

## **INTL 1101 Introduction to Global Issues**

Marie Milward (instructor)

MWF SLC 268 1:25-2:15

Office hours: MW 11-12pm or by appointment

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### Course Description

Global issues are challenges whose sources, impact, and solutions extend beyond the borders of a single country. Issues such as –but not limited to–terrorist attacks, uncertainties in global economic conditions, cooperation between countries, domestic political change within countries, inter as well as intra-states wars, climate change ... cross national borders, will be covered in this class.

This course aims at providing an introduction to the field of International Affairs. However, it is also designed to be useful to students with no intentions of choosing this major but still have the desire to learn more about important issues facing people around the world.

The purpose of this class is to give you the tools to become a more informed global citizen, to generate logical and constructed arguments, and to make more informed decisions.

### Important dates:

Drop/Add: 08/18–8/21

Midterm: 10/9

Withdrawal Deadline: 10/23

Classes End: 12/9

Reading Day: 12/10

Final Exam: 12/17

### Assignments

- Midterm (multiple choice –definitions – short answers)
- Final Exam (format TBD)
- 5 announced map quizzes: knowing your geography is important whether or not you will be an International Affairs major. There will be 5 map quizzes during the semester. Each quiz will test your geographical knowledge of different parts of the world.
- In-Class debates
  - Each student will participate to one in-class debate with a team of classmates.
  - You will need to prepare, research, and present a clear and substantive argument, come up with quality questions for debate and respond to your critics' challenges.
  - Each group should submit on the day of the debate an annotated bibliography that lists the sources they consulted in preparing for the debate and a brief description (2-3 sentences max) describing how they used each source.
  - Debate format:
    - Pro team's opening argument: 3 minutes
    - Con team's opening argument: 3 minutes
    - Cross examination prep time: 1.5 minutes
    - Con team cross examines Pro team: 3 minutes

- Pro team's rebuttal: 3 minutes
  - Pro team's cross examines Con team: 3 minutes
  - Con team's rebuttal: 3 minutes
  - Questions from class: 10 minutes
  - Closing argument prep time: 1.5 minutes
  - Con team's closing argument: 3 minutes
  - Pro team's closing argument: 3 minutes
- Students will be randomly assigned to either "pro" or "con" team for a particular topic. Please be aware that you may be asked to advocate a position with which you do not personally agree. This is on purpose. I think that we often learn the most about a subject/issue/topic when we approach it from an unfamiliar/unexplored standpoint.
- Country portfolio: during the course of this semester, you will be asked to follow a country in the news: what is happening there, how is the country's situation interesting and/or relevant to what we are studying in this course...
  - At the end of the semester you will turn in a folder with copies of a minimum of 10 newspaper articles (from hardcopies or websites news sources) documenting the evolution of a country's domestic and international political situation.
  - You need to be collecting these articles during the semester (about 1 per week) in order to show some kind of evolution.
  - In addition to the articles, you will need to write up a 4 page (double spaced) analysis covering the following points:
    - Why you chose that country? Why is it interesting?
    - What is going on in that country and how has the political situation in this country changed over the course of the semester.
    - Is there any bias in the news sources you used to document your country's evolution?
  - This portfolio is due the Friday before Thanksgiving.
  - Over the course of the semester we will informally discuss your project during class discussions. Therefore, you are expected to carry on that project during the course of the semester—i.e not the week before it is due.
  - In addition, you will briefly present your country before the rest of the class at the end of the semester. I will give more details later in the semester.

### Required Readings

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

<http://www.criticalthinking.org/estore/bookstore.cfm>

Rourke, John T. and Mark A. Boyer. 2008. 7<sup>th</sup> edition. *International Politics on the World Stage. Brief*. McGraw Hill. ISBN 978-0-07-352630-0

On occasion, there will be additional readings required. These readings will be available for copy outside my office.

## Periodicals

Students in this class are expected to be familiar with current world events. We will spend some part of the class discussing these events. Therefore; a good knowledge of happening in the world at any given time will help your participation and understanding of this class. Doing so will also help you with your class project due at the end of the semester. You will be required to consult one of the following news resources at least once a day. If you are running out of time, focus on the World section.

The New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)) free registration required

The Washington Post

The Christian Science Monitor ([www.csmonitor.com](http://www.csmonitor.com))

The BBC On-Line ([www.news.bbc.co.uk](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk))

The Guardian On-Line ([www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk))

Le Monde ([www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr)) in French

Der Spiegel ([www.spiegel.de](http://www.spiegel.de)) in German

Newsweek

The Economist

Time Magazine

Google News (<http://news.google.com/nwshp?hl=en&tab=wn>) You can choose “World” to see the worlds news in the country of your choice –there are many news sources here in English as well as other languages.

