

INTL 1100 Introduction to Global Issues

Summer 2007

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Office Hours: Tu/Th 1-2 and by appointment

Class Meetings: Tu/Th 9:30-10:45 SLC 153

Course Description

Global issues are increasingly important in today's interconnected world. Local economies are inexorably tied to world markets, and local practices in every country fall under the global spotlight. Ethnic wars, global terrorism, and economic instability are only some of the challenges that we face.

This course will introduce a number of broad topics, including globalization, terrorism, human rights/democracy, and ethnic relations. These topics are not meant to comprise a comprehensive survey of global politics, but rather to highlight some of the field's more interesting and relevant issues. We will also investigate some of the major debates impacting the theory and practice of global politics.

We will not only become familiar with a number of global issues, but we will also start thinking about *how* to think about global affairs. Critical thinking skills will thus be developed in the course of the semester.

This course serves as an introduction to the international affairs major, though it will also be of interest to business, economics, political science, and other majors. Anyone interested in the world around us or wanting to develop a global perspective will benefit from this course.

Requirements

There will be a brief essay that will ask you to critically analyze important questions relevant to international affairs and use critical thinking skills discussed in class. A short midterm and final essay will test your understanding and analysis of class material. There will be a group project on a global conflict area. You will also write an assignment on the movies shown in class. In addition, there will be number of brief, ungraded written assignments meant to get you involved and practice your writing and critical thinking skills. Class participation and attendance is expected and will be reflected in your final grade. I reserve the right to give pop quizzes if necessary, which will be incorporated into your assignments/participation grade.

Summary:

Critical Analysis Essay	15%	75 points
Midterm	20%	100 points
Hot Spot Project	20%	100 points
Assignments/Participation/Quiz	20%	100 points
Final Essay	25%	125 points

Grading

The course consists of 500 points. The point total at the end of the semester determines the final grade as follows:

461 or more	A
450 – 460	A-
436 – 449	B+
411 – 435	B
400 – 410	B-
386 – 399	C+
361 – 385	C
350 – 360	C –
300 – 349	D
>300	F

Be Aware: There will be NO EXTRA CREDIT in this class.

Essays

The essays will be brief, no more than 1-3 pages, but they must be well-written and well thought out. The first essay, the critical analysis essay, will be a 1-2 page critical thinking exercise, while the second essay will serve as the final exam. It will be a 2-3 page essay analyzing class topics. Essay topics and guidelines will be distributed in class and posted on WebCT.

“Hot Spot” Project

One of the goals of this course is global awareness. To that end, one important part of this course is to familiarize yourselves with important conflict zones worldwide. You will engage in a group project to write a report and present the highlights to the class on a global “hot spot.” You will be responsible for “teaching” the class about this hot spot and the class will be responsible for that material on the exam. Guidelines and scheduling will be posted on WebCT.

Exams

There will be a midterm but no in-class final exam. However, there will be a brief quiz (50 points) over the material covered in the “hot spot” presentations during the final exam period. The midterm and quiz will be made up of a mix of formats: map identification, multiple choice, IDs, fill in the blank, short answer, and essay.

Assignments

There will be a number of films shown in class. Each one will also be discussed so that we can tie in themes and materials from class. You will write up a brief evaluation of the films and their relevance to course themes. Guidelines will be posted on WebCT. (25 points)

Class Participation

Classes will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. I expect that all students will participate in discussions. Therefore, students must have read the assigned materials before class and be ready to participate in class. (25 points)

Reading Materials

Books

Chua, Amy. 2003. *World on Fire*. New York: Anchor Books. (recommended)

Kesselman, Mark. 2007. *The Politics of Globalization: A Reader*. Boston/New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Mansbach, Richard W. and Edward Rhodes. 2006. *Global Politics in a Changing World: A Reader*. 3rd ed. Boston/New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Paul, Richard and Linda Elder. 2003. *How to Detect Media bias & Propaganda in National and World News*. Foundation for Critical Thinking.

_____. *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking: Concepts and Tools*. Foundation for Critical Thinking.

Articles/Chapters

Available at UGA electronic reserves <http://gil.uga.edu>, the main library reserve desk, and/or [WebCT](#). The e-reserves password is: sl1100. (the second letter is a lower case L)

Other

Michael Harvey's The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing www.nutsandboltsguide.com (optional book available through Amazon.com).

Current Events

I will expect you to read the international section of a major newspaper such as the Washington Post or New York Times daily. Most are available for free on-line (registration may be required).

