

ANTHROPOLOGY 2262B-001

Global Commodities

Department of Anthropology

****PROVISIONAL** COURSE OUTLINE**

WINTER 2023

Version date: May 2022

Class time and location: Wednesday 1:30-3:30 pm, Somerville House, room 3345

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Walsh (he/him)

Email: awalsh33@uwo.ca

Office and hours: SSC-3402, meetings by appointment on Zoom or in person.

Course Description

What do bananas, tropical fish, sugar, rubber, sapphires, coffee, human kidneys, oil, and tourist crafts have in common? They are all 'global commodities' that connect global producers and global consumers in ways we rarely think about. In this course, we will approach global commodities with an anthropological perspective to shed light on important, but often overlooked, aspects of globalization and the global economy. Each week, we will address a different case study, focusing first on the history of a particular commodity's global circulation and then on how anthropological concepts and approaches shed light on the lives of the people who supply and demand them. The course is designed to encourage students to think differently about the global economy, and, more particularly, about how the consumption choices we all make connect us to a world of producers.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- Students will learn key theoretical approaches and research methods used by anthropologists and other social scientists to study the workings of the global economy.
- Students will develop an awareness of how certain global commodities move around the world, and of how their own consumption choices connect them to others.
- Students will develop critical thinking skills necessary for understanding how the global flow of commodities affects people at multiple points along global commodity chains.

Course Materials

Registered students will be able to access course readings through the course site in OWL. Weekly readings will be accompanied by guiding questions and lists of keywords.

Evaluation Breakdown

15% -- Weekly online quizzes/short reflections. Over the course of the term, students will complete short weekly quizzes/reflections to demonstrate their understanding of key topics/content

being addressed in the course. These will be completed online prior to weekly lectures. Only the top 8 of 10 will count towards the final grade.

35% -- Midterm (in-class, to be held during our usual class time)

50% -- Final Exam (during the final exam period)

PLEASE NOTE: *The evaluation methods described in this course outline are essential requirements for the course. The midterm and final exam make use of multiple-choice questions to evaluate student learning. The multiple-choice format allows for assessment of students' detailed knowledge of a broad range of concepts, theories, principles, and research that other formats do not permit.*

Academic and Accommodation Policies

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

The evaluation methods described in this course outline are essential requirements for the course. The midterm and final exam make use of multiple-choice questions to evaluate student learning. The multiple-choice format allows for assessment of students' detailed knowledge of a broad range of concepts, theories, principles, and research that other formats do not permit.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined in Western's academic policies by clicking on this link: [Western's academic policies](#)

END