

Global Challenges (previously Global Issues 390)
Political Science 340 (# 16144)
Fall 2010

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn Shaw
Class: T/Th 12:30 -3:10 (Aug 19 – Oct 12); LH 112
Office hours: M/W 12:00 – 1:30; T/Th 10:30 – 12:00, or by appointment
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Overview of the Course

This course is a seminar on global issues--those topics that are too broad to be addressed effectively by any single state and that affect every country around the world. The course is divided broadly into three parts: security issues, environmental issues, and development/ international economic issues. The first part of the course will examine proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and global security. The second part of the course will examine international trade, poverty, population, and human rights issues. The third part will explore global warming, health, and natural resources. Each class day will be divided into lecture and group discussion components.

Learning Philosophy / Course objectives

This class is designed to be a “seminar” format based on my belief that students learn best when actively engaged with the materials of the course. Students can learn from listening to each other, not just to the professor. By actively participating in regular group discussions, students can formulate and learn to articulate their own ideas about controversial issues.

- * This class is designed for students who are genuinely curious about international issues and are motivated to read more deeply and explore these issues further on their own. Students should not take this class if they simply want to put in the minimum amount of work to 'get by'. The quality of the class is significantly enriched by the knowledge and views that each student contributes to the discussions. If students do not read and reflect on the materials prior to our discussions, they not only short change themselves, but do a disservice to their classmates by not being prepared.

There are three primary objectives of this course. The first is for students to gain a greater understanding of difficult global issues confronting the international community. The second objective is to encourage students to grapple with the different views on these issues to establish their own informed perspective. The third objective is help students become more adept at articulating and defending their positions through dialogue, discussion and writing.

Requirements

Students are expected to **attend class regularly**. Attendance will be taken regularly throughout the semester. Because of the condensed 8 week format, **ONLY ONE** recorded absence will be allowed before points will be deducted from the attendance grade.

Students are expected to **substantively contribute to the weekly class** discussions on a regular basis. Students will take turns leading the group discussions throughout the semester.

Students are expected to **read all of the assigned readings** and to be able to discuss them in class. (Average weekly reading assignment will be 80-150 pages).

Students will **write weekly reaction papers** on the assigned readings. These papers are due on discussion days to encourage students to complete the readings before class. A total of 11 papers are assigned. The top 7 paper grades will count toward your class grade. You may choose to write on all 11 and drop the lowest 4, OR you may write on as few as 7 with all 7 counting toward your final grade. The details of these papers are discussed below.

There are **NO Exams and NO Research papers**.

** This class is reading and writing intensive, especially in an 8 week format. If you do not think you can keep up with the work, you should consider withdrawing right away, not several weeks into the semester. A full refund for withdrawal can only be given before August 24th.**

Required Reading

Snarr, Michael T. and D. Neil Snarr, eds. Introducing Global Issues (4th ed) Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2008.

Haas, Peter M. John A. Hird, and Beth McBratney Controversies in Globalization CQ Press, 2010

Seitz, John L. Global Issues: An Introduction (3rd ed.) Blackwell Publishing, 2008.

*Miscellaneous assigned readings from Congressional Quarterly Global Researcher. **ALL OF THESE READINGS ARE POSTED IN PDF FORMAT ON BLACKBOARD (Bb)**. If you have trouble accessing them, please let the instructor know right away.

Supplemental Reading

The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, or other daily newspaper

Grading

Attendance	20 pts (full points for 1 or less absences, 4 points off for each day missed after 1)
Participation	10 pts (students should offer regular substantive comments during each discussion period)
Reaction Papers	70 pts (10 pts for each paper)

** Reaction Papers must be turned in at the beginning of class each day that they are due.
No late papers will be accepted.

A =	90 - 100 points
B+ =	85 - 89
B =	80 - 84
C+ =	75 - 79
C =	70 - 74
D+ =	65 - 69
D =	60 - 64
F =	59 or below

WSU Blackboard

This course is facilitated by Blackboard, an online web aid accessible to all WSU students. The Blackboard page for this course contains a copy of the syllabus, the writing assignments, current course grades, and web links to a variety of international topics. In order to access this site (www.blackboard.wichita.edu) you need your MyWSU number and pin number.

Writing Assignments

Students will write weekly reaction papers on the assigned readings, and will incorporate one external academic source. The purpose of these assignments is to encourage students to prepare for class discussions by reading the assigned chapters, thinking critically about the views expressed in the readings, and coherently articulating their own opinions on the topics.

