

Living in Our Globalized World  
Anthropology 340.1, Fall 2009  
Tues & Thurs 1:00-2:15  
Stevenson 2065

<http://bruceowen.com/global/a340-09f-1.htm>

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## Living in Our Globalized World

We live in an increasingly global world. What happens in China or Mexico affects us here more and faster than ever. What we do here, from what we buy to how we vote, profoundly affects others around the globe. Their lives and cultures change; so do ours. Some push back. Some move here, contributing to our increasingly pluralistic society.

Globalization is tied up with most of today's big issues: global warming, terrorism, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, swine flu, immigration, job outsourcing, the current recession, and more.

In this class, we will explore a way of understanding globalization and these problems, and what causes them: the culture of capitalism. We will follow the money, starting centuries ago, or arguably even further. But we will do so as anthropologists, realizing that people see their world and their options through the lens of their culture. Capitalism has fostered some particular features of culture, so familiar to us that we usually don't even notice them. By looking at the cultures of others, anthropology also highlights what is different and important about our own.

**Objectives:** In this course, you will

- 1) learn about numerous global problems that affect you personally, through the economy, politics, laws, crime, terrorism, your own and others' health, social pressures, advertising, personal interactions, and in other ways.
- 2) gain a clearer understanding of why these problems exist and what we might want to change. The framework we will use underlies much of the political activism you see in the news and on campus, but it is rarely fully or clearly explained. You will get beyond what often sounds like cynicism or ranting, to see the coherent reasoning behind them.
- 3) learn and apply anthropological concepts useful in dealing directly and indirectly with people of other cultures, including nuances of the concept of culture, cultural relativism, ethnocentrism, the construction of meanings and roles, and others.
- 4) develop a new view of your own culture and what has shaped it.
- 5) increase your knowledge of the physical, economic, and cultural geography that conditions global interactions.
- 6) become a more empathetic, tolerant, aware, and politically active person (I hope!)

**GE requirement:** This course satisfies the upper division Integrated Person (E) General Education requirement. For more information on the Mission, Goals and Objectives of General Education at SSU, see

<http://www.sonoma.edu/aa/ap/generaleducation.shtml>

**Class web page:** You are responsible for checking the class web page regularly. It will change during the semester, and it takes precedence over information in this syllabus. The assigned readings, lecture notes and slides, homework assignments, due dates, and other information will all be posted there. Note that this is *not* a WebCT page. You can click to the class web page from the SSU “Class web pages” list, or go to:

<http://bruceowen.com/global/a340-09f-1.htm>

**Class User ID and password:** Due to copyright issues, you need a class user ID and password to access some material on the class web page. These are *not* the same ID and password that you use for other SSU functions. I will provide them in class. If you forget them, ask or email me.

**Furloughs:** Because of the severe state budget cuts to the California State University system, most staff other than Police Services must take 2 unpaid furlough days a month, and faculty must take 9 unpaid furlough days each semester. We have to sign a statement that we will not work on furlough days. We have been urged to divide the days proportionally among class days and days for preparation and grading (which extends both before the first class and after the last one.). This works out to three class sessions cancelled per semester for courses that meet twice a week, or over nine percent less school for your (increased) fees overall. Furlough days are not holidays, although I have scheduled them adjacent to holidays to give you more flexibility. The furlough days are indicated in the class schedule, along with required activities comparable to a class period. You may schedule those activities whenever you want, before the next class meeting. Other furlough days will delay my returning some assignments or tests.

**Schedule of readings, assignments, etc:** The schedule of readings, assignments, due dates, and tests is posted on the class web page. Please read the selections *before* the class session. Readings are not heavy, with textbook assignments averaging around 17 pages per class, sometimes plus some online material. You will be tested on all of this material.

**Daily quizzes:** Most class sessions will include a brief, multiple-choice quiz on that day’s assigned readings. These quizzes will often be at the beginning of class, so please arrive on time. There are no makeups for these quizzes.

**Textbook and online readings:** This course has one textbook, plus online readings and other material posted on the class website. You may want to print the online items, so you can write notes in the margins, highlight, and refer to them in class. The book is

Robbins, Richard H.

2008 *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*. Fourth edition. Pearson.  
ISBN 978-0-205-52487-7

New and used copies are available at North Light Books & Cafe, 550 East Cotati Ave., next to Oliver's Market in the shopping complex on East Cotati Ave. (707 792-4300). North Light is a locally-owned small business with lower prices and better service than the campus bookstore. Plus it is a good place to eat, drink, and hang out in the real (ish) world off campus.

