

University of Georgia

INTL 1100: Introduction to Global Issues

Spring 2017, MWF 9:05 A.M.-9:55 A.M.

MLC 251

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Office Hours: Mondays 11AM

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Course Description and Objectives

The world we live in today is more connected than previous generations could have possibly imagined. People, goods, and ideas move around the planet faster and faster every day. With this increased connectivity, however, come increased problems. Communications technology makes no distinction between truth and hateful rumor; enhanced range and speed of travel benefits humans as well as disease; and economic concerns which may have previously caused domestic unrest now have the potential to plunge the whole world into a depression. In other words, we live in a world of truly global issues (See what I did there?). This course will investigate some of the most pressing issues facing humanity in a simple and straightforward manner, by asking: what is the history of the issue? How is it currently impacting the world, and what is its potential future impact? What is being done to address it, and what can be done better? While the approach may be simple, the answers we find throughout the semester will likely be anything but.

Required Reading

All material for this course will be available online, on ELC, or e-mailed to all students. There are no required physical textbooks.

Course Expectations

Attendance and Participation (20% of your grade):

In order to get the most out of this class, you must attend regularly and participate often. To earn full credit, a student must be prepared to meaningfully engage in discussion, respond to questions, ask questions of his/her own, and challenge the material (and the instructor). Speaking in front of the class or disagreeing with a text may be new to a lot of people, but it is absolutely essential for a lively class and a fulfilling college experience in general. Completing the assigned readings and attending every day will make this level of participation considerably easier. There will be a strong correlation between

attendance and participation: in other words, you cannot get credit for participating if you are not present. See the attendance policy below for more details.

Quizzes (15% of your grade):

I will be giving several reading-check quizzes which cover the required readings for a given day and will without notice throughout the semester. The current plan is to administer four to eight quizzes, but this number may increase if it appears a large portion of students are failing to do the assigned reading. Questions will be short answer, multiple choice, or matching. The total value of all reading quizzes will be 15% of your final grade.

Writing Assignments (15% of your grade)

Out-of-class writing assignments will be your opportunity to review and analyze the material we have covered up to a given point. A total of three will be due throughout the semester at various times announced in class. Each paper should be between 2-3 pages and cover any or all of the material discussed up to that point in class. You should use the paper to summarize a specific global issue and then go more in-depth, or tie together all of the global issues discussed during a section. More details will be given later in the semester during our writing workshop. Each assignment will count for 5% of your total grade. Absolutely no late work will be accepted, for any reason.

Exams (30% of your grade):

There will be two exams during the semester. Both will consist of several multiple choice questions and at least one essay drawn from the first half of the semester (for Exam 1) and the second half of the semester (for Exam 2). Each exam counts for 15% of your grade.

Final Project (20% of your grade):

The final project is open to a wide range of possibilities. The primary goal is to tackle a global issue that we will NOT cover in class and explore it in more depth. You should be prepared to give a brief presentation (8-10 minutes) to the class on your issue. Students should choose an issue and have a rough idea of what they would like to do by the end of February. We'll discuss more specific dates in class.

Course Policies

Attendance:

Regular attendance is essential to succeeding in this course. That being said, some absences cannot be avoided. I follow the university's guidelines for excused absences: any class period missed due to a University sanctioned event (conference/sport/trip), a documented medical reason (e.g. doctor's note), or death or serious injury to a direct relative (mother, father, child, sibling, grandparent) will be counted as excused. These absences will not count against your grade, and you will be allowed to make up any quiz, presentation, or exam that happened to fall on the excused date.

All other absences will count as unexcused: illnesses without a doctor's note provided within a week of the absence, sleeping through class, forgetting class, or missing for any other reason will count against your final grade. In addition, you will not be allowed to make up any quiz, presentation, or exam that falls on the date of an unexcused absence. No exceptions. The missed assignment grade will count as a zero. However, I understand some days you simply feel too lousy to go to class, but not lousy enough to go the doctor, so every student will get two freebie unexcused absences which will not count against the attendance/participation grade. To repeat, though, any assignments missed due to an unexcused absence (even a "freebie" absence) will be counted as a zero. Use the freebies wisely.

Any unexcused absence after the second freebie will deduct a half point from your total grade, up to five percentage points. As noted earlier, lack of attendance will also impact the participation grade.

Grades:

This class will use the standard plus/minus grading system. Grades will be rounded to the nearest point.

A= 94-100 B+ = 87-89 C+ = 77-79 D= 60-69 F= Below 60

A- = 90-93 B= 83-86 C= 73-76

B- = 80-82 C- = 70-72

Cell Phones:

Cell phones, MP3 players, and other noise-making devices (does anyone use a beeper or pager anymore?) must be silenced and put away during class. Also, there is no reason to have head phones on during class time. Frequent disruptions may result in a reduction in the participation grade.

