

## Anthropology 245

### Culture and Global Issues

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This course provides an introduction to globalization or, more generally, global social and political phenomena from a cultural perspective. The aim of the course is to understand both the cultural characteristics of global structures and how local cultures are connected to and interact with such larger structures.

Text: Richard Robbins – *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*

Other readings available on reserve in the library and on ERes.

### Syllabus

#### I. Elements of the Global

January 17	Introduction – Global beginnings, cultural connections
January 19	Robbins – Introduction and A Primer on Money, pp. 1-12
January 22	Robbins – Chapter 1, Constructing the Consumer, pp. 13-38
January 24	Friedman – "Globalization and Localization" in Ina & Rosaldo: 233-46
January 26	Film – <i>Affluenza</i>
January 29	Loeb – <i>Soul of a Citizen</i> , pp. 1-33
January 31	Time Magazine's YOU story, critiques
February 2	Film – <i>The Take</i>

#### II. Global systems

February 5	Robbins – Ch. 2 The Laborer in the Culture of Capitalism, pp. 39-64
February 7	Freeman – "Designing Women: Corporate Discipline and Barbados's Off-shore Pink-collar Sector," pp. 83-99
February 9	Film - <i>Geraldo off-line &amp; The Corporation</i>
February 12	Robbins – Chapter 3 The Rise of the Merchant, Industrialist, and the Capital Controller, pp. 65-107
February 14	Robbins – Chapter 4 The Nation-State in the Culture of Capitalism, pp. 108-136
February 16	Film – <i>The Corporation</i>

#### III. Global Change and Global Problems

February 19	Harvey – "Time-Space Compression And The Postmodern Condition"
February 21	Issue Brief – globalization101.org – Culture
February 23	Film – <i>Debt Police</i>
February 26	Robbins – Part II introduction, pp. 137-143 & Chapter 5 The Problem of Population Growth, pp. 145-174
February 28	Catch-up day/Mid-term
March 2	Film - <i>Long March</i>
March 5	Robbins – Chapter 6 Hunger, Poverty, & Economic Development, pp. 175-205

March 7	Lappé & Collins – "Why People Can't Feed Themselves" Scheper-Hughes – "The Global Traffic in Human Organs" (Inda & Rosaldo: 270-310)
March 9	Films - <i>Perfect Famine, Lost Generations</i>
March 12-18	SPRING BREAK
March 19	Robbins – Chapter 7 Environment and Consumption, pp. 206-232
March 21	Robbins – Chapter 8 Disease, pp. 233-261
March 23	Film – <i>The Future of Food</i>
<b>IV. Global Discourse and Conspiracy Theories</b>	
March 26	Cubitt – "Conspiracy Myths and Conspiracy Theories"
March 28	Langlois, J. L. – " <i>Celebrating Arabs</i> ": <i>Tracing Legend and Rumor Labyrinths in Post-9/11 Detroit</i>
March 30	Film – <i>Loose Change</i>
April 2	Wieviorka – "The New Paradigm of Violence" in Friedman, pp. 107-39
April 4	Conspiracy web sites
April 6	Film - <i>American Gulag</i>
<b>V. Social Movements and Global Solutions</b>	
April 9	Robbins – Chapter 9 Indigenous Groups and Ethnic Conflict, pp. 262-291, Resistance and Rebellion, pp. 293-299
April 11	Sylvain, Renée – "Land, Water, and Truth": San Identity and Global Indigenism
April 13	Films – <i>The Posse, The On-Going Story</i>
April 16	Robbins – Chapter 10 Peasant Protest, Rebellion, and Resistance, pp. 301-28
April 18	Tsing – "The Global Situation" (Inda & Rosaldo, pp. 453-485)
April 20	Film: <i>Life and Debt</i>
April 23	Robbins – Chapters 11 and 12, Antisystemic Protest & Religion and Antisystemic Protest, pp. 329-382
April 25	Kajihiro – "Nation Under The Gun: Militarism & Resistance in Hawai'i" Gusterson – "Anthropology and the Military"
April 27	Film – <i>Uranium</i>
April 30	Robbins – Chapter 13 Constructing the Citizen-Activist
May 2	TBA
May 4	Film: <i>Doing the Right Thing</i>
May 7	Presentations
May 11	Presentations, if necessary

### **Assignments and Grading –**

There is no final exam for this course. Instead there are two options leading to a paper and a final presentation. Grades for this course will be assessed based on class participation and the following assignments, in addition to the required readings:

Reading and film response assignments and quizzes, 20%

Class participation (this includes attendance; you have to attend to participate!) 10%

Mid-term exam 25%

Course project 45%

**Other details:** Readings are to be completed before class time on the day listed. Much of what we will be doing in class will be discussing globalization issues. Everyone is responsible for coming prepared to talk about the day's topics. Please, no eating in class.

### Course project options

Option 1: will involve integrating course readings with either current events in the media or study of a global social phenomenon. You will write one short paper along the way and give final project presentation that summarizes the ideas of your final paper. Example topics include: focus on a particular UN agency and its activities in the world; a particular multinational corporation; an international NGO; or a global social movement. You could take the status of a global commodity such as gold, oil or soybeans and examine local cultural consequences. You could also look at the spread of AIDS or epidemics of influenza. You should choose a topic for which you can find at least two books to read about it.

Option 2: gives you the choice of becoming involved in some kind of organization with global connections or concerns (terrorist and violent revolutionary organizations not permitted!). It could be the Red Cross, Amnesty International, Rotary Club, The Alaska Peace Center or OxFam. Whatever the group, the idea is that this course is intended to provide you with the opportunity to think about what it means to be a global citizen and this assignment will allow you think about that through actual participation. Your task will be to keep a journal of your activities and think about how those activities and the organization are connected with the rest of the globe. What are its aims, globally, and how do local efforts fit with those aims. If the group has international but not global aim, you might reflect on its global consequences. You will be required to turn in your journal periodically and at the end of the semester. Your final writing assignment will be a 12-14 page essay on the significance of your organization and your activities in global perspective. Your final essay should include reflections on at least two books that you have read in conjunction with your thinking about your experience (they need not be directly about the organization itself—that is, they could be about social responsibility, global citizenship, etc.).

#### Students with Disabilities:

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is committed to equal opportunity for students experiencing disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor early in the course so that arrangements may be made to ensure a positive and productive educational experience.