



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

**Instructor:** Frank Spaulding

**E-mail:** FSPAULDING@bridgew.edu

**Duration:** June 1- June 28

**Class Credits:** 3

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**COURSE OVERVIEW:**

This course invites students to consider the major challenges confronting humanity. While the analytical perspective of cultural anthropology provides the primary orientation for examining these challenges, discussions will expand beyond the traditional four fields of general anthropology. The course approaches global human issues from the perspective of identifying social issues as well as addressing challenges to building a sustainable world in the 21st century.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:**

At the end of this class, successful students will be able to do the following:

1. Identify and articulate human differences and similarities, both cultural and biological, throughout the world and across time
2. Apply the concepts of ethnocentrism and cultural relativism to the analysis of the human condition
3. Evaluate the impact of stereotypes and biases on people
4. Demonstrate a developing proficiency in the history and theory of anthropology
5. Illustrate the interplay of the subfields of anthropology and express the centrality of a holistic approach
6. Describe how anthropology is linked to a liberal arts curriculum, and to regional, national and international issues
7. Contextualize and demonstrate an understanding of anthropology's historical roots and its complicity in creating colonial structures of knowledge, power, and position.
8. Discuss how globalization relates to the issues of population, poverty, hunger, violence, ethnicity, and gender.
9. Apply the techniques of cross-cultural analysis.
10. Challenge structural inequalities and work toward an inclusive, decolonized, post-racial, just world.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

*Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. 2019, Richard H. Robbins and Rachel Dowty, New Jersey: Prentice Hall (Robbins)

## HOW THIS COURSE IS ORGANIZED

The Course consists of sequentially arrayed learning modules. Getting Started contains the materials necessary to navigating the class. Modules one through seven comprise the course content.

### Course modules

(For ease of reference, the following are the topics of the 7 learning modules)

**Module 1**.....The Basics of Cultural Anthropology

**Module 2**.....Creating the Consumer

**Module 3**.....Examining the Nation-State's Role in Global Capitalism

**Module 4**.....Issues of Population

**Module 5**.....Hunger, Poverty, and Economic Development

**Module 6**.....Issues of the Environment

**Module 7**.....Health and Disease

**Final Exam**

Within each Module, there appears various links to download descriptions of the objectives and assignments for each module, notes, discussion contributions, notes, and other course materials. For Modules #2 through #7, the principal reference source is the course textbook and the course notes.

Each module includes a discussion form. Students are to post comments on topics relevant to the recent or upcoming topics.

### **GRADING AND EVALUATION (Summary):**

Module Quizzes (7 at 5 pts each).....	35 points
Forum Discussions (7 at 5 pts each) .....	35 points
Final Exam .....	30 points
Maximum Number of TOTAL Points .....	100 points

### **GRADING AND EVALUATION (Detail):**

**Module Quizzes (35 points):** At the end of each module, students will take a brief quiz on the materials introduced in the respective module. The quiz will consist of 5 objective questions.

**Comments (35 points)** Students will contribute to class discussion by responding to a series of specific questions relating to the material covered in each module. Students will then submit a summary of all student comments. Students that submit all of the Comments and Summaries by the due date earn three extra participation points.

**Final (30 points):** The final exam will consist of objective questions. Two hours are allotted for the completion of the exam. You will be able to take the exam at any time during the identified exam window. However, once you commence taking the exam, you will need to complete it within the allotted time.

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Course Schedule				
Date	Topic	Module	Text	Assignment
6/1	Getting Started: Introductions			On-line Introductions due 6/2
6/1	The Basics of Cultural Anthropology	1	Module and Notes only	Comment and Quiz due June 4th
6/5	Creating the Consumer	2	Chp. 1	Comment and Quiz due June 8th
6/9	Examining the Nation State's Role in Global Capitalism	3	Chp. 4	Comment and Quiz due June 12th
6/13	Issues of Population	4	Chp. 5	Comment and Quiz due June 16th
6/17	Hunger, Poverty, and Economic Development	5	Chp. 6	Comment and Quiz due June 20th
6/21	Issues of the Environment	6	Chp.7	Comment and Quiz due June 24th.
6/25	Health and Disease	7	Chp. 8	Comment and Quiz due June 27th
6/28	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>			<b>Final, Due May 28th</b>