

CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Winter 2022

GINS 1020E  
ETHNOGRAPHY, GLOBALISATION AND CULTURE

Thursdays 11:35pm – 1:25 pm (online synchronous and recorded)  
Location: Zoom

I acknowledge and respect  
the Algonquin First Nation,  
on whose traditional territory  
the Carleton University campus is located.

**Instructor:** Sandra Fahy, Ph.D.

**Office Hours:** Please email for an appointment. Email: [sandrafahy@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:sandrafahy@cunet.carleton.ca) \*Please use the phrase “BGInS 1020” in the subject line of your email!

**Lecture Dates:** Thursdays 11:35-1:25

January 13, 20, 27

February 3, 10, 17 (Winter Break is February 22-25th)

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

April 7, 14 (April 28<sup>th</sup> final day course materials can be submitted).

Teaching Assistant: Francis Finlayson, [frankiefinlayson@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:frankiefinlayson@cmail.carleton.ca)

Important Dates: <https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

January 31, 2022: “This is the last day to withdraw from fall term and fall/winter course with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.”

### Teaching Style

Our course is composed of a two-hour lecture and a one-hour tutorial section. The teaching assistants (TAs) will each decide how to work with their hour tutorial sections. As to the lecture portion of the class, I have decided to divide this up into digestible chunks. It is very difficult for *anyone* to pay attention for two hours without a break or variation of presentation style. As such, our lecture time will take some version of the following: Warm up activity or review (15 min); guided discussion (15 min); lecture on new content (30 min); team work (25 min); review (15 min); wrap up (10 min). We will also take short breaks to give our brains a rest!

I work with power point for my lectures, but the bulk of the information is transmitted orally. So, please sit back, listen, and record if you wish. I will draw your attention to the most salient points. I retain the copywrite for all materials I deliver in my lectures. Reading the materials prior to lecture will be most useful. My office door is always open to you, and in these pandemic times, “door”

means email and zoom. Please feel free to reach out to me. I like learning about my students, what you are interested in, what you are working on, what you hope for your future – these insights always help me to be a better teacher.

## Introducing our Course

### ETHNOGRAPHY, GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURE

This is one of the foundational courses in our program. As such, it is natural that we take inspiration for its content from the title itself. We will devote four weeks to the study of Ethnography, Globalization and Culture, respectively. Each of these undergird much our program in Global and International Studies as subjects, and as social phenomena. Ethnography, Globalisation and Culture have been examined and contested. They remain phenomena that are influx. We will study them as such. It is also possible to study these subjects from a range of different academic disciplines such as economics, literature, anthropology, geography, and so on.

*Ethnography* is the descriptive study of a society, or phenomena within society. It can also be the process of making, or writing, such a study. The method whereby an ethnography is created is usually through fieldwork. Nowadays, fieldwork can take many kinds of forms. Which we will discover. Our course will introduce the history of ethnography, particularly as it emerged in the social sciences. In this process we will read several ethnographies from around the world from the last few decades. These ethnographies will challenge our assumptions about ourselves, our world, and others. To get a taste of the methods behind creating an ethnography ourselves, I will instruct you on several small tasks, designed to become “mini-ethnographies,” that you can conduct during our class to reflect upon.

*Globalization* is a term that describes how the world’s economies, cultures, populations, technology, services, goods, and so on, have become increasingly interdependent. Global studies captures the study of international politics, communications, environmental science, and on and on. It is both micro, meaning small, and macro, meaning large, in scope. As a point of contrast, International Studies, or International Relations, focuses more on the interactions between nation states and nation state alliances. Global Studies permits the study of phenomena that defy the nation state boundary, as such we could say that Global Studies inherently questions the notion of the state and government, itself.

*Culture* is, much like the two terms above, difficult to define. However, most folks would agree that culture is a collection of characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people that can include language, religion, food, social habits, music, and so on. We might even say that Carleton University’s BGINs program has a culture. Perhaps it is different from Carleton University’s Physical Sciences. By this we could say there are a sect of customs, morals, codes and traditions.

Each of these key terms are vastly nuanced and complex. In our course together we will explore this vastness and try to get a handle on what each of them means for itself and in relation to each other. This naturally brings us to the topic of course objectives.

