

Ethnography, Globalization and Culture
Carleton University
Global and International Studies
Fall 2026 GINS 1020A Tuesdays 11:35-1:23

Professor Sandra Fahy, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Tuesday 3pm – 4:00pm in Dunton Tower 21st Floor, Office 2129

Email: sandra.fahy@carleton.ca “BGInS 1020” in subject line, address Professor Fahy

Lecture Dates: September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20 (27th is reading week),

November 3, 10, 17, 24, December 1, 8

Assignment Dates in class on: September 29th October 20th November 17th December 8th

Preparing for Course

Students prepare for class by purchasing or printing out our course reading materials. In this class we are practicing the art of reading on paper while taking notes by hand on the reading itself and in your notebook. Students are asked to bring these to tutorial and lecture. Students are expected to take notes with pen and paper in lecture and tutorials unless physical disability prohibits this. Reading materials off the computer or phone will not be permitted. Use of phones or computers is not permitted. Students are asked not to use headsets or earbuds during tutorial or lecture. Students are responsible for obtaining reading materials in print.

Assessment

Four assignments (written in class) make up your grade. Each is worth 25 points (25 X 4 = 100). Assignments are handwritten in tutorial. Students with accommodation will be notified via the PMC and exam center about the location of their assignments. It is your responsibility to read your emails. Attendance is required for this class. Students who do not attend at least 15 of our 24 meetings will not pass this class. Attendance is taken at each lecture and tutorial. Missed Assignments: If you miss an assignment, you are granted the opportunity to sit the assignment on the following Monday at 7:30am at Dunton Tower 21st floor. There are no exceptions to this. Students who miss an assignment will lose five points off the grade. You must contact the professor to arrange this.

Small group tutoring with professor: because we use course time for the assignments in this class, I provide additional hours for students who wish to meet in small groups and discuss strategies for reading, writing, and methods to improve in this class, and university more widely. Please email to make this request.

Introduction to Our Course

This is a required course for the Undergraduate Degree in Global and International Studies. As such, it takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Ethnography, Globalization and Culture. Our course spans the world through case studies that

elaborate what is particular and universal to humanity across time and place. In terms of practical skills, this course aims to teach you how to write clearly, how to read and thinking critically, and how to make and assess strong arguments.

As to our subject specializations: *Ethnography* is the descriptive study of a society or a phenomenon within society. Ethnography is made when a researcher carries out fieldwork. Fieldwork is a practice of learning to see the world in a *new* way so that you can identify features of the world according to their function and structure. You will get hands on experience carrying out fieldwork during this class. You will write up that research, reflecting on it and combining it with our course readings: creating an ethnography. That ethnography will form one aspect of your training and assessment in this course.

Globalization is a term that describes how the world's economies, cultures, populations, technology, services, and goods have become increasingly interdependent. Global Studies captures the study of international politics, communications, environmental science, and so 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. Our "globalization" readings will cover the main agreements and disputes in the field; you are expected to integrate insights from these readings into your assignments.

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 BGIInS 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 that are practiced by some, but not all. Our "culture" readings will cover a range of issues. Each of these key terms are nuanced. In our course we explore this vastness and try to get a handle on what each means for itself and in relation to each other. This naturally brings us to the topic of course objectives.

Learning Outcomes

Recognize and *recall* key concepts related to ethnography, globalization and culture

Interpret current and historic aspects of society in the context of globalization

Identify the argument in a reading

Develop cognitive flexibility and comfort in intellectual challenges

Course Objectives

To empower you to listen, assess and make clear arguments

To enable you to write and speak clearly with reference to our course readings

To equip you to assess written and spoken arguments with sophisticated debate

Lecture Schedule GINS 1020

Class One September 15th Tuesday 11:35-1:25 NI 4030

Introduction to syllabus. Start of course with required reading by Harriet McBryde Johnson, New York Times Magazine, February 16th 2003. Analysis of argument and debate. https://courses.washington.edu/intro2ds/Readings/24_Johnson-unspeakable.pdf

Class Two January 22nd Tuesday 11:35-14:25 NI 4030

Morris et al., "Eight Histories of Disabled People in Ancient Egypt" British Museum Blog, December 2024

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/blog/eight-histories-disabled-people-ancient-egypt>

Ojok, Patrick, and Junior B Musenze. "A defence of identity for persons with disability: Reflections from religion and philosophy versus ancient African culture." *African journal of disability* vol. 8 490. 23 Apr. 2019 <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6489160/>

Sneed, Debby. "Disability and Infanticide in Ancient Greece." *Hesperia: The Journal of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens*, vol. 90, no. 4, 2021, pp. 747–72. JSTOR <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2972/hesperia.90.4.0747>

Class Three September 29th Tuesday 11:35-1:25 NI 4030

In-Class First Assignment (25%) during tutorial time. No Lecture this day. Students with accommodation will write via the PMC.

