

## SYLLABUS

### ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON GLOBAL ISSUES (AI)

ANT 323.01      Fall 2009  
Wednesdays    6:00-9:15 PM  
Dr. Douglas A. Feldman  
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#### **Course Description:**

This course looks at the major global issues facing the world today from an anthropological and international affairs perspective. The major global issues include: a) the environment and human-caused climate change; b) religious fundamentalist violence and hegemony; c) globalization and free vs. fair trade; d) spreading and emerging epidemics; e) the threat of nuclear war; f) income inequality; g) health disparities and unequal access to health care; h) poorly regulated capitalism; and i) rapid technological and cultural change. The main goals of the course are: 1) students will be able to discuss and write about the nuances of these nine major global issues; 2) students will be able to read the news stories and opinion columns of a major daily newspaper (*The New York Times*) critically, and evaluate their political underpinnings; and 3) students will be able to weigh the pros and cons of major policy topics, and reach a decision that they can support verbally and in writing.

#### **Potential Tasks:**

- 1) Learn the content material of the nine major global issues and why these are so important.
- 2) Learn the basics of cultural anthropology and political geography,
- 3) Learn the philosophical underpinnings of conservative vs. progressive political thinking. Compare these with other political thought.
- 4) Learn about anthropological theories and how these may relate to political thinking.
- 5) Learn how varied media differently prioritize news stories. Re-prioritize them. Why do "human interest" stories often get top priority?
- 6) Are there biases in "objective" news stories? Are opinion columns constructing facts to support a conservative or progressive political philosophy?
- 7) How do news stories get reported in other societies?

**Required Text:**

Robert M. Jackson (ed.) (2007) *Annual Editions: Global Issues 09/10 (25<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*.  
Dubuque, IA: McGraw-Hill Contemporary Learning Series.

A weekday (Monday through Friday) subscription to the daily *New York Times* (electronic edition, or pick it up on campus). Online access can be obtained through [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), select Daily News: Today's Headlines, and at least each of the following: U.S., Editorial, Washington, Op-Ed, Technology, Business, World, and Daily Featured Section.

**Reading Schedule**

September 2:	Welcome and Introduction. The basics of anthropology. Discuss current events.
September 9:	Discuss newspaper articles. Text: read Chapters 1, 2 and 3.
September 16:	Discuss newspaper articles. Text: read Chapter 5, 6, and 10.
September 17:	Students are encouraged to attend Diversity Day events.
September 23:	Quiz. Discuss newspaper articles. Text: read Chapters 12, 13, and 14.
September 30:	Discuss newspaper articles. Text: read Chapters 16, 17, and 19.
October 7:	Midterm exam. Discuss newspaper articles.
October 14:	Video.
October 21:	Discuss newspaper articles. Text: read Chapters 22, 24, and 25.
October 28:	Quiz. Discuss newspaper articles. Text: read Chapters 26, 27, and 28.
November 4:	Discuss newspaper articles. Text: read Chapters 29, 30, and 31.
November 11:	Quiz. Discuss newspaper articles. Text: read Chapters 32, 34, and 35.
November 18:	Discuss newspaper articles. Text: read Chapters 36, and 37.
November 25:	No classes.
December 2:	Video.
December 9:	Selected class presentations. Final thoughts and review. All papers due today.
December 16:	Final exam. 7:30-9:30 PM.

**Course Requirements and Grade:**

Research Paper:	25%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	20%
Class participation:	20%
Three quizzes:	15%
TOTAL:	100%

Students will prepare an original research paper at least 9 pages on a topic pre-approved by the professor relating to the social, cultural, and/or political aspects of a global issue. See attached guidelines for doing your paper. One or more optional extra credit projects may be assigned during the semester. Each extra credit project is worth up to 0.25 added to your final grade; a maximum of 0.50 may be obtained for the semester.

Class participation includes constructive participation in which the student demonstrates having read the assigned readings and has thought deeply about the content. Students are expected to spend at least six hours per week preparing for the class sessions. The professor may call upon students to discuss the assigned readings. The midterm and final exams will be essay questions. The final exam is not cumulative.

### **Disability Statement:**

Students with documented disabilities may be entitled to specific accommodations. The College at Brockport, SUNY's Office for Students with Disabilities makes this determination. Please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at (585) 395-5409 or [osdoffic@brockport.edu](mailto:osdoffic@brockport.edu) to inquire about obtaining an official letter to the course professor. Faculty work as a team with the Office for Students with Disabilities to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session, and again after the mid-session break, and it is important that you not be late for class. Students who have three and a half unexcused absences will receive a lowered final grade (e.g., A = A-). Each additional full unexcused absence will receive two further lowered final grades (e.g., four and a half unexcused absences, A = B). Absences will be excused for: a) written documented illnesses of the student, b) official representation of the College, c) death of a close relative, d) religious holiday, and e) other circumstances beyond the control of the student as determined by the professor. Students who arrive late to class must inform the professor at the end of the mid-session break to make sure they are not marked absent that day. Students who must leave early on a particular day need to notify the professor before the class.

### **Academic Integrity and Student Behavior:**

Students are expected to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty (papers, quizzes, and exams) will not be acceptable. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty during this course will receive a lowered grade for the course

depending on the nature of the action, and could possibly be referred to the administration for further disciplinary action.

Students are asked not to carry on unrelated conversations during class. You are expected to pay attention and to be courteous. Major breaches of conduct or impropriety, including rudeness or insulting behavior to the professor or other students, disruptive behavior, or unrelated conversations, will receive a lowered grade. You will receive a lowered grade, possibly an E, for the class participation segment of your final grade. In addition, you will also receive an overall reduction of as much as one whole letter grade subtracted from your final grade.

