

INTL 1100: Introduction to Global Issues

Fall 2009

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Office: Candler Hall 304

Office hours: Mon & Wed, 3:40-5:00

& by appointment

Sections 86-375, 93-139

MWF 9:05-9:55, 2:30-3:20

SLC 147 & 267

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of global issues. Global issues are those which transcend national boundaries, issues in which all countries have a stake and whose resolutions necessitate international cooperation. In other words, these are often issues which no country can solve on their own. The need for cooperation – an intrinsic feature of global issues – means that these issues are inherently *political*, and it is precisely the political implications of such issues that will be of primary interests to us, given that politics usually represents the biggest obstacle to international cooperation. Solving global issues invariably requires governments to alter either their own behavior or the behavior of politically powerful groups within their country in accordance with some larger principle or goal. Conflicts of interests, arguably the very essence of politics, are therefore a ubiquitous characteristic of global issues. In an effort to achieve a deeper understanding of certain global issues, we will examine politics both *within* and *between* countries during the course of the semester.

Rather than attempt an exhaustive, and therefore, ultimately superficial, survey of every important global issue confronting the world today, we will limit our focus to a handful of issues (some of which are closely related), including: (1) the rapidly changing balance of power among nations, (2) human rights and the crime of genocide, (3) international trade relations, and (4) globalization, its consequences, and the prospects for achieving development in a globalized world. Each of these issues present numerous challenges for the international community, problems which we will explore, discuss, and try to find answers to during the course of the semester.

The course is designed to serve several functions. First and foremost, it serves as a gateway to the pursuit of a major in international affairs. As such, it is intended to prepare students for more advanced studies in the fields of international relations and comparative politics. Therefore, one of the core

objectives of the course is to help students develop certain essential skills. Chief among these are the ability to think critically about social and political issues, conduct quality independent research on such issues, and express their own thoughts, opinions, and insights through both writing and discussion.

RULES & REGULATIONS

- I expect every student to be in class on-time, to come prepared, and to treat both me and their fellow classmates with respect.
- Please turn off or silence cell phones and other electronic devices that might cause disruptions.
- Students with disabilities who require individualized testing or other accommodations should discuss this with me within as soon as possible.
- Students who will need to miss a quiz, exam, or class meeting to observe a religious holiday at some point during the semester should make arrangements with me within the first two weeks of the semester.
- If you withdraw from the course before the midterm withdrawal deadline, you will receive a WP. If you withdraw after this date, then you will receive a WF.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance represents an essential ingredient for performing well in this course. You are therefore strongly encouraged to attend every single class session. If you need additional incentive to attend class, you should know that much of the material that will be presented in class *will not be found in the readings*. What is more, since you will be graded for your in-class participation, it is essential that you attend every class session. Simply put, you cannot participate if you are not in class. Finally, *anything* which takes place in class, including material from videos or class discussions, is fair game for quizzes and exams. Lest there be any confusion regarding this point, let me emphasize it once more: **Attending class is indispensable if you wish to succeed in this course.**

PARTICIPATION

I encourage and expect each of you to participate and contribute to class discussions. While I realize that some students are naturally shy or uncomfortable speaking in front of their peers, public speaking is an essential skill to learn if you hope to be successful in life. I will occasionally call on quiet students to answer questions to ensure that everyone is participating. Those

students who are uncomfortable participating in class are encouraged to initiate or participate in online discussions posted on WebCT.

Your participation grade constitutes 10% of your final course grade and will be determined in the following manner: Your overall in-class participation for the entire semester will be *subjectively* judged in terms of both the *quality* and the *quantity* of your contributions to class discussions. Only those students who frequently and consistently offer thoughtful comments in class will receive full credit. Students who make only a handful of contributions during the semester can expect to receive a participation grade in the C or D range, while those students who never say a word will not be awarded any credit. Clarification questions, while encouraged, do not count towards your participation grade. These same criteria apply to contributions to the WebCT discussion board.