## Course Objectives

- Understand ethnography: what it is, where it came from and how to carry it out
- Understand globalization: its history and its present manifestations
- Understand culture: draw connections between what is unique and universal
- Develop a solid foundation for ongoing study within BGINS
- Develop sustained listening skills for lectures
- Develop critical reading skills for extracting information
- Identify assumptions and implicit bias in yourself and the world
- Broaden your understanding about the world and its people

#### Course Aims

- To provide you a solid basis for BGINS going forward
- To empower you to understand global dynamics
- To alert you to how the world is interconnected
- To enable you to communicate effectively on these topics
- To equip you with the tools for research, assessment, and analysis of our field
- To empower you to assess arguments, evidence, and conclusions

#### Evaluation

1. Weekly attendance and participation in tutorial sections and lectures 10%
2. First Mini-Ethnography 15% Due, February 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:59pm
3. Mid-term Essay 30% Due March 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:59pm
4. Second Mini-Ethnography 15% Due March 17<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm
5. Final Essay 30% April 15<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm

#### Details of Evaluation:

##### 1.) Participation in Tutorial Sections: (10%)

It is very important you participate in online tutorials during the course. Attending online tutorials is mandatory. Your participation grade will reflect the extent to which you contribute to tutorial discussions in an informed way. However, the grade will not just be based on your attendance. You will be expected to do the required readings prior to attending the tutorial sessions and also participate in an informed way in discussions. Tutorial session attendance will be taken by the TA at each session meeting. A high participation grade (in the 'A' range) will reflect a well-informed, thoughtful and respectful student engagement, throughout the majority of the classes. A high grade will involve active participation in the in-class application of the tools and approaches learned.

##### 2.) First Mini-Ethnography 15% Due February 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:59pm

This will be an assignment combining self-reflexivity, close observation, and engagement/ investigation with the world around you. The aim is to explore your lived experience of globalization. This should be a text of approximately 750-1000 words.

##### 3.) Mid-term Essay 30% Due March 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:59pm

The topic of your essay must relate closely to the readings and videos and recommended readings for this course up to the point of your paper's deadline. You may choose any topic to explore as

long as it touches upon those readings. You are expected to bridge in other readings, as they relate to these, as you expand out the topic and demonstrate how you have digested and understood our course materials.

Your first paper should be around 2,000 words in length. References are required. You are encouraged to use AAA style for your papers. The following links provide detailed information and examples:

<https://www.americananthro.org/StayInformed/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=2044>

<https://www.unl.edu/rhames/courses/current/readings/AAA%20Style.pdf>

<https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/files/aaa.pdf>

Please ensure that you use at least six academic references in your submitted essay. These references should include materials that provide information on the issue you are writing about.

Please do not forget to include your name and student number on all assignments. All assignments are due on the date of submission no later than 11:59pm EST.

At the end of this syllabus, you will find a rubric which will describe an A+ paper.

### 3. Second Mini-Ethnography 15% Due March 17<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm

This assignment combines a new aspect of self-reflexivity, close observation, and engagement/investigation which was not examined in the former mini-ethnography you wrote involving the world around. Additionally, you will combine your thoughts and reflections on the readings we have covered in the course so far. The aim is to explore your lived experience of globalization. This should be a text of approximately 1000-1,500 words.

### 4. Final Essay 30% April 15<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm

The topic of your essay must relate closely to the readings and videos and recommended readings for this course up to the point of your paper's deadline (as such for this final paper you can combine all of the course readings). You may choose any topic to explore as long as it touches upon our readings, videos and recommended readings. You are expected to bridge in other readings beyond our course, as they relate to these, as you expand out the topic and demonstrate how you have digested and understood our course materials.

Your final essay should be 3,000 words. References are required. You are encouraged to use AAA style for your papers. The following links provide detailed information and examples:

<https://www.americananthro.org/StayInformed/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=2044>

<https://www.unl.edu/rhames/courses/current/readings/AAA%20Style.pdf>

<https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/files/aaa.pdf>

Please ensure that you use at least six academic references in your submitted essay. These references should include materials that provide information on the issue you are writing about.

