

Ramapo College of New Jersey
Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies
INTL 127 Introduction to International Studies
Spring 2019

Instructor: Prof. Neriko Musha Doerr

Final Project (70%: 700 points max): 6 presentations (500 points max) and **the Final Paper** (200 points max). The Final Paper is based on your Final Project. It should be **5 pages double-spaced**.

For your final project, you will choose one commodity and investigate what social, economic, political, and environmental issues are involved in its production, distribution, and consumption. You will be examining one commodity in five stages, presenting to class at each stage. The last stage includes suggestions for proactive actions and taking the first step in making that proactive action. You will also put all five stages of your presentation together and present it at a campus-wide event at the end of the semester. The final paper will be the narrative form of your final presentation.

1. Pick your commodity and get professor's approval (30 points max; Presentation: 2/1)

2. Gather basic information about the commodity (70 points max; Presentation: 2/8)

a) Place: Identify where the commodity is produced.

b) Trade: Find out how much this commodity is imported to the US (See resources list A).

c) Corporations: Identify the major corporations that produce/manufacture and/or distribute this commodity (if agricultural commodity, look for corporations that own the land which may have been leased to farmers, or corporations that control distribution). See industry level manufacturing association to learn more about the corporation (its headquarters, where commodity production occurs, its sales and profit, number of employees, and any controversy).

3. Map production processes (100 points max; Presentation: 3/15)

a) Describe production processes of your commodity

b) Identify any violence, inequality, dependency, and injustice involved in the production (e.g., extraction of natural resources, appropriation of land, displacement of people, organization of production process, labor conditions, environmental impact/injustice).

c) Identify social movements, protests, and campaigns around this commodity's production process.

4. Map flows and frictions (100 points max; Presentation: 4/12)

a) Create a visual map of things and people that **flows across borders** relating to your commodity.

b) In the map, identify what processes and institutions **enable or hinder these flows** (e.g., governments and transnational institutions, security forces, banks, distribution

networks, free trade/fair trade regulations, advertising, transportation, migration of people).
import/export of raw materials & machinery,
c) Identify any violence, inequality, dependency, and injustice involved in the trading of your commodity.
d) Identify social movements, protests, and campaigns around trading of this commodity.

5. Analyze consumption and make changes (100 points max; Presentation: 4/19)

- a) Advertising: Describe the ways “demands” and “desires” for this commodity as well as social status of its consumption are created.
- b) Commodity Fetishism: Discuss how much production and distribution processes you have researched are visible to consumers.
- c) Outline a strategy/campaign for consumers of your commodity to address the problems of sustainability, equity and justice linked to your commodity.
- d) Taken an action based on c) above.

6. Put together your entire research (extended class time: 3:30pm-6pm) and link it to one class reading. Present it to the campus community (100 points max; presentation: 4/26)

Final Paper (5 pages, double spaced; 200 points max):

- 1) Describe the basic information about the commodity (place it is made; how it was imported; the information about the corporation that sells it)
- 2) Describe the production process and what kind of social justice issues are involved and what kind of resistance to that exist.
- 3) Describe the flow of things and people involved in its importation. Discuss factors that encourages and factors that hinder these flows. Also discuss what kind of social justice issues are involved and what kind of resistance to that exist.
- 4) Analyze the images constructed about the commodity and how much of its production and distribution processes are visible to consumers. Describe strategies to improve social issues involved and concrete steps you took.
- 5) Connect your research to one class reading.
- 6) Discuss what you could have done better.
- 7) Add a reference list.