

Political Science 2030 / Honors 2990
GLOBAL POLITICS
Spring 2011
Monday and Wednesday 3:30-4:45
Room P-167

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Office Hours: Monday 1:30-3:00, Tuesday 4:00-5:00, Wednesday 11:00-12:00, and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

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Required Reading:

- Snarr, Micheal T. and D. Neil Snarr. 2008. *Introducing Global Issues*, Fourth Edition. (SS)
- Tetreault, Mary Ann and Ronnie D. Lipschutz. 2009. *Global Politics As If People Mattered*, Second Edition. (TL)
- At least one of the following newspapers: *Christian Science Monitor*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, or *Wall Street Journal*. If one is available, you may use the free online version. If you prefer, print versions are available at libraries, for sale individually at various area locations (e.g. Starbucks, Borders), or, depending upon where you live, by home delivery.

Course Overview:

Although the course is entitled *Global Politics*, modern global realities is perhaps a more accurate description. The course is an introduction to the modern, interdependent world and to the problems and opportunities humanity faces in this new world. Just two decades ago, this course would have been much different. Then, the course would center on relations between two polar superpowers and the consequences of those relations. Now we live in a more fluid and complex world. To be sure, many of the issues that characterize each era are similar. These important issues include population growth and migration, economic and social development, environmental degradation, conflict, and cooperation. However, the new complexity renders these problems increasingly serious, reduces the effectiveness of previous problem-solving methods, and offers new opportunities to improve the human condition.

This is the world we will study. Specifically, we will examine several global issues. These issues include world population and migration, economic integration and globalization, global environmental degradation, security (including terrorism) and international conflict (and cooperation), political change and development, and human rights.

This course is designed with three main goals which I hope to accomplish by focusing on these issues or new global “realities.” First, the first goal is to develop a more sophisticated view of the world. A second goal is for you to refine your perspective about global issues and develop analytical tools to assess those issues. The third goal is for us to begin to see the opportunities and possibilities available to avoid the global disaster(s) predicted by several analysts.

To fulfill these goals, students must complete the reading assignments prior to class. In class, we will draw upon these readings for group activities, discussions, and lectures. Both the nature of the material and the course design require active participation.

Learning Objectives:

Essential:

Learn fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories

- Connect facts and establish relationships to better understand the contemporary world system. Improve understanding of vexing global problems by understanding the applicability of various social and political theories.

Gain factual knowledge

- Know the details of global system and interdependence. Learn how these details relate to specific global issues.

Important:

Apply course material to clarify thinking and improve problem solving

- Use theoretical insights and factual information to develop a nuanced and sophisticated understanding of the global system. Devise innovative solutions to vexing social and political problems that characterize global interaction.

Develop better understanding of, and commitment, to personal values

- Use course material to refine policy preferences vis-à-vis global issues and means to promote those preferences.

Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

- Use course material to analyze and evaluate competing theoretical and policy positions.

Assignments and Grading:

Quizzes: The introductory nature of this course allows for a modification of the standard midterm and final exam format. In the place of these exams, we have three multiple choice quizzes. Each quiz contains two components. In the first component, students identify countries on a regional map (see the course schedule for the regions covered on each quiz). In the second component, students must answer questions based on the course material. Each quiz is worth 15 percent (45 percent total) of the final grade.

Reflective Essay: This journal is based on the readings in *Introducing Global Issues* (SS). The book is divided into four sections: "Conflict and Security," "The Global Economy," "Development," and "The Environment." *Pay attention to the syllabus. The chapters assigned for each essay do not exactly correspond to the sections in Snarr and Snarr.* For one of these four sections, you are required to write a short (three, double-spaced pages maximum) summary and interpretation. Discuss the main themes and strengths and weaknesses of each chapter in the section. Also, be sure to go beyond summary. Synthesize the material and relate it to other material from the course and/or issues in the news. You may also want address how the article relates to your personal experiences or views. Finally, in each journal you must identify and very briefly summarize at least three articles in the newspaper that relate to any of the section. The reflective essay portion of the final grade is worth 15 percent of the final grade.

Global Connections Projects: In lieu of the final exam and research term paper, this course requires a group project. This project is based on participation on a global issue of the group's choosing. In addition, to participating on the project a short essay is required. The essay is worth 15 percent of the final grade.