Please do not forget to include your name and student number on all assignments. All assignments are due on the date of submission no later than 11:59pm EST.

Grading:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Submission and Return of Term Work: All class assignments must be submitted directly to dropbox in Culearn. Late assignments will receive 2% deduction for each day. Extensions on assignment deadlines will be considered for legitimate reasons only and must be discussed with the instructor before a missed deadline.

Plagiarism

Please ensure that you do not intentionally or unintentionally use the ideas or writing of others without referencing this writing. Be sure to read Carleton University's statement on plagiarism and how to avoid it: <https://carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries/pammett-on-plagiarism-and-paraphrasing/> There are significant consequences for plagiarism. Remember, your ideas and writing are valuable. You can reference others while building your thoughts in writing.

Course Copyright

"My lectures and course materials (including all PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and similar materials) are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright and intellectual property of all course materials. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial purposes without my express written consent."

## Helpful Information

Carleton University has a duty to accommodate students with institutional needs. Please see information on the following page. <https://carleton.ca/pmc/faculty-and-instructors/institutional-obligations/> Their website states, "Students with disabilities are responsible for identifying their needs for disability-related accommodation to the Paul Menton Centre by booking an intake appointment with a PMC Coordinator, and bringing appropriate documentation to the first meeting." Please ensure that you do this, so that you can have the best experience of accommodation at Carleton.

There are deadlines for this process. They are: "In-class tests: 2 weeks before the date of the in-class test/exam. CUTV midterms: Student must meet with or notify PMC coordinator at least 2

weeks before the 1st midterm exam. Formal Exams (December, April, July, or August): Last day for course withdrawal in the term. See Carleton dates and deadlines for specific dates.”  
(<https://carleton.ca/registrar/registration/dates/> )

Carleton University is your intellectual home, and for you to make the most of your experience here be sure to reach out and utilize all the services this wonderful university has to offer.

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet class scheduled test or exam requiring with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled exam (if applicable).

Here are some links for helpful resources. Make use of what they offer, you deserve it!

Mental Health: <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/student-mental-health/>

Substance Use: <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/safe-substance-use/>

Care and Support: <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/student-care-and-support/>

Rights & Responsibilities: <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/student-rights-and-responsibilities/>

Emergency Fund: <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/student-emergency-fund/>

## Class Schedule

### INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

**Class One: January 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Introduction to the syllabus and overview of the Course**

Introductory Lecture: no reading required. The lecture today is based on the following readings which you can explore in your tutorial section:

Eriksen, Chapter 2 “A Brief History of Anthropology,”

Eriksen, Chapter 3 "Fieldwork and Ethnography," in *Small Places, Large Issues, Third Edition: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology* (2010).

## ETHNOGRAPHY

**Class Two: January 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Lecture: Ethnography and the Contribution of Anthropology  
Introduction to early Ethnographic Films**

Required Reading:

Nanda and Warms, Chapter 3, "Doing Cultural Anthropology" in *Culture Counts: A Concise Introduction of Cultural Anthropology*

Steger, Chapter 1 "Globalization: a contested concept"

Steger, Chapter 5 "The Cultural Dimension of Globalization" in *Globalization: A very Short Introduction* (2003)

Recommended Viewing:

Robert Flaherty - Original Silent Version "Nanook of the North" (1922)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IAcRjBq93Y&ab\\_channel=chrisb](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IAcRjBq93Y&ab_channel=chrisb)

Batseon and Mead "Bathing Babies in Three Cultures" (Circa 1940)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmvqdDBSY0k&t=24s&ab\\_channel=vivinaSalvetti](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmvqdDBSY0k&t=24s&ab_channel=vivinaSalvetti)

Batseon and Mead "Childhood Rivalry in Bali and New Guinea"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NqQ6KL-aUY&t=18s&ab\\_channel=TheSuutz](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NqQ6KL-aUY&t=18s&ab_channel=TheSuutz)

Batseon and Mead "Trance and Dance in Bali"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8YC0dnj4Jw&t=40s&ab\\_channel=LibraryofCongress](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8YC0dnj4Jw&t=40s&ab_channel=LibraryofCongress)

"Kitchen Stories" (2004)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0Oan6gGnVI&t=510s&ab\\_channel=MisutoKazo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0Oan6gGnVI&t=510s&ab_channel=MisutoKazo)

This is in Norwegian, but I will try to find the English subtitles.

