

Anth 2262F-001

The Production and Consumption of Global Commodities

Course Outline

Fall 2016

***Mon 10:30am-12:30pm and Wed 10:30-11:30am
Classroom: CHB-9 (Chemistry Building)***

Prerequisites: Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course.

Course description:

In this course we will consider the effects of an increasingly integrated global political economy on people living at either ends of global commodity chains. Weekly lectures will focus on particular commodities – beginning with papayas and water, and then running through sugar, rubber, sapphires, coffee, body parts, art, and culture (with reference to plenty of others along the way) – with an eye to how anthropological research on the production, circulation, and consumption of these commodities can lead to better understandings of our interconnected world.

Course Instructor

Andrew Walsh

Office: SSC3402. Hours: Mondays, 1:00 to 2:00 pm
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Teaching Assistant

Tyler MacIntosh (tmacinto@uwo.ca)

Office: SSC-3304. Hours: Wednesdays 12:00-2:00 pm

Marking Breakdown

Tutorial Quizzes – 15%

Midterm Test – 15%

Research Assignment – 30% (see separate handout)

Final exam – 40%

Learning Outcomes

- 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 in an increasingly interconnected global economy.
- Students will develop critical thinking skills necessary for understanding how the global flow of commodities affects people at multiple points along global commodity chains.
- Through closely monitored independent research projects, students will develop research and planning skills necessary for the practice of anthropology as both a scholarly and an applied discipline.

Course Policies (please read carefully)

1. All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined (with links to the full policies) at: http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html
2. Students are responsible for ALL assigned readings unless notified otherwise by the instructor.
3. Attendance is mandatory. Students should keep in mind that they may be tested on ALL material that is covered in class (including videos and research presentations). This will generally include a good deal of material that is not covered in course readings. If students are unable to attend a class, they are expected to obtain notes from a classmate.
4. Assignments and essays are due on the dates listed in this outline. Any late assignments or essays will be penalized at a rate of 5% / working day late.
5. Students should retain copies of all material handed in. Please note that the instructor does not accept primary responsibility for assignments or essays submitted outside of class time or office hours. In all cases, copies of material submitted should be retained by the student.
6. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detections software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).
7. All term assignments must be submitted prior to the beginning of the exam period. Any work that is outstanding at this point will receive a grade of 0.
8. ANY ACTS OF **PLAGIARISM** WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF 0 ON THE RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT/ESSAY AND AN F IN THE COURSE.
9. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Course Sources

1. Weekly readings accessible through UWO networked computer. See OWL site.
2. *From Modern Production to Imagined Primitive: The Social World of Coffee from Papua New Guinea*, by Paige West (available at UWO Book Store)

Note on Wednesday Tutorials

Beginning on Wednesday September 21, your TA and I will be running tutorials on in which we will oversee focused discussion of weekly readings. Students are expected to attend all tutorials. Once I have a final class list, we will circulate information regarding the specific tutorial you should be attending, and the room in which it will be held. *Weekly reading quizzes* will focus only on sources marked with a “*”. I will drop your lowest reading quiz grade for the term.

Week 1 (September 12 and 14) – Introduction

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Tutorial
What this course is about.	Discussion of how tutorials will work in this course and of the “Research Portfolio and Proposal Assignment”.

Week 2 (Sep 19 and 21) – Papayas and Water: Following commodities

Required Readings

Cook – “Follow the Thing: Papaya”

*Kaplan – “Fijian Water in Fiji and New York”

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Tutorial
Following things.	Quiz on Kaplan and discussion of readings.

Week 3 (Sep 26 and 28) – Sugar and Tea: Sidney Mintz and the anthropology of global commodities in historical perspective

Required Readings

*Holtzman, “In a cup of tea”

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Tutorial
Sweetness and power.	Quiz on Holtzman and discussion of reading.

Week 4 (Oct 3 and 5) – Sapphires, ecotourism and the global bazaar

Required Readings

Walsh, “In the Wake of Things”

*Walsh, “The Commodification of Fetishes”

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Tutorial
Serving Foreign Demand	Quiz on and discussion of Walsh “commodification” reading.

Week 5 (Oct 12) – Anthropology and The Global Bazaar

Required Readings

Monday	Wednesday Lecture and Discussion
Thanksgiving Holiday	Doing research in/on the Global Bazaar

Week 6 (Oct 17 and 19) – Midterm Catch up and Review

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Tutorial
Midterm Test (15%)	Library session (to be discussed in class)

Midterm grades will be posted by October 26th.

Week 7 (Oct 24 and 26) – Coffee 1

Required Readings

*West, *From Modern Production to Imagined Primitive* (Chapters 1-4)

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Tutorial
Production	Quiz on Chapters 1-4 and discussion.

Week 8 (Oct 31 and Nov 2) – Coffee 2

Required Readings

*West, *From Modern Production to Imagined Primitive* (Chapters 5-8)

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Tutorial
Consumption	Quiz on Chapters 5-8 and discussion.

Week 9 (Nov 7 and 9) – Researching the Circulation of Body Parts

Required Readings

*Scheper-Hughes – “Parts Unknown”

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Tutorial
Body parts and ethics	Quiz on Scheper-Hughes and discussion.

Week 10 (Nov 14 and 16) – “Traditional” Art: *Producing the authentic*

Required Readings

Stoller, “Circuits of African Art/Paths of Wood”

*Straight, “From Samburu Heirloom to New Age Artifact”

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Tutorial
African art in global markets.	Quiz on Straight and discussion.

Week 11 (Nov 21 and 23) – Cultural Tourism: *Pursuing the authentic*

Required Readings

Davidov – “Shamans and Shams”

*Turton – “Lip-plates and the People Who Take Photographs”

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Tutorial
Ethnotourism	Quiz on Turton and discussion.

Week 12 (Nov 28 and 30) – Fair trade

Required Readings

*Elias and Saussey, “The Gift that Keeps on Giving”

Smith and Loker, “We Know our Worth”

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Tutorial
Fair Trade?	Quiz on Elias and Saussey and discussion.

Week 13 (Dec 5 and 7) – Concluding Lecture and Review

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Tutorial
Course Conclusion	Review Session