

ANTH/GS 106 Cultural Study and Globalization

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Office hours: By appointment

Themes and goals

What kind of world are we living in? How can we understand the social and cultural changes taking place in it? These are the fundamental themes of this course. We've all heard of globalization and think we know what it means, but its impact on culture is the subject of great debate. We will review these debates and study specific cases outlined by social scientists and journalists to get a sense of the articulations between culture and globalization.

In the course of this semester, ANTH 106 students will strive to:

- Rethink some of their basic conceptions and paradigms about culture and globalization;
- Find the limits of their existing mental frameworks about culture and globalization;
- Develop new, better frameworks using scientific reasoning and evidence;
- Critically evaluate literature dealing with ongoing social, political, and economic transformations around the world, and gauge the role of culture in these transformations; and
- Hone analytical and inductive reasoning skills for understanding contemporary political, economic, and cultural developments.

Throughout the semester, the instructor's goals are to:

- Stimulate students' intellect;
- Change how students think, act, and feel about core questions and issues (see below);
- Push students to "unlearn" received (i.e. conventional but inaccurate) wisdom about culture and globalization;
- Highlight the novel, paradoxical, and incongruous aspects of the world;
- Reveal our own ignorance about the world and emphasize its mysteries; and
- Treat students and all their ideas with respect and consideration.

Core questions for ANTH 106:

- What IS culture, how is it shaped, and how does it affect human behavior?
- What IS globalization, and how does it affect culture?
- Is humanity heading toward cultural convergence or divergence?
- What methods do anthropologists use to find answers to the questions above, what reasoning do they employ, and what challenges do they encounter?
- How can anthropology serve as a tool for addressing real-world problems pertaining to globalization and culture?

Assignments and Evaluation: For every hour of class time in ANTH 106, expect to spend on average two hours of time working on assignments. This means you should devote at least six hours every week to reading assigned texts, taking part in on-line discussions, and writing short essays. For some weeks you may have to budget extra time, for others you might be able to budget less. If you haven't already done so, get familiar with your abilities and find strategies to work within them. In general, though, remember you are capable of far more than you think you are.

Students have four main areas of responsibility.

1. Participating (35% of course grade): Students carry much of the responsibility for making class sessions work. The instructor will assess their participation through their attendance, their degree of engagement in discussions, and their contributions to regular on-line discussions hosted on CourseSite. Each student will also be responsible for leading one class discussion; assignment guidelines and signup wiki will be available on CourseSite. Please be courteous to your fellow students and your instructor by not reading, sending text messages, web surfing, checking e-mail or using cell phones in class.
2. Reading: Students should complete all assigned readings on time and be prepared to discuss them and answer questions about them during class. Attending class is no substitute for doing the readings, and vice-versa.
3. Writing short essays (30% of course grade): Students will compose TWO short (3-4pp) essays in response to assigned readings. See assignment guidelines and signup wiki on CourseSite for details.
4. Completing a two-stage final research project (35% of course grade): Working in pairs, students will research, design and create a final project in both written *and* video form. Written projects should be 10-15pp. Students will present short videos based on their research to the class at the end of the semester. See assignment guidelines for details.

Communication with the Instructor: I invite you to visit me in my office or get in touch electronically or by phone whenever you want to talk about anthropology or the course. If you drop by unannounced you may find that I'm away from my desk, so please e-mail me to make an appointment. I try to reply to e-mails within 24 hours, but I can't promise to do so in every case.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both me *and* the Office of Academic Support Services, UC room 212 (or call 610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted. For more information, visit <http://www.lehigh.edu/~inacsup/disabilities/faq.shtml#students>.

On Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is copying the work of others, and that includes cutting and pasting from Web sources without properly citing those sources. For all assignments in ANTH 106 you must write in your own words or use quotation marks and citations. Cheating is using means other than your own efforts on tests and papers. Both are forbidden by University policy (see your student handbook). Confirmed instances of plagiarism or cheating will result in an F for the assignment at least and possibly for the entire course. So don't risk it. Effective time management, coupled with the willingness to ask questions reduce the temptation to take the easy way out. Visit <http://www.lehigh.edu/academicintegrity> to learn more. *THIS IS NO JOKE –I have busted students for plagiarizing assignments in the past and will not hesitate to do so again if the situation arises.*

Spring 2010 syllabus 2.0

DATE	THEME	ASSIGNED READINGS
Tues. 1/19	INTRODUCTION	
Th. 1/21	What is globalization?	*Nederveen Pieterse (NP) 7-41
Tues. 1/26		*Huntington 22-49, *Huntington & Harrison xiii-xxi, *NP 43-63, *Brown 43-59
Th. 1/28	GLOBAL MODERNITY	*Rostow 4-16, *Inkeles 15-35, *NP 123-145
Tues. 2/2		Ferguson 1-81
Th. 2/4		Ferguson 82-122
Tues. 2/9		Ferguson 123-206
Th. 2/11		Ferguson 207-233
Tues. 2/16		Ferguson 234-257 & *2006 essay (17pp)
Th. 2/18	GLOBAL COMMODITIES	Foster ix-xxvii, 3-31
Tues. 2/23		Foster 33-97
Th. 2/25		Foster 99-145
Tues. 3/2		Foster 149-209
Th. 3/4		Foster 211-240
~ spring break ~		
Tues. 3/16	MIGRATION & LABOR	Chang 3-170; *Magaña essay (29pp)
Th. 3/18		Chang 171-205
Tues. 3/23		Chang 206-302
Th. 3/25		Chang 303-333
Tues. 3/30		Chang 334-407
Th. 4/1		Shankar 1-24
Tues. 4/6	<i>research papers due</i>	Shankar 25-118
Th. 4/8		Shankar 119-141
Tues. 4/13		Shankar 142-212
Th. 4/15	GLOBAL CAPITALISM	NO CLASS; Wilson 1-28 or Gregory 11-49
Tues. 4/20		Wilson 68-132 or Gregory 50-91 & 130-165
Th. 4/22		Wilson 163-195 or Gregory 209-245
Tues. 4/27	<i>in-class presentations</i>	
Th. 4/29	<i>in-class presentations</i>	

(* denotes readings available on CourseSite as PDF files)

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Chang, Leslie T. 2008. *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China*, 978-0-385-52018-8
- Ferguson, James (1999) *Expectations of Modernity: Myths & Meaning on the Zambian Copperbelt*, 0520217020
- Foster, Robert J. (2008) *Coca-Globalization: Following Soft Drinks from New York to New Guinea*, 978-0-312-23871-1
- Gregory, Steven (2007) *The Devil Behind the Mirror: Globalization & Politics in the Dominican Republic*, 978-0-520-24929-5 [students may choose between this text and Ara Wilson's]
- Shankar, Shalini (2008) *Desi Land: Teen Culture, Class, & Success in Silicon Valley*, 987-0-8223-4315-8
- Wilson, Ara (2004) *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok: Tomboys, Tycoons & Avon Ladies in the Global City*, 978-0-520-23968-5 [students may choose between this text and Steven Gregory's]

ADDITIONAL SHORT READINGS

- Brown, Keith (2005) “Samuel Huntington, Meet the Nuer: Kinship, Local Knowledge, & the Clash of Civilizations.” In *Why America’s Top Pundits are Wrong: Anthropologists Talk Back*, ch. 3
- Ferguson, James (2006) “Decomposing Modernity: History and Hierarchy after Development.” In *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*, ch. 7
- Huntington, Samuel (1993) “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs* 72(3):22-49
- Huntington, Samuel and Lawrence Harrison (2000) *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*, foreword & introduction
- Inkeles, Alex (1974) *Becoming Modern: Individual Change in Six Developing Countries*, ch. 2
- Magaña, Rocío (2009) “The Border, the Desert & the Biopolitical Imagination.” Chapter from unpublished dissertation.
- Nederveen Pieterse, Jan (2009) *Globalization & Culture: Global Mélange* (2nd edition), ch. 1-3 & 6
- Rostow, W. Walt (1960) *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto*, ch. 2