

## **Study guide for the final exam**

Bring one or two 8 ½ x 11 (large size) blue books. The final exam is worth 20% of the course grade, or 200 points. It covers all of the readings and lecture material from the midterm on, that is, starting with Chapter Four, “The Nation-State in the Culture of Capitalism”. (That is right; we really had gotten only that far prior to the fairly early midterm.). However, much of the discussion about these later chapters involves concepts about globalization and capitalism from before the midterm. Those concepts will not be the focus of questions, but they will be necessary to deal with the later material. The test calls for written answers that range from a phrase or sentence to perhaps a few paragraphs.

The format and length will be similar to the midterm, but you will have longer (one hour and 50 minutes) to complete it. There should be little or no time pressure. There will be some choices of which questions to answer, so you can work around a question that stumps you. In essay questions, I look for clear, logical arguments supported by specific examples and evidence where appropriate. In general, the more you have to say about a subject, the better (as long as it is relevant and correct!). Concepts should be explained, not just mentioned. When a question has several parts, address them all. Don't assume that I know the answer; your job is to show me that *you* understand the issues.

You may not agree with all of the viewpoints and analysis presented in this class. The purpose of the class is for you to first understand these views, then evaluate them. So please write answers that show that you understand the ideas and views advanced by Robbins; if you want to disagree or critique them, then you have a solid statement of his position to work on.

### **Some suggestions for studying:**

Review the readings, lecture notes, and slides, as well as your own notes. My presentations did not cover all of the reading material. Even so, you are responsible for the whole book. I have posted the lecture notes and slides that we would have used, but had to skip or did not get to. These may help in reviewing readings that we did not discuss. The notes do not cover all the subjects or the full detail of the book. They sometimes provide additional information or arguments. So you will want to review both the class material and the readings.

I suggest that you try to identify the important points and examples of each chapter or class. For each example, think about what Robbins is saying about it, and what it is supposed to illustrate. Notice the section headings in the book. They are a useful guide, virtually an outline of the argument. For each point or example, consider how globalization is involved, and how the culture of capitalism is involved. Those are the main themes of the course, and will feature prominently in the test questions. In examples of problems or resistance, you might systematically ask: what are the main complaints? What caused them? How is globalization and/or capitalism part of the cause? How did people respond, resist, rebel, etc.? How did it work out? How was globalization and/or capitalism involved in how it worked out?

### **Some key concepts you may need from before the midterm:**

Capitalism; globalization; capitalism's need for perpetual growth; culture of consumption; the nature of the labor class; motivations and behavior of capitalists, and why these are often not good for laborers; capital controllers; mobility of capital; corporations; multilateral institutions (IMF, WTO, World Bank) and their motivations, especially the ways they influence the policies of governments to favor business

**Some themes to review, corresponding mostly to chapters and scheduled lectures:**

Nations, states, and nation-states; processes of building nation-states; creating an “other”; creating an “invented tradition”; role of nation-states in constructing consumers and laborers; role of nation-states in creating conditions favorable for business; who gains and who loses from these policies

Externalities; positive and negative externalities; some examples; how people who bear the costs of externalities can respond; why capitalism tends to encourage increasing negative externalities

Malthusian views of population growth and impending overpopulation; supposed correlation of population control and rising productivity, and evidence against it; carrying capacity; “revisionist” views of population growth; self-serving biases of Malthusian views

Demographic transition theory; factors that affect population growth; evidence against demographic transition theory (pre-modern populations that regulated their population size, and populations that began rapid growth before modern medicine and sanitation); wealth flows theory; the role of gender roles in population growth or stability

Hunger and poverty; scale of the hunger problem; origins of the hunger problem in the shift from subsistence production to buying food; changes in capital requirements and energy efficiency of food production; the Green Revolution; capital-intensive agriculture; medicalization of hunger and how it masks the systemic, economic nature of the problem; problems with development projects and the role of anthropologists in addressing them; the informal economy; informal economy as a response to poverty; how emphasizing criminality masks the underlying problem

Environmental impacts of capitalism; role of globalization in environmental issues; why our consumption is so high; examples of sugar and beef; how consumption patterns are culturally constructed (remember the “construction of the consumer” from before the midterm); why changing consumption practices may be difficult

Evidence that disease is a real, even rising, threat; causes of disease; how the market fails to encourage a lot of research on communicable diseases; virulence; transmission; kinds of transmission that tend to cause pathogens (“microbes”) to be highly virulent; relationship of virulence and ease of transmission; how modern conditions of globalization and capitalism tend to increase the virulence of pathogens, and how that can be reversed; overuse of antibiotics; cultural conditions and changes that favor communicable diseases

Why indigenous cultures are often not very compatible with global capitalism; why indigenous sustainable adaptations actually attract destructive capitalist undertakings; analogy to Pacific Lumber company; ethnocide; processes that contribute to ethnocide; Guaraní example; disadvantaged majorities and “leveling crowds”; why democracy can be dangerous; demagogues; how “development” for indigenous people is usually “transformation”, and often not for the better

Peasants; how peasants are tied to one place, while capitalized outsiders may easily encroach on them; why the mobility of capital means that capitalists need not treat local peasants well; “weapons of the weak”; terrorism; Malaysian Kedah plain example; conservative quality of much peasant resistance, versus radical, changing quality of capitalism; Kikuyu Mau Mau rebellion example; Zapatista example

Why most protest can be seen as opposing aspects of capitalism; long-term benefits versus short-term harm; revolution(s) of 1848 and how they related to spreading capitalism; results of revolution(s) of 1848; revolution(s) of 1968 and how they were related to globalization and capitalism; example of labor protests in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Pennsylvania coal mining industry; feminist complaints and how they are related to capitalism; ecological complaints and how they are related to capitalism; why ecological protest is often related to protests by the poor, indigenous, etc.

Religious responses to problems of globalization and capitalism; local indigenous religious movements and large-scale fundamentalist movements; Ghost Dance example; Cargo cults example; Zionist Church in South Africa example; general features of modern large-scale fundamentalist movements; Iran example; Protestant fundamentalism in the US; religious violence; religion as a political tool in violent conflict; why people may believe enough to kill; evaluation of whether fundamentalist movements are antisystemic

Relationship of perpetual growth, capitalism, globalization, and its problems to GNP (GDP); view of these problems as the consumption of environmental, political, and social capital; some of Robbins’ suggestions about how to address these problems; measuring progress by something other than GNP; ways to stop depleting each kind of capital; difficulty of these changes; Robbins’ suggestion that something like morality, spiritual belief, or religion may be needed