## Rules

- The use of cell phones, iPods, or any other electronic devise is not permitted. You can use your laptop to take notes. You cannot use the internet in class unless otherwise indicated.
- Attendance: Attendance is required. I will check attendance at every class meeting.
- Absences: I will authorize two unexcused absence during the semester. Other absences must be documented. If you know that you will miss a day of class, please let me know in advance of the class especially if you are missing a day when an assignment is due.
- Participation in class: you are required to participate actively in the class. During lectures, I will pause to ask/answer questions. This is a good time for you to get involved in the class. Some class meetings will be entirely dedicated to class discussion—make an effort to participate.
- Make-up quizzes & exams: I will not authorize a make up of a quiz or an exam unless the absence is justified and documented (i.e. illnesses or injuries). If you know you will miss a quiz or an exam, you need to let me know ahead of time and we will figure out a time.
- Grading: If you believe that an error or incorrect judgment (other than numerical mistake) have been made in grading an exam, assignment, or quiz, you may appeal to the instructor in writing, but the entire exam/quiz/assignment will be regarded and a new grade assigned, which may be lower than the original grade. Such appeals to the instructor must be made not later than 7 days after the grades are posted.
- Things I refuse to discuss with you, so don't even ask me:
  - Your participation grade
  - Your Hope standing
  - Extra Credit: there will be no extra credit for this class
- All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before

performing any academic work. Please see  
<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

### Grades

- Midterm (multiple choice – definitions – short answers): 20%
- Final Exam (format TBD): 30%
- 5 announced map quizzes: 15% (3% each)
- In-Class debates: 15%
- Country/issue portfolio: 20% (15% for the portfolio—5% for oral presentation)
- Attendance: 5%
- Participation: 5%
  - NB: if you are not in class, you cannot participate—not attending the class will affect your attendance grade as well as your participation grade.

### Class schedule: Lecture and Meeting Themes

<b>Week 1: Introduction: Critical Thinking</b> Monday 08/18: Introduction Wednesday 08/20: Critical thinking Friday 08/22: Critical thinking	Read booklet on how to detect media bias
<b>Week 2: Thinking and Caring about World Politics</b> Monday 08/25: Lecture Wednesday 08/27: Lecture Friday 08/29: Class discussion	Read R&R Chapter 1 Choose Country for Portfolio Be ready to talk about it
<b>Week 3: The Evolution of World Politics</b> Monday 09/01: Labor Day – No class Wednesday 09/03: Lecture Friday 09/05: Quiz # 1 -- Lecture	Read R&R Chapter 2
<b>Week 4: Levels of Analysis and Foreign Policy</b> Monday 09/08: Lecture Wednesday 09/10: Lecture Friday 09/12: Class discussion	Read R&R Chapter 3
<b>Week 5: Nationalism: The traditional orientation</b> Monday 09/15: Lecture Wednesday 09/17: Lecture Friday 09/19: Debate # 1	Read R&R Chapter 4 Debate topic: Is U.S global dominance destructive?
<b>Week 6: Globalization and Transnationalism: The alternative</b>	Read R&R Chapter 5

<b>orientation</b> Monday 09/22: Lecture Wednesday 09/24: Lecture Friday 09/26: Quiz # 2—Class discussion	
<b>Week 7: Power and national state: the traditional structure</b> Monday 09/29: Lecture Wednesday 10/1: Lecture Friday 10/3: Debate # 2	Read R&R Chapter 6 Debate topic: Do MySpace and YouTube make private globalization democratized?
<b>Week 8: Review week</b> Monday 10/06: TBD Wednesday 10/08: TBD Friday 10/10: Mid-term: in-class test	Details TBD Work on your portfolio
<b>Week 9: International Organizations: Alternative governance</b> Monday 10/13: Lecture Wednesday 10/15: Lecture Friday 10/17: Debate #3	Read R&R Chapter 7 Debate topic: Does the United Nations deserve support?
<b>Week 10: International Law and Human Rights</b> Monday 10/20: Lecture Wednesday 10/22: Lecture Friday 10/24: Quiz # 3—Class Discussion	Read R&R Chapter 8
<b>Week 11: Pursuing Security</b> Monday 10/27: Lecture Wednesday 10/29: Lecture Friday 11/01: Fall Break—No class	Read R&R Chapter 9
<b>Week 12: National Economic Competition: the traditional road</b> Monday 11/03: Lecture Wednesday 11/05: Lecture Friday 11/07: Debate # 4	Read R&R Chapter 10 Debate Topic: Is patient diplomacy the best approach to Iran’s nuclear program?
<b>Week 13: International Economics: the alternative road</b> Monday 11/10: Lecture Wednesday 11/12: Lecture Friday 11/14: Quiz # 4—Class Discussion	Read R&R Chapter 11
<b>Week 14 : Preserving and Enhancing the Biosphere</b>	Read R&R Chapter 12

Monday 11/17: Lecture Wednesday 11/19 : Lecture Friday 11/21: No Class—Portfolio due by 5pm	
<b>Week 15: Thanksgiving Break</b> Monday 11/24 – Friday 11/28	Have a good and safe break!!!
<b>Week 16</b> Monday 12/01: Debate # 5 Wednesday 12/03: Student Presentations Friday 12/05: Student Presentations	Debate topic: Should the world continue to rely on oil as the major source of energy? I will give your portfolio back to you on Monday Presentation of your country portfolio in front of the rest of the class
<b>Week 17</b> Monday 12/08: Quiz #5—Student Presentations Tuesday 12/09: (Friday schedule) Review Wednesday 12/10: Reading Day – No class	TBD
<b>Week 18</b> Wednesday 12/17: Final Exam	Location TBD

THIS COURSE SYLLABUS IS A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COURSE. THE COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE REVISED AND UPDATED AS NECESSARY.