**Lecture notes and slides:** My lecture notes and Powerpoint slides used in class will be posted on the web page. The notes will generally be posted before the class, while the slides will be posted after the class. The notes are useful for studying and finding information for the assignments, but they are no substitute for attending class and doing the reading.

**Assignments and their weights in grading:**

- 20% **Reading quizzes** (about 0.8% each). Three multiple-choices questions about the readings at most class sessions.
- 20% **Interview with an immigrant.** You interview someone who immigrated to the US from another country after the age of 16. You write a 5 to 7 page paper that deals with the differences and similarities between your culture and your interviewee's, using anthropological approaches you learn in this course. The interviewee may be a friend, a relative, someone you met standing in line, or whatever - just not the same person as anyone else in this class is interviewing. Guidelines about issues to cover, format, and so on will be posted on the class website.
- 20% **Analysis of a global issue relevant to your interviewee's country.** You pick an issue that is important to the country that your interviewee came from and that has to do with globalization and the culture of capitalism. You write a 5 to 7 page paper explaining the issue, its origins and cultural effects, and how it fits into the global framework of the culture of capitalism, using approaches developed in this class. Again, details will be posted on the class website.
- 20% **In-class midterm.** Short-answer and essay questions, and maps on which you mark countries and other geographic landmarks covered in class.
- 20% **Final exam.** Similar to the midterm, emphasizing material from the second part of the course, but using many foundational concepts from the first part.

**Grading scheme:** This course is graded on a curve, with the minimum score for a B- initially set near the median (that is, about half the class gets a B- or better). I may then shift the grade ranges up or down somewhat to better reflect the performance of the class.

**Submitting assignments:** The written assignments must be submitted as a file attached to an email message to me. No paper copy is needed. I will comment and grade the paper on an evaluation form tailored to each assignment. This form will be included in the assignment information, to help you understand what I am looking for. I will email the completed form back to you. The computer file is due by midnight of the due date. Due dates will be on days when the class does not meet, so that coming to class will not conflict with last-minute work on your assignment. Due dates will be indicated on the class web page. Details on submitting assignments will be included in the assignment information.

**Late assignment policy:** I will accept assignments up to one week late with a 10% grading penalty. I will not accept any assignment more than one week after the due date.

**Drafts:** I encourage you to submit drafts of the assignments so that I can comment on them and suggest directions for the final version. Email is fastest, but I will also look at paper drafts.

**Rewrites:** If you get a C or lower on an assignment, you may submit a rewritten version within two weeks of the date when I returned the evaluation form. I will deduct 20% from the score, and count either the original grade or the rewritten paper's grade, whichever is higher.

**Email:** I usually reply to emails within 24 hours. If you do not hear from me within 48 hours, assume that I did not get your message and try again.

**Invitation:** If you want help, or would just like to talk about anthropology, assignments, preparing for tests, archaeology, or anything else, please drop by during my office hours, arrange to see me at some other time, or contact me by email. I am here to help you master the material.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is using someone else's words, information, or ideas *without giving that person credit*. This includes copying from your peers, websites, or other public sources, even brief phrases, on papers, tests, or any other work. Plagiarism is immoral and dishonest. It is easy to avoid: just use your own words and indicate the sources of all your information. Plagiarism results in penalties up to an F for the course. I have failed numerous students for plagiarism. University policy requires me to report plagiarism, and the University may impose sanctions up to expulsion. A more complete explanation, including advice on how to use material without plagiarizing, is posted on the class website. University policies about plagiarism and cheating are available through the University Policies link below. The assignment information posted on the class website will include guidelines on how to format citations.

**Students with Special Needs:** If you are a student with special learning needs and you think you may require accommodations, your first step is to register with the campus office of Disabled Student Services, Salazar 1049, phone 664-2677. DSS will provide you with written confirmation of your verified disability and authorize recommended accommodations. You then bring this recommendation to me, and we work out how to handle the accommodations. If you think you may require assistance evacuating a building in the event of a disaster, please let me know what type of assistance you think you may need.

**University policies:** There are important University policies that you should be aware of, such as the add/drop policy; cheating and plagiarism policy, grade appeal procedures, accommodations for students with disabilities and the diversity vision statement. You can see them at:

<http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/studentinfo.shtml>

**Annoyed by lack of classes, fee increases, furloughs, etc.?** Should you wish to contact your Governor or legislators about funding for the CSU, contact information is posted at

<http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/legislators.shtml>

**Final exam:** Thursday, Dec. 17, 2:00-3:50, in our regular classroom, Stevenson 2065.