

## Global Issues in Cultural Perspective (ANTH 192-01)

**Alan G. Marshall**  
215A Spalding Hall  
Phone: 208.792-2348 / email [agmarshall@lcmail.lcsc.edu](mailto:agmarshall@lcmail.lcsc.edu)  
Office Hours: MW 9:00-10:15 am & 1:30-2:30pm – I am almost always in my office (except when I am at meetings or in other classes)—stop by!

Fall, 2009  
3.00 pm MW  
SacH 237

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment to talk with me.

Diverse societies at all points of the globe are being integrated into a global system through a process called *globalization*. This rapid cultural change has economic, political, and other dimensions. This process creates new personal, social, and political identities. Along with these new identities, new social and cultural pressures have also intensified. These include population growth, hunger and poverty, environmental change/degradation, the spread of disease, and cultural loss. Many people respond to these challenges with organized resistance and rebellion. Contemporary citizens must be able to identify the significant issues arising from social and cultural diversity and their integration into the industrially driven market economy in order to work towards mitigating these problems.

Objectives The fundamental goal of a college education is learning how to “think critically” about oneself and one’s world through information gathering, comparison and contrast, analysis of information, and the examination of basic concepts/beliefs underlying how we understand, and often misunderstand, our natural and social environments.

The important general objectives of the course are:

- to develop the concepts of capitalism, globalization, and “resistance”,
- to identify/discuss the basic social dimensions of the contemporary world;
- to discuss how global problems emerge from social life;
- to discuss how communities respond to globalization; and,
- for students to begin identifying how they might deal with globalization.

### Texts

Robbins, Richard H. *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 2002.

### Methods

Instruction: Course content will be provided through lectures, media, assigned reading, note taking, questioning, and discussion. You are expected to be “an active learner” in this course. Your basic duties are to:

attend all lectures and presentations;	class participation;
take notes of all lectures and presentations;	complete the writing assignments
read and take notes on all assigned readings;	

Evaluation: You will be graded on those criteria

attendance/note-taking;	writing
examinations;	class participation

Tests: Three examinations will be given. They will include essay questions. The point of these is to help you learn how to express yourself in writing.

Something about answers to essay questions. When you write them – especially long essay answers – you must use the relevant vocabulary from the course and examples drawn from the texts or lectures plus (if you want) from your own experience.

Timeliness: Work not completed on time will be downgraded. Some writing assignments cannot be handed in late. Do not assume that you will receive an incomplete grade ('I') if you do not complete your work! You will receive an 'F' if you have not handed in all assignments by Reading Day. Exceptions will be made for health problems or family emergencies, but not for scheduling conflicts with work, travel, or other non-class related events.

Ethics: Do not plagiarize! If you are the least bit uncertain as to what this means, look it up in the dictionary and the student handbook. At the least, you will receive a '0' for any assignment that includes plagiarized material. The point of the assignments is for you to develop and refine your thoughts, not parrot someone else's.

Extra Credit: This work may raise your grade from, e.g., a "B+" to an "A-." Extra credit work is graded on a 0-3 scale. A '0' means that the work is unacceptable. No extra credit work will be considered unless all the assigned work due at the time you request extra credit is completed. All extra credit work must be submitted by the 13th week of the semester.

#### Writing Assignments

Two kinds of writing assignments are part of this course; letters and reading responses. See attached instructions.

#### Tentative Schedule

	<b><i>Reading/Due Dates</i></b>	<b>Topics</b>
<b>Week 16</b> 08/24 (M) 08/26 (W)	Introduction/syllabus	The idea of culture
<b>Week 15</b> 08/31 (M) 09/02 (W)	<u>Read:</u> <i>Pt. 1 Introduction</i> Ltr 1 due – what is culture? “Global” problems	“Global” problems Money
<b>Week 14</b> 09/07 (M) 09/09 (W)	<u>Read:</u> <i>Ch. 1 – The Consumer</i> <b>Labor Day Holiday</b>	The history of consumption The Idea of “social construction”
<b>Week 13</b> 09/14 (M) 09/16 (W)	<u>Read:</u> <i>Ch. 2 – The Laborer</i>	What is class? How do we practice it?

