

CGW4U ISU – Topic List
Specifically focused for Arts & Culture SHSM

1. **Culture as a Commodity** – i.e. 10 000 Villages, souvenir markets, world music, patriotic merchandise, Bollywood, anime, foreign film
 - a. What messages are sent about a population / culture through their artistic expressions?
 - b. Is the “marketing” of a culture exploitation or education? What are the costs and benefits to a community of selling/exporting their art, music, drama, dance?
2. **Multiculturalism and immigration**
 - a. How have various immigrant communities in Canada expressed / maintained their identity through arts & culture? (i.e. dance, fashion, music, and holidays)
3. **First Nations in Canada and Residential Schools**
 - a. How did the loss of culture sustained through the residential school program affect the First Nations communities in Canada? What was the impact on suicide rates, drug abuse, literacy, poverty, incarcerations/crime on the First Nations populations in Canada?
4. **Propaganda and Cultural Exceptionalism/Ethnocentrism**
 - a. How do we see examples of the idea of cultural exceptionalism / ethnocentrism through various media? What messages are sent through propaganda?
5. **Art and Culture of the Islamic World and Arab Nations**
 - a. What restrictions does Islam put on music and art (i.e. the prohibition of visual representation of the Prophet)? How have these restrictions been used/enforced? How have they been subverted?
 - b. How have the presence of restrictions on art and culture been used by Western media to portray a narrative of the Arab world?
6. **African Culture**
 - a. How have various ethnic groups in Africa used art & culture (dance, music, visual art, drama) to define and maintain their sense of identity? How are elements of art embedded in their culture?
 - b. How have issues of poverty, genocide, AIDS, climate change been expressed through art & culture in various parts of Africa?
7. **China and the Cultural Revolution**
 - a. What was “the Cultural Revolution”? What were the impacts on China in the last 60 years?
 - b. How is the legacy of the Cultural Revolution present in the art and culture of modern China?
8. **The Art and Culture of the West** - i.e. Hollywood, MTV, Disney
 - a. How is the West (Canada, United States) marketed as a brand around the world? What messages are communicated through Western culture as it is sold to other countries?
9. **Technology and the “Connected World”**
 - a. How have new social media technologies (i.e. Twitter, Facebook, YouTube) affected the art and culture of the 21st century? Has it promoted diversity by connecting global cultures, or is culture being homogenized?
10. **Tribal Cultures / Colonialism**
 - a. What messages are communicated about tribal cultures by their art and customs?
 - b. How have depictions of tribal cultures been used to objectify them? How were terms like “primitive” or “savage” used historically in the exploitation or subversion of aboriginal cultures?
11. **Protest**
 - a. How have arts & culture been used to protest social justice issues globally? (i.e. protest songs, films and documentaries, graffiti, public performance). Describe the impact/effectiveness of various artistic expressions in promoting awareness of geopolitical issues.

CGW4U ISU – Topic List General World Issues Topics

Please Note:

Most of the topics listed here are quite broad in scope and you will have to narrow your focus for your research paper. From this list of broad topics, you may consider a specific world issue of concern that would be a sub-topic worthy of closer examination for the intent and purpose of your ISU. You are not limited to the topics below, they are just to give you an idea of possible topics. If there is a topic you are interested in researching that does not appear on the list below, please see the instructor for approval.

Broad Topics:

Economic Disparity	Population Control	Causes of Terrorism	Urbanization – Squatter Settlements
September 11 th 2001 and Media	Women’s rights and Taliban Rule	China’s industrial revolution	Japan’s technological influence on North America
Genocide	NAFTA	Poverty in Africa	Three Gorges Dam
Natural Disasters in Developing World	Sweatshops / Child Labour	Canadian military in Afghanistan	Irish Catholic-Protestant Conflict
Cuba Current Issues	Star Wars	Child Soldiers	Greenpeace – Effective?
Gun Violence	Iran Nuclear Program	Israel-Palestine	Slavery
Organ Harvesting	Stem Cell Research	Pharmaceutical Dominance and the Third World	Galapagos Islands Tourism Impact
Global Population Trends	Rising Oil Prices; Who Sets the Price?	Population Explosion and Resource Demand	Food Supply and Accessibility
Role of the United Nations	Endangered Species	Nuclear Disarmament	Effects of Globalization
Environmental Crisis	AIDS and Africa	Climate Change and Spread of Disease	Childhood Obesity
Biofuels: Good or Bad?	Genetic Engineering	Capital Punishment in China	Female Genital Mutilation
Human Trafficking	Fair Trade	Impacts of Consumption	Drug Trafficking in the Americas
Ocean Conservation	Deforestation	Censorship	Sweatshops
Refugees and Global Immigration Policies	Alternate Energy Sources	Ozone Depletion	Ecological Footprints
Sports as Political Statements	Global Conflict over Freshwater	Global Power Structures	Resource Sustainability
Poverty and Literacy	Microcredit	Debt Forgiveness	Military Spending
Women and Political Power	The World Bank and IMF	Food Production Issues and the Geography of Hunger	Any Current Event that could be analyzed under the World Issues Course