CLASS TIME & READINGS

I will employ a variety of pedagogical methods, including traditional lecturing, Socratic discussions, and simulations. The material presented in class is intended to complement and reinforce the material found in the assigned readings. You will be expected to have completed all assigned readings prior to the class in which they are scheduled to be discussed. **This will be a relatively reading intensive course.** You will get more out of each class period if you have done the assigned reading before coming to class. You should set aside time each week to do the readings. For some readings, I may provide you with a set of study questions beforehand to consider while doing the reading. This is intended to help you to discern what is important in each reading, to separate the wheat from the chaff so to speak, and to prepare for class discussions. You will be required to purchase the following books:

Zakaria, Fareed. 2008. *The Post-American World*. W. W. Norton & Company.

Gourevitch, Philip. 1998. *We Wish to Inform You That We Will Be Killed with Our Families: Stories from Rwanda*. Picador USA.

Rivoli, Pietra. 2005. *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade*, 2nd edition. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Stiglitz, Joseph E. 2006. *Making Globalization Work*. W. W. Norton & Company

Additional readings can be found in either of two sources: a course packet which can be purchased at Bel-Jean Copy & Print Center, located downtown on Broad St. (denoted as BJP in the schedule below) or as PDF files posted on

WebCT (located under course content). I reserve the right to add additional readings to the schedule during the course of the semester.

ESSAY

During the middle of the semester, you will be asked to write a short analytical essay on one of the issues covered in the course. This essay will constitute 15% of your overall course grade. I will provide you with a precise set of guidelines for the style and content of this essay at a later date. *Late submissions will be penalized one half of a grade each day that the assignment is late.*

QUIZZES

There will be at least six unannounced quizzes. These quizzes will function as a device for encouraging attendance, checking to see whether you are keeping up with assigned readings, and giving you an additional indicator of your performance in the course. Collectively, quizzes will constitute 15% of your final course grade. Individually, your five highest quiz grades will each constitute 3% of your final course grade (I will drop your lowest quiz grade).

Please do not ask me when any of the quizzes are to be administered. Quizzes can be given at any time, including back-to-back class sessions. If you miss a quiz because of an absence, then that will be your dropped quiz. There are no exceptions to this rule.

EXAMS

A total of three exams will be administered during the semester – two midterms and a final. The first exam is worth 15% of your overall course grade, while the second is worth 20% and the final is worth 25%. While the format of exams may vary, they will largely consist of objective-type questions (e.g., multiple choice, true-false, and fill-in-the-blank) as well as short-answer-type questions. They may also include a short essay question. None of the exams are cumulative.

ABSENCES & MAKE-UP EXAMS

No make-up exams will be administered except under the gravest circumstances and only with proper documentation (i.e., proof). Only the following types of situations will be deemed as warranting a make-up exam:

- A *serious* illness (as documented by a visit to a physician; common colds, allergies, etc. don't count)
- The hospitalization of a member of your immediate family (i.e., your mom, dad, brother, or sister)
- A death in the family (as documented by a copy of the obituary and a note from your parent).

Documentation of your excuse must be provided the very next class period following the class period in which the absence occurred. However, you should try and make an effort to contact me beforehand if you know that you will miss a scheduled exam. Make-up exams will be scheduled at a time that is convenient for both the professor and the student.