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

You may also want to sign up for a free daily world press review by email:

<http://www.worldpress.org/subscribe.cfm>

Course Management

Be sure to have access to a reliable computer and printer as well as the internet. Important announcements will be posted on [WebCT](#) and/or emailed to students' UGA accounts. Grades, course information, important links, and supplemental readings will be posted on [WebCT](#). Be sure to check the website frequently.

Policies and Procedures

1. Make up exams/quizzes are not allowed for unexcused absences. For legitimate emergencies - such as illness/injury - and other excused absences, inform the instructor as soon as possible, preferably before the exam or quiz. Documentation may be required.
2. The essays must be turned in by the end of the scheduled class period on the due date. Fifteen minutes after the end of this period, essays will be considered late and will be docked a full grade for each day the essay is late.

3. DO NOT EMAIL ASSIGNMENTS to the instructor. Please submit a hard copy in class.
4. If you believe an error or incorrect judgment has been made in grading an exam, essay, assignment or quiz, you may appeal to the instructor *in writing*, but the entire exam/quiz/essay will be regarded and a new grade assigned, *which may be lower than the original grade*. Such appeals to the instructor must be made no later than **4 days** after the grades are posted.
5. I reserve the right to assign a WF to students who withdraw before the midpoint if class performance is not at a passing level.
6. All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Consult the university’s academic honesty policy at http://www.terry.uga.edu/phd/documents/culture_of_honesty/ Academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated.

Schedule (Subject to change at instructor discretion)

Th June 7 ***Welcome and Introduction***

Critical Thinking

Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking

Fri June 8 ***Critical Thinking and the Media***
How to Detect Media Bias & Propaganda

Mon June 11 ***Critical Thinking and the Media, cont.***
Articles: [Hard Times in Central America](#) e-reserves
[On Being Disliked](#) e-reserves
Washington Post: “U.S. to Gauge Iraqi Support for Operations” e-reserves
The Media in Practice
Control Room Part I

Tu June 12 ***The Media in Practice***
Movie: Control Room + discussion
Washington Post: “A Cry for Zimbabwe” WebCT

Globalization

Wed June 13 ***Introduction to Globalization***
Kesselman 3.1, 3.2, 3.4
Mansbach/Rhodes 10.2, 10.3, 10.4

Thu June 14 ***Controversies in Globalization***
Kesselman 4.1, 4.2; 11.1, 11.2, 11.6
Stiglitz “The Promise of Global Institutions” e-reserves

Fri June 15 ***Globalization in Practice: one country's view***
Movie: Life and Debt (86 minutes) + discussion
Critical Analysis Essay Due in class

Terrorism

Mon June 18 ***Defining Terrorism in a Globalized World***
Mansbach/Rhodes 2.1, 2.4
Whitaker "The Definition of Terrorism" [e-reserves](#)
Understanding Terrorism
Telhami "Understanding the Terrorist Threat" [e-reserves](#)

Tue June 19 ***Combating Terrorism***
Zanini and Edwards "The Networking of Terror in the Information Age" [e-reserves](#)
Hot Spot 1

Wed June 20 ***Explaining 9/11: Explaining the Unexplainable?***
Movie: Searching for the Roots of 9/11
Hot Spot 2

Identity Politics and Democracy

Th June 21 ***Democracy's Triumph?***
Fukayama "The End of History" [e-reserves](#)
Mansbach/Rhodes 4.1
Zakaria "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy" [e-reserves](#)

Fri June 22 ***Is Ethnic Conflict Inevitable?***
Bowen "The Myth of Global Ethnic Conflict" [e-reserves](#)
Midterm Review

Mon June 25 ***Midterm***

Tu June 26 ***A Clash of Civilizations?***
Mansbach/Rhodes 13.1
Mahbubani "The Dangers of Decadence" [e-reserves](#)
Hot Spot 3

Wed June 27 ***Globalization and Cultural Conflict***
Barber "Jihad vs. McWorld" [e-reserves](#)
Mansbach/Rhodes 15.4
Hot Spot 4

Th June 28 ***Globalization and Cultural Conflict, cont.***
Chua "Globalization and Ethnic Conflict" [e-reserves](#)
Hot Spot 5

Fri June 29 *The Politics of Genocide*
Movie: Hotel Rwanda (2hrs 2 min)

Mon July 2 *The Future?*
Mansbach/Rhodes 5.2
Hot Spot 6
Movie Assignment due in class

Tue July 3 *Hot Spots*
Hot Spots 7 and 8
Course Wrap up
Final Essay Due in class

Th July 5 **Hot Spot Quiz**