Cell phones, pagers, and blackberries must be turned off (or set on vibrate) while attending class. Please be certain that they are off, or set to vibrate, at the beginning of each class session. Laptops may only be used for the purpose of taking notes during the class. Students may not IM (instant message) or text message others during class time.

Students are encouraged to attend meetings of the Anthropology Club this semester.

### **Office Location and Hours:**

Dr. Feldman's office is located at Room C-15 in Cooper Hall. Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3 PM, or by appointment. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with the professor during office hours or by appointment.

### **GUIDELINES FOR DOING YOUR PAPER**

1. Your paper will be graded on the basis of both content and format. Failure to follow these format guidelines completely will lower the grade for your paper.
2. Papers should have a separate title page with your name, title of the paper, name of the course, course number, date, and name of the professor (Dr. Feldman).
3. Papers must be a minimum of 9 pages, not including your title page, reference cited page(s), any figure or table pages, or any appendices.
4. Papers should be entirely typed, double-spaced, use Arial font, on 12-point type (do not use smaller or larger point type), either printed one-sided or two-sided, with page numbers, and with one inch margins on all four sides (not 1.25 inches).
5. Papers need to be carefully spell-checked and then read over by you for grammatical errors. (Spell check, for example, will not change "and" when you meant to say "any").
6. Do not use contractions (e.g., use "do not" instead of "don't").

7. Do not use Internet or chat line spellings or grammar (e.g., “u r gr8”).
8. Your paper must have an introduction, body, and conclusion. If you are not familiar with this approach, it is recommended that you use subheadings in your text, with the first subheading called “Introduction” and your last subheading called “Conclusion.” Then read over your Introduction and your Conclusion to ensure that they introduce and conclude. If you use subheadings, the body of your text should not be labeled “Body,” but be labeled by the subject matter and it is expected that you would have perhaps three or four subheadings in your text’s body.
9. If relevant, your paper may state your opinion. But carefully indicate that it is your opinion, and give evidence to support your opinion. Also, review what the opposing opinion is, and why you believe it is not valid.
10. Your paper must be entirely your own work. Papers found to have been plagiarized will receive an automatic E grade. If you are quoting more than three lines of your text from a published or Internet source, you must use quotes and cite your source and the page number of your source, otherwise it will be considered plagiarized. Avoid excessive quoting. It should not be a string of quotes. Use your own words.
11. Your reference cited page(s) must be keyed to your text. Only cite references that are stated in your text. Exclude all references that you read, but you are not citing in your text. Your text must cite references and they must be keyed to your reference cited page. Make sure that all the references cited in your text are properly listed in your references cited page(s). Your citations in your text should indicate the last name of your author and the year of publication (e.g., Smith 1998, or Jones, Freeman, Sills, and Wu 2006). Offset the name or the name and date in parentheses as appropriate. Do not list the page number in your text, unless you are quoting from the text (e.g., Smith (1998) says that the Navaho are matrilineal; Smith (1998:347) says, “The Navaho are matrilineal.”).
12. You must have at least ten references cited in your references page(s), and these must be keyed into your text.
13. Be very cautious in using references from the Internet. When citing material from the Internet, list the author, title, name of web site, full web site address (e.g., [www.dontbeleivethisinformation.com/misinformationpage/](http://www.dontbeleivethisinformation.com/misinformationpage/)) and date of publication. If there is absolutely no author for the material you are citing on the Internet site, the author’s name should be cited in your reference as Anonymous. If there is absolutely no date for the material you are citing on the Internet site, it is the current year (e.g., 2009).
14. The references in the Reference Cited page(s) should be listed in alphabetical order by first author’s last name. It should include the year in parentheses, and should appear as follows:

An article in a journal:

Jaspers, William E. (2006) "Everything you wanted to know about nothing: but did not want to ask," *Journal of Total Irrelevance*. 4(3):254-9.

A book:

Jaspers, William E. and Sylvia Sidelman (2005) *The Complete Book about Nothing*. New York: Irrelevant University Press.

An article in a book with many authors:

Jaspers, William E., Rosenguard, Amy, Vilmers, Steven, Stevens, Willy, and John Johnston (2004) "Absolutely everything about nothing: What more can we say?," IN: *Essays on Nothingness* (eds: Neitherhere, Mary and Jack Northere), pp. 126-142. Palo Alto, CA: Obfuscating Press.

Note, that if there are many authors, you may use "*et al.*" (meaning: and others) in your written text (e.g. Jaspers, *et al.* 2004), but cite all the authors in your references cited page as indicated above.

A newspaper or magazine article written without a cited author:

Anonymous (2001). "Thinking about nothing," *Time Magazine*, pp. 21, 24-5, June 14, 2001.

Note, that some authorship is listed at the bottom of the article (e.g., "prepared by Tim Jabbers with the assistance of Jane Dabbers" would be cited as -- Jabbers, Tim and Jane Dabbers (2001).)

Something without clear citation on the Internet:

Anonymous (2003). "The Top Ten Reasons Why Nothing Exists"  
[www.theyllnevercatchmeandlockmeupagain.com/postmodernpage/](http://www.theyllnevercatchmeandlockmeupagain.com/postmodernpage/) .

The style used is neither MLA nor University of Chicago. It is a style used in anthropology books and journals.

15. A good paper topic is one that is broad enough in scope for you to find enough published information, but narrow enough that you feel you've covered the specific topic thoroughly and have a good grasp of what has been published on the topic.
16. Six volunteers will be asked to give a presentation on their papers before the class on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Extra credit will be given.