

Department of Anthropology
ANTHROPOLOGY 2262B-001 - Global Commodities
PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2024

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Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Walsh

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Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: The former Anthro 2262F/G.

Prerequisites: None

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 different cases, focusing both on the history of the global circulation of commodities and 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 producers and consumers of global commodities live interconnected lives.

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 key topics.

Weekly lectures will be recorded and posted on the course OWL site for students who want to review them.

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Evaluation Breakdown

15% -- Weekly online quizzes/reflections. Over the course of the term, students will complete short weekly quizzes/reflections to demonstrate their understanding of the content of assigned readings for that week. These quizzes will be completed online *before* the start of weekly lectures. Only *the top 8 of 9 quizzes* will count towards your final grade.

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

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

Academic and Accommodation Policies

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#) policies in the Academic Calendar. Such items include accommodations for students with disabilities, religious holidays, consideration for medical illness, academic appeals, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and code of student conduct.

Academic Consideration for Student Absences

For students who have missed, or will miss, any course work, whether it be for medical related or non-medical related, please read the details and instructions on "[What is Academic Consideration](#)".

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.

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.*

Accessible Education

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. Please see [Accessible Education](#) for information.

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 Academic Counselling if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

~ End ~

