

## Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

**Course Title:** Introduction to Global Culture

**Course Number and Section**

CGS

1021F - 550

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

This course examines what it means to take culture as a site of analysis and ‘the global’ as a lens of interpretation. In Unit 1, we survey theories of global culture from the 1990s to the present (i.e., McDonaldization, Clash of Civilization, Hybridization), and study how they are in conversation with one another. In Unit 2, we continue with an in-depth investigation of cultural objects (i.e., Dutch painting and the Canadian beaver) as a prism through which to understand the complex material histories of global culture and how they intersect with forms of imperialism, colonialism, and trade. Finally, in Unit 3, we consider how the qualifier ‘global’ changes our contemporary understanding of specific cultural practices and phenomena, such as tourism, digital media, memory and heritage, and large-scale social movements. Each set of weekly readings will broach these questions and introduce a series of problems unique to the study of global culture through a combination of primary and secondary sources as well as historical and contemporary texts from across the disciplines (i.e., anthropology, sociology, critical theory, art history, media studies). Throughout the course, we ask simple and complex questions, including: What is culture? How is culture understood across different fields of inquiry and intellectual traditions? What tensions or contradictions are embedded culture’s conceptualization and production? What makes culture ‘global’? How is culture shaped by and how does it participate in the forces and flows of globalization?

### Learning Outcomes:

1. Define culture and describe how it is understood in different disciplines or fields of inquiry.
2. Explain and critically evaluate competing theories of global culture.
3. Identify and define key concepts in global culture.
4. Use theories and concepts in global culture to explain historical developments.
5. Conduct close readings of historical and contemporary texts representing global culture.
6. Synthesize and analyze information gathered from diverse scholarly sources.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

Students will read a variety of academic articles and selections from books and anthologies pertaining to the study of global culture.

### Methods of Evaluation:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date mm/dd/yy</b>	<b>Weight - %</b>
Quizzes	ongoing	10
Expository Essay	October 8	15
Close Reading Assignment	November 12	20
Position Paper	December 3	25
Final Exam	exam period	30

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.