FINAL GRADE

Your final grade for the entire course will be determined according to the following distribution:

Participation	10 %
Quizzes	15 %
Essay	15 %
First exam	15 %
Second exam	20 %
Final exam	25 %

The precise letter grade you receive for the course will be determined according to the following grading scale:

A	93 - 100	C+	77 - 79
A-	90 - 92	C	73 - 76
B+	87 - 89	C-	70 - 72
B	83 - 86	D	60 - 69
B-	80 - 82	F	≤ 59

GRADE APPEALS

If you feel that one of your exams, quizzes, or any other assignment was graded incorrectly you must submit a type-written explanation of the problem. I will then re-evaluate your work and determine whether the original grade should be changed. Note this re-evaluation could result in a higher or lower grade than the one which you originally received. I am always willing to meet with you to discuss how your work was evaluated and how you can improve your

performance in the course but I *will not* change any grade without a written request and explanation. The only exception to this policy is for simple errors in the calculation of points. Grade appeals will only be accepted for 5 days after an assignment, exam, or quiz has been returned.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All students are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the University's academic honesty policy. This policy, titled "A Culture of Honesty," can be accessed at the following website: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/ah.pdf>. Any and all instances of suspected cheating, plagiarism, lying, or other forms of academically objectionable behavior will be referred to the appropriate university authorities for immediate disciplinary action.

COMMUNICATION

I encourage all of you to come see me during my office hours, especially if you are having any difficulty grasping the material. If you have a course-related question or need to contact me in order to set up an appointment, I am most easily reached by e-mail. I will also likely send out numerous e-mails to the entire class during the course of the semester, so please make sure that I have your preferred e-mail address or that your UGA account is not full. These e-mails may clarify or elaborate upon points raised in class, suggest additional readings, or concern other important course-related matters such as changes in the schedule.

WEBSITE

Important course-related material can be accessed through WebCT. Everyone who enrolled in the course prior to the first day of class should already have access to the course website. However, if you do not have access, please let me know, and I will add you. The website serves two basic functions. First, I will post certain course-related material such as the syllabus, readings, and assignment instructions under the "course content" module. Second, I would encourage everyone to make use of the discussion board. Our fifty minute class sessions will often leave us with insufficient time to fully discuss certain issues. Therefore, the WebCT discussion board offers a convenient tool for continuing discussion outside of the classroom. Finally, please note that I will not be posting grades on WebCT.

KEEPING UP WITH CURRENT EVENTS

Students should also make a concerted effort to stay abreast of the news since we will be applying what we learn to current events. I recommend subscribing to daily e-mails from prominent national newspapers such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Other useful periodicals include *The American Prospect*, *Business Week*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Economist*, *The Financial Times*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. As far as television news is concerned, nothing beats *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer* which airs weeknights on PBS from 6:00 to 7:00.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, & EXAMS

Note: This schedule is a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary. Any adjustments will be announced in class by the instructor.

Aug 17: Introduction / Course Overview

I. THE SHIFTING BALANCE OF POWER

Aug 19: The Systemic Distribution of Power

- Thucydides, "The Peloponnesian War and the Melian Debate" (BJP)
- Zakaria, preface and chapter 1

Aug 21: Realism & Power Politics

- Zakaria, chapter 2

Aug 24: Realism & Power Politics (continued)

- Zakaria, chapter 3
- Simulation: The Power Politics Game

Aug 26: China

- Zakaria, chapter 4
- Videos: *China Rising & India Rising*

Aug 28: India

- Zakaria, chapter 5
- Video: *1-800-INDIA*

Aug 31: American Power

- Brooks & Wohlforth, "American Primacy in Perspective" (WebCT)
- Zakaria, chapter 6

Sept 2: American Purpose

- Waltz, "Balancing Power: Not Today but Tomorrow" (BJP)
- Zakaria, chapter 7

Sept 3: Review Session (time & place to be announced)

Sept 4: FIRST EXAM

Sept 7: Labor Day Holiday (class canceled)

II. HUMAN RIGHTS & THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE

Sept 9: International Institutions

- Keohane, "Cooperation and International Regimes"

Sept 11: CLASS CANCELED

Sept 14: Theories of Ethnic Conflict

- Sadowski, "Ethnic Conflict: Think Again" (WebCT)
- Bowen, "The Myth of Global Ethnic Conflict"
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/bowen.htm>
- Gourevitch, chapters 1-4

Sept 16: Theories of Ethnic Conflict (continued)

