

## MMW 122 Potential Research Areas Contemporary Global Problem/Issue

These suggested areas are NOT narrow enough *paper topics*, but might get you started in your research. You are NOT limited to the areas listed below. But you might use these categories to help you find or refine a paper topic.

### Suggestion:

(Conceptual category below)	(geographical regions – at least two different; more is better)
Academic discipline	Love (representations of; theories of)
Agriculture	Markets, merchants
Air; pollution	Marriage (conceptions of; theories of; economics of)
Architecture	Mass politics/mass society
Art	Media
Capitalism	Medicine, medical practices, institutions
Cartography (maps)	Migration (voluntary; forced); immigration
Childbearing; child birth; child rearing;	Military; strategies; institutions
Childhood; health; disease; death	Modernism; post-modernism
Cities; urbanization	Mothers, role(s) and/or status of
Citizenship (conceptions of)	Music
Climate; climate change	National identity/nationalism (conceptions of, movements)
Colonialism	Natural disasters
Commerce	Natural resources
Communications	Nutrition
Communism/Socialism	Poetry
Crafts	Philosophy
Cross-cultural exchange, adaptation, resistance	Politics; political systems; political movements
Culture	Population
Dance	Propaganda
Democracy	Prostitution
Demographics	Protest movements; resistance movements
Design	Psychology
Diplomacy	Religion
Drama	Race
Drugs	Resources
Economics	Revolution ; coups
Education	Ritual
Endangered species; animals	Rural concerns
Engineering	Science
Environment; climate; ecology	Security issues
Energy; nuclear power	Service; volunteerism
Family	Sexuality
Fascism; totalitarianism	Slavery
Fathers, role (s) and/or status of	Social life
Fathers, role (s) and/or status of	Social media
Feminism	Social movements
Festivals	Security issues
Film; cinema	Service
Food (feasting, dietary practices, manners)	Sexuality
Fundamentalism; extremism	Slavery
Food (Feasting, dietary practices, manners)	Social life
Foreign policy	Social media
Gender (s)	Social movements; social justic
Genocide	Sports
Globalization	Sustainability
Health	Symbols; images; icons
Human Rights (ideas, practices, abuses)	Technology
Human trafficking	Theater
Identity	Tourism
International movements/organizations	Terrorism
Journalism/news	Trade; trade networks; trade deals

International movements/organizations (economic,  
social, political, medical, humanitarian, etc.)  
Journalism/news  
Justice  
Language  
Labor  
Law; law enforcement  
Leisure activities  
Liberalism/Conservatism  
Literacy  
Literature

Transportation  
Travel  
Unions  
Warfare; weapons technology  
Water  
Women, role(s) and/or status of

**Warning: Topics related to recent, hypothetical, or future events**

In general, it takes at least 10 years for scholars to analyze their subjects, get them into print (in journals, essays, and books), and generate counter-arguments or responses to their work. While you might find plenty of online information on recent topics, it will be very difficult for you to write a good MMW paper (one grounded in scholarship and with published analysis) on topics based in the past 10 years, issues that are currently unfolding, hypothetical events, or events that could occur in the future. If you are choosing a topic within the last years, please discuss your sources with your TA.

**Warning: “Should” questions and claims**

In general, you should avoid any questions resembling a “should” question – for example, “Should the US be involved in \_\_\_\_\_ (any region or current situation)?” The MMW 122 position paper is still an academic research paper. While you may use primary resource evidence to make arguments, you must also discuss viable answers to your research question that are grounded in scholarship. The evidence that you use to describe/make arguments or claims should be measurable, empirical evidence. This means that literary analysis and philosophical evidence do not work very well for MMW papers.