June 4)

Video Lecture 1: “Course Introduction: The Anthropologist’s Lens”

Video Lecture 2: “Disinformation Inoculation”

Video Lecture 3: “Globalization”

- **Week 1 Journal Responses due June 6**

Week 2 (June 7 – June 11)

Video Lecture 4: “Power and Global Security”

Video Lecture 5: “Human Rights”

Video Lecture 6: “Neoliberalism and the Global Economy”

- **Week 2 Journal Responses due June 13**

Week 3 (June 14 – June 18)

Video Lecture 7: “Global Inequality”

Video Lecture 8: “The New Population Bomb”

Video Lecture 9: “Environmental Issues”

- **Week 3 Journal Responses due June 20**

Week 4 (June 21 – June 25)

Video Lecture 10: “Globalization and Disease”

- **Week 4 Journal Responses due June 23 (WEDNESDAY) FINAL**

ASSIGNMENT DUE SATURDAY, JUNE 26 by 11:59pm EST