<b>Week 12</b> 09/21 (M) 09/23 (W)	<u>Read:</u> <i>Ch. 3 – The Rise of...</i>	A brief history of “the West”
<b>Week 11</b> 09/28 (M) 09/30 (W)	<u>Read:</u> <i>Ch. 4 – The Nation-State</i>	A brief history of governance
<b>Week 10</b> 10/05 (M) 10/07 (W)	<b>Test 1</b>	Review
<b>Week 09</b> 10/12 (M) 10/14 (W)	<u>Read:</u> <i>Pt. 2 “...Introduction”</i>	The relationship of problems
<b>Week 08</b> 10/19 (M) 10/21 (W)	<u>Read:</u> <i>...Population Growth</i>	What are “externalities”?
<b>Week 07</b> 10/26 (M) 10/28 (W)	<u>Read:</u> <i>Students’ choice</i> <b>Letter 2 due</b>	
<b>Week 06</b> 11/02 (M) 11/04 (W)	<u>Read:</u> <i>Pt. III Intro</i>	Why do we resist?
<b>Week 05</b> 11/09 (M) 11/11 (W)	<u>Read:</u> <i>Students’ choice</i> <b>All extra-credit due</b>	
<b>Week 04</b> 11/16 (M) 11/18 (W)	<u>Read:</u> <i>Ch. 13</i>	What do we do?
<b>Week 03</b> 11/23 (M) 11/25 (W)	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	

<b>Week 02</b> 11/30 (M) 12/02 (W)	<b><i>Test 2</i></b>	Review
<b>Week 01</b> 12/07 (M) 12/09 (W)	<b><i>Letter 3 due</i></b>	Wrapping up
<b>Week 00</b> 12/16 (W)	<b><i>Final Examination - 3:00 PM</i></b>	

Alan Marshall  
ANTH 192  
[date]

### **Instructions for "Letters"**

You will write 3 "letters" to yourself during the semester; their due dates are on the "Tentative Schedule" found in this syllabus.

These "letters" are an idea adapted to this course from Stephen Covey's book "*7 Habits of Highly Effective People*." But it is a widespread process that you are learning to use in your various majors as "course planning" (education); "treatment protocols" (nursing); business plans; "management plans" (government and business); and so on.

What is novel about this process to you, perhaps, is applying it to your college courses. What I am asking you to do is for you to identify what *your* objectives are for the course. That is, what do *you* want to learn?

The first step is identifying *your* "objectives" – that's all you have to submit. Remember, you are spending a good deal of money on this course; don't you think it deserves a few hours of your time thinking about it?

To really carry this through you must also list the actions that you must take to achieve your goals *and* list the days and hours *when* you will take those actions. Following through on this requires self-discipline. But just by doing this you have started learning the really important lessons of school.

If you do this, and follow your plan, you will find your class experience is much better; you will learn more; you will enjoy learning more, and you will be more productive, less anxious, and less depressed.

Letter 1 – The purpose of this letter is for you to clarify your expectations of the course and your participation in it. What do you want to get from the course? Your objective might be "simple," e.g., "To find out why this course is relevant to [my interests]." You might answer, "...to get an A." Covey and others find that this latter goal is *not* a very productive because it focuses *only on someone else's evaluation*.

*Hang on to this assignment so that you can attach it to the next one!*

Letter 2 – The purpose of this assignment is to reflect on your progress toward the course objectives, including your own; it should be no longer than 1 page. Has the course lived up to your expectations? Have you lived up to *your* expectations? How have your goals changed? Attach Letter 1 to this one before handing it in.

*Hang on to this assignment so that you can attach it to the next one!*

Letter 3 -- The purpose of this assignment is for you to reflect upon what you have learned in this course. The letter should be no longer than 2 pages. Attach Letter 1 and 2 to this assignment before handing it in. Write retrospectively on your first writing assignment. How have your ideas of the course's subject changed? Did you meet your goals in the course? Did your goals change? What is the most important lesson that you learned from this course?

### ***Reading/topical responses***

Two responses will be required: What you will do is write one page (3 paragraphs) on a selected topic.