A review here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/20/movies/film-review-scandinavian-comedy-no-knees-slapped.html>

**Class Three: January 27**

**Lecture: Fieldwork and Ethnography  
Trying for a Mini-Ethnography: you and the world**

Required Reading:

Van Maanen, Chapter 1 "Fieldwork, Culture and Ethnography"

Van Maanen, Chapter 6 "Fieldwork, Culture and Ethnography Revisited" in *Tales of the field: on writing ethnography*

Dara Culhane Chapter 1, "Imagining: an introduction," in *A Different Kind of Ethnography: Imaginative Practices and Creative Methodologies*

**Class Four: February 3**

**Lecture: Contemporary Fieldwork and Ethnography**

**Case Study: South Korea, and the World: children, adoption, belonging**

Required Reading:

Eleana J. Kim, Chapter 6 "Made in Korea: Adopted Koreans and Native Koreans in the Motherland," and  
Eleana J. Kim, Chapter 7 "Beyond Good and Evil: The Moral Economies of Children and Their Best Interests in a Global Age" in *Adopted Territory: Transnational Korean Adoptees and the Politics of Belonging*



First Mini-Ethnography 15% Due, February 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:59pm



**Class Five: February 10**

**Lecture: Contemporary Fieldwork and Ethnography**

**Case Study: Hmong Culture, and the United States: children, health, and misunderstanding**

Required Reading:

Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctor's and the Collision of Two Cultures*

Recommended Listening: Anna Fadiman's book talk

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8J7JxVp1Rs&ab\\_channel=DartCenterforJournalismandTrauma](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8J7JxVp1Rs&ab_channel=DartCenterforJournalismandTrauma)

## GLOBALIZATION

**Class Six: February 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Lecture: Consensus and Controversies in Globalization**

Required Reading:

Pieterse, Chapter 1, "Globalization: Consensus and Controversies," in *Jan Nederveen Pieterse Globalization and culture: global mélange*

Eller, Chapter 12, "Colonialism and the Origin of Globalization," in *Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives*

Recommended Reading:

Pieterse, Chapter 2, "Globalization and Human Integration: We Are All Migrants" in *Jan Nederveen Pieterse Globalization and Culture: Global Mélange*

**Class Seven: March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Lecture: Globalization, Economics, and Rights**



Required Reading:

Eller, Chapter 14 Economics in the Postcolonial World: Development, Modernization and Globalization, in *Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives*

Kadrigic, Chapter 1 "The Human Face of Globalization" in *Globalization and Human Rights*

Recommended Reading:

Kadrigic, Chapter 8 "Rights the Future of Human Rights Under Globalization," in *Globalization and Human Rights*



Mid-term Essay 30% Due March 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:59pm



**Class Eight: March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Lecture: Globalization, Feminism, Personal Freedom**

Required Reading:

Ferree, Chapter 1, "Recognizing Transnational Feminism, 'Globalization and Feminism: Opportunities and Obstacles for Activism in the Global Arena'" in *Global feminism: transnational women's activism, organizing, and human rights* / edited by Myra Marx Ferree and Aili Mari Tripp. 2006, New York.

Kadrigic, Chapter 4, "Globalization and Personal Freedom," in *Globalization and Human Rights*

**Class Nine: March 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Lecture: Anti-Globalization, Statelessness, and the in-between**

Required reading:

Hassan Al Kontar, "I lived in an airport for seven months," in Guardian, July 9 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2021/jul/09/experience-i-lived-in-an-airport-for-seven-months>

DW, "Afghan migrants trapped at the border between Poland and Belarus," <https://www.dw.com/en/afghan-migrants-trapped-at-the-border-between-poland-and-belarus/a-58973715>

Coventry Peace House, Chapter 1 "Global Statelessness,"  
Coventry Peace House, Chapter 3 "The Power of the State" in *Statelessness: The Quiet Torture of Belonging Nowhere*, Coventry Peace House (2008).

