

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** Introduction to Global Culture

**Course Number and Section**

GSI

1021F 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Dr. Mark Franke

**Instructor Email(s):** mfranke@huron.uwo.ca

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

### Course Description:

This course involves us in studies of phenomena of modern globalisation and resistances to forces of globalisation from registers of cultural production and the politics of aesthetics. In this regard, the course gives fundamental focus to ways in which modern forces of globalisation have been and are facilitated through the production of cultural norms on global scales, particularly in terms of valuing and celebrating specific liberal ideals in the form of freedom. Our studies will examine how modern globalisation is promoted through a global culture of "freedom," especially within the specifically humanist politics of European colonialism and the persistent coloniality of postcolonial global social, economic, and political systems. We will study how this globalised culture of freedom has been made possible through: colonial/postcolonial formations of global inequality, particularly in the racialisation of persons and peoples; racist social, economic, and political orderings; the discrimination of persons and peoples through formations of ethnic separations; and attempts to centre a singular human subject position through a culture of universalised reason and liberty. And we will consider the contemporary impacts of this global cultural production, especially in terms of the aesthetics of racism and the challenges we face to counter this culture in anti-racist cultural work. The latter half of our course examines ways in which social movements and artists critically engaged with contemporary globalisation and the modern culture of freedom recognise the problems in this global cultural movement and seek to confront it publicly.

### Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

Students in this course will learn to investigate and interpret the foundations of modern globalisation on registers of culture, gaining insights into how contemporary modern global culture rests on the racialisation of humanity and racist politics, along with broad economic discriminations between persons and peoples. In this work, students will gain strong critical understandings of what is valued in the modern global culture of humanist freedom that underlies contemporary globalisation.

Students in this course will learn to read and interpret phenomena of globalisation through aesthetic production. As well, they will learn how it is possible to gain critical leverage within these forms of cultural production, bringing about the possibility of aesthetic resistance and political transformation through counter-cultural practices and actions. As a result, students in this course will develop understanding of the grounds under which critical reformulations of global aesthetics may be possible, recognising and challenging modern universalising and colonial forms.

Finally, students in this course will gain good practice in close interpretive and critical readings of scholarly writing and cultural and aesthetic production. And they will gain good practice in engaging with these writings and artistic production through their own writing.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

four books:

- Lisa Lowe. The Intimacies of Four Continents (Duke University Press, 2015). \$38.75 or free
- Christina Sharpe. In the Wake: On Blackness and Being. (Duke University Press, 2016). \$34.65 or free
- Jennifer Ponce de Leon. Another Aesthetics is Possible: Arts of Rebellion in the Fourth World War. (Duke University Press, 2021). \$38.75 or free
- T. J. Demos. Beyond the World's End: Arts of Living at the Crossing. (Duke University Press, 2020). \$37.70 or free

### Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

| Assignment             | Due Date mm/dd/yy    | Weight - % |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| in-class essay test #1 | October 7, 2026      | 7.5%       |
| in-class essay test #2 | October 28, 2026     | 5%         |
| in-class essay test #3 | November 18, 2026    | 7.5%       |
| Essay #1               | October 23, 2026     | 15%        |
| Essay #2               | November 13, 2026    | 15%        |
| Essay #3               | December 9, 2026     | 20%        |
| Final Examination      | December Exam Period | 30%        |

Thursday, August 6, 2026

## Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

**In-course Costs** \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
  - Or include the weblink of the textbook's publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

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