THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION

ANTHROPOLOGY 581 _ 481 – SPRING 2007
GRAVELEY 262
MONDAY 1:00 –3:30

instructor · Benedict J. Colombi, Ph.D.
email · colobene@isu.edu
office · graveley 164
hours · tuesday and thursday 1:00 – 2:00 pm or by appointment

class web site · www.isu.edu/~colobene


description
This course is a survey of basic issues and concepts, and contemporary research in the anthropology of globalization. Early in the semester, attention will be given not only to major figures and their respective contributions, but also to contextualizing these contributions with respect to theoretical developments occurring within anthropology, geography, history, sociology, and cognate fields. The second part of the course will combine social theory and contemporary case study examples to analyze and model the conditions of global scale human development. We will examine recent journal articles and book chapters, and major themes in the study of globalization from transdisciplinary perspectives. Key words for the course include: world systems, culture and power, global integration, neoliberalism, culture scale, complex adaptive systems, social and environmental sustainability, subsistence insecurity, and human agency.

requirements
Seminar presentations: 581 students will make four or more and 481 students will make two or more special seminar presentations selected from books or articles included in the syllabus. Each seminar presentation should include: (1) a brief background of author; (2) analytical summary of key arguments of the works; and (3) critique and directed discussion. You are encouraged to use data projector presentations (i.e. powerpoint) and handouts. The length of each presentation will be variable, subject to scheduling constraints.

Research paper: everyone will write a research paper. Research papers must be preceded by a prospectus, and a first draft. The final draft may be 15 to 20 pages in length for 581 students and 8 to 10 pages in length for 481 students. The prospectus must have a title, an abstract, and a short summary of your intentions, explaining your objectives, and the sources that you will use. The prospectus may be up to four pages.

class engagement
“Engagement” is measured by regular attendance, preparation in required readings, and in-class discussion. Everyone is expected to read extensively from the sources provided in the syllabus.
evaluation

Points will be assigned as follows: 40 points for seminar participation (discussion, special seminar presentations, and attendance); 60 points for the research paper, allocating 10 points for the prospectus, 20 for the first draft, and 30 for the final draft. To get full credit work must be completed on time, and be professional quality.

grades

The final grade for this course will be assessed according the percentage of points earned from the total points available for the course. The following breakdown of points and grades will be used:

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<th>Points</th>
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<td>100—90</td>
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academic integrity

You are expected to uphold the Idaho State University standard of conduct relating to academic integrity. You assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the academic work you submit. The guiding principle of academic integrity shall be that your submitted work, examinations, reports, and projects must be your own work.

disability accommodations

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable.

provisional course schedule

week 1 · Jan 08
key topics · world systems, culture and power, political economy, history of the modern world


week 2 · Jan 15 [no class]
key topics · connections: the world in 1400, modes of production, Europe, prelude to expansion; in search of wealth: Iberians in America, the fur trade


week 3 · Jan 22
key topics · the slave trade, trade and conquest in the orient; capitalism: industrial revolution, crisis and differentiation, the movement of commodities, the new laborers


week 4 · Jan 29
key topics · medieval prelude, the new European division of labor, the absolute monarchy and statism

week 5 · feb 05 [prospectus due monday, february 05]
key topics · from Seville to Amsterdam: the failure of empire, the strong core states: class-formation and international commerce, the European world-economy: periphery versus external arena


week 6 · feb 12
key topics · food, sociality, and sugar, production, consumption


week 7 · feb 19 [no class]
key topics · consumption, power, eating and being


week 8 · feb 26
key topics · imperia in three worlds, why scale matters, the political elite take power, the rise of European commercial elites


week 9 · mar 05
key topics · the power elite in action: America’s commercial revolution, 1787-1945, counter—imperia: imagining alternative worlds, beyond 2000: an optimal-scale commercial world


week 10 · mar 12 (no class)

week 11 · mar 19
key topics · social power, culture and ideology, global integration and subsistence insecurity


week 12 · mar 26

key topics · global cultural economy, global media, global trafficking


week 13 · apr 02

key topics · global food system and energy, domestication and humans, food and globalization


week 14 · apr 09 [paper draft due monday, april 09]

key topics · global aquaculture, overfishing and world fisheries, atlantic and pacific salmon


week 15 · apr 16

key topics · indigenous people, global-scale development, environmental politics, post-socialist condition and biodiversity


week 16 · apr 23

key topics · human domination and energy use, anthropogenic drivers, ecosystem change, affluence


week 17 · apr 30 [student presentations]

week 18 · may 07 [papers due monday, may 07, 1:00 pm]