Recommended viewing:

<https://www.thesun.ie/travel/3447749/syrian-refugee-stranded-in-canadian-airport-for-seven-months-finally-makes-it-though-passport-control/>

DW, "Afghan migrants trapped at the border between Poland and Belarus," <https://www.dw.com/en/afghan-migrants-trapped-at-the-border-between-poland-and-belarus/a-58973715> (NB: video at bottom)



Second Mini-Ethnography 15% Due March 17<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm

## CULTURE

**Class Ten: March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Lecture: Culture, where is it? Identity, who am I?**

Required Reading:

Van Maanen, Chapter 2 "In Pursuit of Culture" in *Tales of the field: on writing ethnography*

Eller, Chapter 6, "Individuals and Identities: Race and Ethnicity" in *Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives*

Fedorak, Chapter 4, How do Living, Studying, and Working in a Foreign Culture Affect People? in *Anthropology Matters*

Recommended Reading:

Eller, Chapter 8, "Kinship and Non-Kinship Organization," in *Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives*

The Native Scholar who Wasn't, New York Times, May 25<sup>th</sup> 2021

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/25/magazine/chokeberry-native-american-andrea-smith.html>

"No you can't identify as Transracial, but you can affirm your gender" July 2 2021,

<https://theconversation.com/no-you-cant-identify-as-transracial-but-you-can-affirm-your-gender-163729>

**Class Eleven: March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Lecture: Culture, Comparison, Context**

Required Reading:

Eriksen, Chapter 1, Comparison and Context in *Small Places, Large Issues, Third Edition: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology* (2010)

Pieterse, Chapter 3 Globalization and Culture: Three Paradigms, in *Globalization and Culture: Global Mélange*

David Robson, "The astonishing vision and focus of Namibia's nomads," June 27<sup>th</sup> 2020,

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20170306-the-astonishing-focus-of-namibias-nomads>

**Class Twelve: April 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Lecture: Culture, Globalization, and Contradictions**

Required Reading:

Moran, Chapter 5, "What Makes People Do that?" in *People and Nature: An Introduction to Human Ecological Relations* (2006)

Niezen, Chapter 3, "The cultural contradictions of Globalization," in *A world beyond Difference, cultural identity in the age of globalization* (2004)

Pieterse, Chapter 6, "Globalization Is Braided: East-West Osmosis," in *Globalization and Culture: Global Mélange*

**Class Thirteen: April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Lecture: The Global Culture of Near Far**

Required Reading:

Pieterse, Chapter 4, "Globalization as Hybridization" in *Globalization and Culture: Global Mélange*

Pieterse, Chapter 5, "Hybridity, So What? The Anti-hybridity Backlash and the Riddles of Recognition," in *Globalization and Culture: Global Mélange*

Kadrigic, Chapter 5, "Global Television and Human Rights Abuses," in *Globalization and Human Rights*



Final Essay 30% April 15<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm



**Writing Assessment Rubric**

This is adapted from a rubric developed by Pablo Gaston at Berkeley, Teaching and Resource Center.

	Excellent	Proficient	Fair	Inadequate
Thesis	Thesis is debatable and clearly presented in the opening and concluding sections of the paper.	Thesis is debatable and is evident in the argument, but is not clearly stated.	Thesis is unclear, and it takes work for the reader to fish it out of the text. Or, thesis is self-evident and not debatable.	There is no evident thesis.
Argument	Argument is presented clearly and logically. Logical points build directly upon the thesis and prior points. Counter-arguments are addressed, dismantled, and folded into the main argument of the paper.	Argument is presented clearly and logically, but points do not necessarily build on each other. Counterarguments are addressed, but many are left hanging or are dealt with inadequately.	Argument is rambling, and there are contradictions left unaddressed. Counterarguments may be presented, but are left unaddressed.	There is no discernable argument, or no alternative interpretation is presented.

**Originality**

Argument is original and creative. Goes substantially beyond points raised in lecture and readings. Concepts are related to each other in interesting and creative ways.	Argument is strong and interesting, but plays it safe and does not push boundaries. Concepts are put in conversation with each other.	Argument is expository rather than analytical. Concepts are described, but dealt with separately and not explicitly related to each other.	Argument is boring, weak and incoherent.
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