- Posen, "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict" (WebCT)
- Gourevitch, chapters 5-8

Sept 18: The "International Community" & Genocide

- Burkhalter, "The Question of Genocide" (WebCT)
- Gourevitch, chapters 9-11

Sept 21: Rwanda

- Gourevitch, chapters 12-15
- Video: *The Ghosts of Rwanda*

Sept 23: Rwanda (continued)

- Gourevitch, chapters 16-19
- Video: *The Ghosts of Rwanda* (continued)

Sept 24: Movie Night

- *Hotel Rwanda* (time & place to announced)

Sept 25: Rwanda (continued)

- Gourevitch, chapters 20-22

Sept 28: Darfur

Sept 30: Darfur (continued)

- Video: *The Devil Came on Horseback*

Oct 2: Darfur (continued)

- Video: *The Devil Came on Horseback* (continued)

Oct 5: Darfur (continued)

- Heinze, "The Rhetoric of Genocide and U.S. Foreign Policy" (WebCT)

- **ESSAY DUE**

III. INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS

Oct 7: Understanding Trade Relations: The Liberal Perspective

- Krugman, "What Do Undergrads Need To Know About Trade?" (WebCT)
- Oatley, "The Political Economy of International Trade Cooperation" (BJP)
- Rivoli, preface, prologue, & chapter 1

Oct 9: Understanding Trade Relations: Mercantilism & Protectionism

- Chang, "The Double Life of Daniel Dafoe" (BJP)
- Rivoli, chapter 2

Oct 12: Understanding Trade Relations: Mercantilism & Protectionism

(continued)

- Rivoli, chapter 3

Oct 14: Sweatshops

- Rivoli, chapter 4-5
- Video: *Sweatshops in China*

Oct 16: Sweatshops (continued)

- Krugman, "In Praise of Cheap Labor"
<http://www.slate.com/toolbar.aspx?action=print&id=1918>
- Miller, "Why Economists Are Wrong About Sweatshops and the Anti-sweatshop Movement" (WebCT)
- Rivoli, chapter 6

Oct 19: Escaping the Farm

- Video: *China: A Million Steps Ahead*

Oct 21: The Political Economy of Trade Relations

- Rivoli, chapter 7-9

Oct 22: Midterm Withdrawal Deadline

Oct 23: The Political Economy of Trade Relations (continued)

- Rivoli, chapter 10-11, conclusion, & epilogue

Oct 25: Review Session (time & place to be announced)

Oct 26: SECOND EXAM

IV. GLOBALIZATION & DEVELOPMENT

Oct 28: Perspectives on Development

- Chang, "Mozambique's Economic Miracle" (BJP)
- Stiglitz, preface & chapter 1

Oct 30: Fall Break (no class)

Nov 2: Perspectives on Development (continued)

- Stiglitz, chapter 2

Nov 4: Perspectives on Development (continued)

Nov 6: Free vs. Fair Trade

- Chang, "My Six-Year-Old Son Should Get a Job" (BJP)

Nov 9: Free vs. Fair Trade (continued)

- Stiglitz, chapter 3

Nov 11: The Intellectual Property Rights Regime

- Stiglitz, chapter 4

Nov 13: Natural Resources

- Stiglitz, chapter 5

Nov 16: The Environment

- Stiglitz, chapter 6

Nov 18: Multinational Corporations

- Stiglitz, chapter 7

Nov 20: Multinational Corporations (continued)

Nov 30: The Burden of Debt

- Stiglitz, chapter 8

Dec 2: International Financial Relations

- Stiglitz, chapter 9

Dec 4: International Financial Relations (continued)

Dec 7: The Democratic Deficit

- Stiglitz, chapter 10

Dec 8: The Democratic Deficit (continued)

FINAL EXAM

- 9:05 Section: Dec 14, 8:00-11:00
- 2:30 Section: Dec 10, 3:30-6:30