Global Issues Forum: Each of you will select a current (or very recent past) international political figure or organization. Twice during the session we will meet in a Global Issues Forum. During the Forum you will present that person's or organization's position on the issues. The first forum will focus on development, globalization, security, and conflict/cooperation. The second forum will focus on population, environment, and human rights. In addition to participation at the forum you will write a short (four, double-spaced pages maximum) summary of your person's or organization's position. This summary must include at least three sources with proper citations. The participation and summaries on each global issues forum are worth 12.5 percent (25 percent total) of the final grade.

Honors' Seminars: Students taking the course as Honors 2990 must attend monthly, discussion-oriented seminars. Short, timely, popular readings and discussions will be distributed to guide these seminars. PSCI 2030 students may attend these seminars with instructor's prior approval.

Extra Credit: You may write a reflective essay from a second of the four Snarr and Snarr sections. This essay is worth up to five points of extra credit. From time to time, there may be events on campus or the community that you can attend for extra credit.

Course Guidelines:

As stressed above, this class is discussion oriented. Everyone must be prepared to engage in informed and respectful dialogue. Be ready to share your views and willing to listen to those of your peers. It is not expected that everyone will share identical perspectives. While discussion may sometimes be heated, personal attacks will not be tolerated. In addition, you are not graded on your opinions, but rather the extent to which you support those views with reasoned evidence.

Faithful attendance is necessary for your satisfactory completion of this course. Not only is participation a portion of your final grade, but students who miss class also tend to perform poorly on exams and assignments.

For the reasons noted above, this course penalizes excessive unexcused absences. Attendance is regularly taken and students will receive a one-half letter grade penalty applied to their final course grade for each unexcused absence after their third absence. For instance, a student with three unexcused absences would not receive a penalty, but one with six unexcused absences would receive a one and one-half letter grade penalty. Excused absences will be granted for major medical problems, other exceptional emergency circumstances, and official university activities (with documentation). Given that colds and fender-benders occur, alarm clocks break, travel plans become unchangeable, and assignments come due at work or other courses (each is unexcused), wisely use your three freebies.

The following academic code of behavior is expected of all students. First, academic dishonesty, in any form, is neither acceptable nor tolerated. Any student suspected of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, or plagiarism will be subject to review and possible sanctions. (See the rights and responsibilities section of the student handbook). Second, courtesy must be shown to your colleagues by arriving on time for class and staying through the entire class session. If you must enter or leave the room during class, please do so with a minimum disturbance. Third, please refrain from reading outside material or studying during class. Lastly, minimize chatter and turn off cell phones during class.

Class Schedule:

Week 1: January 31, February 2: Global Politics and the International System
Read:

Week 2: February 7, 9 Global Governance and Issues: Is There a Crisis?
Read: SS Chapter 1, TL Chapter 1

Week 3: February 14, 16 Political Change and Development I
Read: TL Chapter 2

Week 4: February 21, 23 Political Change and Development II
Read: TL Chapter 3

Week 5: February 28, March 2 Globalization I
Read: SS Chapters 6 & 7

Week 6: March 7, 9 Globalization II
Read: SS Chapter 8, TL Chapter 4
Quiz 1

Week 7: March 14, 16 Security, Conflict, & Cooperation I
Read: SS Chapters 2 & 5
Due: March 14, Reflective Essay SS Part II

Spring Break: March 21, 23

Week 8: March 28, 30 Security, Conflict, & Cooperation II
Read: SS Chapter 3, TL Chapter 5
Due: April 1, Reflective Essay SS Part I (except Chapter 4)

Week 9: April 4, 6 Global Issues I: Development, Globalization, and Security/Conflict/Cooperation
Read: TL Chapters 6 and 7
Global Issues Forum and Paper #1

Week 10: April 11, 13 Population and Migration I
Read: SS Chapters 9 and 10
Quiz 2

Week 11: April 18, 20 Population and Migration II
Read: SS Chapters 11 & 12
Due April 29: Reflective Essay SS Part III

Week 12: April 25, 27 Natural Resources and the Environment I
Read: SS Chapters 13 & 14

Week 13: May 2, 4 Natural Resources and the Environment II
Read: SS Chapter 15, TL Chapter 8
Due May 13: Reflective Essay SS Part IV

Week 14: May 9, 11 Human Rights
Read: SS Chapter 4, TL Chapter 9

Week 15: May 16, 18 Prospects for the Future
Read SS Chapter 16, TL Chapter 10

Final: May 23 2:00-4:00

Quiz 3

Global Issues Forum and Paper #2

* Late Assignments: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments must be turned in by the beginning of class on the designated due date. Offering some students extra time to complete assignments is unfair to those who complete their work on time. Thus, late assignments will be penalized 5 points (1/2 letter grade) for every 24 hours (including Saturday and Sunday) it is late.