Class Four October 6th Tuesday 11:35-1:25 NI 4030

Nelson, Katie. "Chapter 3 Doing Fieldwork: Methods in Cultural Anthropology," in Brown et al., "Perspectives: an open introduction to Cultural Anthropology" 2nd edition 2020 <https://perspectives.americananthro.org/Chapters/Fieldwork.pdf>

Class Five October 13th Tuesday 11:35-1:25 NI 4030

Horace Miner, Body Ritual Among the Nacirema, American Anthropologist, 1956, 58(3), 503-507 <https://www.sfu.ca/~palys/Miner-1956-BodyRitualAmongTheNacirema.pdf> ;

Documentary by Kayonga Kagame Shows Us the world, Darkest Austria <https://archive.org/details/KayongaKagameShowsUsTheWorld.EpisodeDarkestAustria>

Class Six October 20th Tuesday 11:35-1:25 NI 4030

In-Class Second Assignment (25%) during tutorial time. No Lecture this day. No Lecture this day. Students with accommodation will write via the PMC.

This Week October 26th - 30th 2026 University Wide Fall Break

Class Seven November 3rd Tuesday 11:35-1:25 NI 4030

Sacks, Oliver. "Forward to A Man Without Words" by Susan Schaller, University of California Press, 2012; Susan Schaller, "A Man Without Words" Read full book

emphasis pages – 44-57; 61-91; 108-119; Gondwana Collection, “How do Namibian Himbas see colour?” September 02, 2016

<https://gondwana-collection.com/blog/how-do-namibian-himbasa-see-colour>

“How Language Changes the Way We See Color,”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgxyfqHRPoE&ab_channel=InsiderTech

Class Eight November 10th Tuesday 11:35-1:25 NI 4030

Vincanne Adams, “Suffering the Winds of Lhasa: Politicized Bodies, Human Rights, Cultural Difference, and Humanism in Tibet,” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, Vol 12, No 1 (March 1998): pp 74-102

Class Nine November 17th Tuesday 11:35-1:25 NI 4030

In-Class Third Assignment (25%) during tutorial time: Tutorials time and location: B1 10:35-11:25 F Nideyinàn (former UC) 376: B2 9:35-10:25 F Nideyinàn (former UC) 376 B4 1:35-2:25 F Nicol Building 3038: No Lecture this day. No Lecture this day. Students with accommodations will write via the PMC.

Class Ten November 24th Tuesday 11:35-1:25 NI 4030

Ellen Messer, “Pluralist Approaches to Human Rights,” *Journal of Anthropological Research*, Vol 53, No 3. (Autumn 1997): pp 293-317

Batseon and Mead “Bathing Babies in Three Cultures” (Circa 1940),

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=TheSuhtz

Class Eleven December 1st Tuesday 11:35-1:25 NI 4030

Jun Zhao, “China and the Uneasy Case for Universal Human Rights,” *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol 37, No 1 (February 2015): pp 29-52

Steger, Manfred, “Globalization: a contested concept” Chapter One of *Globalization: A very Short Introduction* (2003)

Class Twelve December 8th 11:35-1:25 NI 4030

In-Class Fourth Assignment (25%) during tutorial time: Tutorials time and location: B1 10:35-11:25 F Nideyinàn (former UC) 376: B2 9:35-10:25 F Nideyinàn (former UC) 376 B4 1:35-2:25 F Nicol Building 3038: No Lecture this day. No Lecture this day. Students with accommodations will write via the PMC.

Carleton University Freedom of Speech Policy

"As an institution of higher learning anchored in the ideals of open inquiry and debate, the University's students, staff, and faculty have the freedom of speech to articulate their views. Pursuant to the Carleton University Act, the essential purpose of the University is to engage in the pursuit of the advancement of learning, the dissemination of knowledge, and the intellectual development and betterment of its community. To achieve this purpose, members of the University have freedom of speech, which is defined as the right to examine, question, investigate, speculate, comment and criticize except insofar as limitations are necessary by law or the functioning of the University. The purpose of the University also depends upon an environment of respect and tolerance. Every member needs to be able to learn, teach, live and work free from harassment and discrimination... Disagreements and dissenting views make for a vibrant academic culture. The University strives to find a balance between allowing for critical views to be expressed civilly on campus and not obstructing the freedom of others to communicate their views. In exercising free speech, staff, students and faculty are encouraged to consider the value of mutual respect. Informed, thoughtful and respectful argument, even when disagreement is profound, benefits the University community and fosters its essential purpose." The full document can be accessed here: <https://carleton.ca/equity/policies-procedures/>

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. You may not make recordings of lectures without my written consent."

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. See Carleton dates and deadlines for specific dates." (<https://carleton.ca/registrar/registration/dates/>)

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: If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or 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 with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

Links for helpful resources.

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/>

Grade Appeals: If you wish to appeal your grade, do so in a timely fashion. Prior to requesting your appeal, please ensure that you have identified the grading error on the assignment and notify me and the TA. If a mistake has been made, we will correct it asap. Approval of final grades: The instructor determines your grade in the course which is subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

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