The papers will include discussion of the key issues/debates on different global topics and the student's own opinion about the problems and how they can be addressed.

Academic Freedom / Respect for Others

Each student is encouraged to participate in class discussions. In any class that includes discussion of political ideas, there are bound to be many differing points of view. Students may not only disagree with each other, but may also have disparate views from the instructor on sensitive and volatile topics. It is my hope that these differences will enhance class discussion and create an atmosphere where students and instructor alike will be encouraged to think and learn. Therefore, be assured that your grades will not be adversely affected by any beliefs or ideas expressed in class or your assignments. Rather, **we will all respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.**

Incompletes

An incomplete grade will only be given in the case of a documented medical or other emergency. To request an incomplete grade, a student must see me in my office and explain their need for an incomplete and fill out the necessary form. In most cases, it is in the student's best interest to complete the assigned course work on schedule.

I will not withdraw students from the class. It is a student's responsibility to monitor his/her progress in the course and to initiate withdrawal procedures on his/her own if necessary. To withdraw from a class, students must do it officially through the Registrar, and the Tuition and Fees Office.

Scholastic Dishonesty

As described in the Student Catalog, scholastic dishonesty constitutes a violation of college rules and regulations and is punishable according to the procedures outlined in the Catalog. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, plagiarism, and collusion. Plagiarism includes use of another author's words or arguments without attribution. Collusion is defined as the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. If a student commits any of these actions, I will seek disciplinary action in the form of an academic penalty, including a course grade of 'F'.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT to be completed BEFORE class:	Papers Due (no late papers accepted)
Aug 19 (Th)	Introduction		
Aug 24 (T)	Globalization	Snarr - Chap 1 (15 pgs) Haas – Introduction (xxv – lxi) (35 pgs)	
Aug 26 (Th)	Weapons Proliferation	Snarr - Chap 2 (22 pgs) Haas – Chap 6 (30 pgs) CQGR Nuclear Proliferation (24 pgs)	Paper 1: Proliferation
Aug 31 (T)	Global Security	Snarr - Chap 5 (18 pgs) Haas – Chap 5 (20 pgs) Seitz – Chap 6 (especially from p. 219) (22 pgs)	Paper 2: Global Security
Sept 2 (Th)	Resource Security / Energy	CQGR Energy Nationalism (20 pgs) Haas – Chap 9 (20 pgs) Seitz – Chap 4 (40 pgs)	
Sept 7 (T)	Resource Security / Water, Food > Conflict	Seitz - Chap 3 (30 pgs) Snarr - Chap 15 (25 pgs) CQGR Water Crisis (20 pgs)	Paper 3: Resource Security
Sept 9 (Th)	International Trade	No Readings	
Sept 14 (T)	International Trade	Snarr - Chaps 6, 7 (45 pgs) Haas – Chaps 1, 2 (65 pgs) optional: CQGR Globalization; CQGR Fixing Capitalism	Paper 4: International Trade
Sept 16 (Th)	Poverty	Snarr - Chap 8 (25 pgs) Seitz - Chap 1 (35 pgs) Haas – Chap 3 (30 pgs)	Paper 5: Poverty
Sept 21 (T)	Population / Migration	Snarr - Chap 9 (24 pgs) Seitz - Chap 2 (40 pgs) optional: Haas – Chap 12	Paper 6: Population / Migration
Sept 23 (Th)	Human Rights		
Sept 28 (T)	Human Rights	Snarr – Chap 4 (20 pgs) Haas – Chap 7 (25 pgs)	Paper 7: Human Rights
Sept 30 (Th)	Health	Snarr - Chap 12 (22 pgs) Haas – chap 10 (25 pgs)	Paper 8: Health
Oct 5 (T)	Women and Children	Snarr Chaps 10, 11 (35 pgs) Haas – Chap 11 (25 pgs)	Paper 9: Women and Children
Oct 7 (Th)	Climate Change	Snarr Chap 14 (20 pgs) CQGR – Climate Change (22 pgs) Haas – Chap 8 (25 pgs)	Paper 10: Climate Change
Oct 12 (T)	Environmental Protection / Conclusions	CQGR Oceans (24 pgs) Seitz - Chap 5 (50 pgs) optional: Snarr - Chap 16; Seitz – Chap 7	Paper 11: Environmental Protection
Oct 14 (Th)	FALL BREAK		