Laptops and Tablets:

Laptops and tablets are permitted in class for note-taking and research purposes only. If you choose to use a laptop during class, please be courteous to your instructor and your colleagues: turn off the sound and avoid the temptation to tweet, facebook, or whatever else the kids these days are doing online. If these items become a distraction, I reserve the right to discontinue their use.

Academic Honesty:

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor. Any instance of cheating or plagiarism could be grounds for removal from the course with a grade of WF.

Class Discussion and Debate:

At times during the class, we will be discussing controversial and/or sensitive subjects. It is of the utmost importance that all students conduct themselves in professional, respectful manner. Personal attacks, hateful speech, or general disrespect to the instructor or your colleagues will not be tolerated. This does not mean you have to agree with everything being said: far from it! If you disagree with anything and can back it up, feel free to challenge your classmates, the textbook, or the instructor. Lively, informed, and passionate debate is at the heart of politics.

Communicating with the Instructor:

The best way to get in contact with the instructor is through e-mail at bagwells@uga.edu. All students will be expected to check their own UGA e-mail addresses for important updates about the course, assignments, etc. ELC will be used to post course content, but e-mail will be the most common means of communication.

If you have any questions you cannot or do not want to address over e-mail, please feel free to visit my office hours.

Staying Informed:

For a course like this, it is important to keep up with major events around the world. This course should make you into a better-informed citizen, but a lot of that work falls on you the student. Where you get your news is entirely up to you, but be sure to cite your sources if you try to bring it up as a point in class discussion. Some suggested sites include: The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN, NPR, or political blogs such as TheMonkey Cage, The Quantitative Peace, or The Duck of Minerva.

Changes to the Syllabus:

This syllabus should be considered a general plan and not a hard and fast guide. All efforts will be made to keep test dates and due dates the same as listed, and any changes will be announced well in advance. This notice applies to policies as well as assignments. With that in mind, be sure to come to class and check your email regularly so that you do not miss out on any new information.

Course Schedule:

All assignments are due on the day which they are listed, and all reading should be completed by the day listed.

G101 refers to www.globalization101.org and the descriptions following refer to topics and sections.

Week 1: Introduction

1/6 (F): Syllabus Day

Assignment: Read Syllabus

1/9 (M): Course Introduction

Assignments: Review Syllabus

Familiarize yourself with www.globalization101.org

1/11 (W): What is Globalization?

Assignments: G101- "What is Globalization?"

Fukuyama, Francis "The End of History?" available here:

<https://ps321.community.uaf.edu/files/2012/10/Fukuyama-End-of-history-article.pdf>

1/13 (F): No class, instructor at conference

Week 2: Geopolitics and War

1/16 (M): No class, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr day

1/18 (W): The Nation-State and International Relations Theory

Assignment: International Politics on the World Stage, Chapter 1 available here:

1/20 (F): Why War?

Assignments: Fearon, James D. "Rationalist Explanations for War" available here:

<https://web.stanford.edu/group/fearon-research/cgi-bin/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Rationalist-Explanations-for-War.pdf>

Week 3: Geopolitics and War (continued)

1/23 (M): Readings TBA

1/25 (W): Civil War and the Future of Conflict

Assignments: Familiarize yourself with the Global Conflict Tracker (<http://www.cfr.org/global/global-conflict-tracker/p32137#!/?marker=-1>) and the 10 Priority I Conflicts

Dixon, Jeffrey "What Causes Civil Wars?" available on ELC

1/27 (F): Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) and Non-proliferation

Assignments: Central Intelligence Agency "Terrorist CBRN: Materials and Effects" available https://www.cia.gov/library/reports/general-reports-1/terrorist_cbrn/terrorist_CBRN.htm

Lettow, Paul "Strengthening the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime" pgs. 1-17, 32 link will be provided

Week 4: The Environment

1/30 (M): Globalization, Wildlife, and the Environment

Assignment: G101 – Environment – Sections 1-11 (“Introduction” through “Loss of Biodiversity”)

2/1 (W): Climate Change and Looking Forward

Assignment: G101 – Environment – Sections 12-19 (“Ecosystems” through “Is Sustainable Development...”)

2/3 (F): Guest Speaker

Assignment: Readings TBA

Week 5: Human Rights

2/6 (M): What are Human Rights?

Assignments: Writing Assignment #1 due by the start of class

G101 – Human Rights – Sections 1-9 (“Introduction” through “The UDHR Document”)

2/8 (W): Physical Integrity Rights and Legal Practices

Assignment: G101 – Human Rights – Sections 15-25 (“Human Rights and Violence” through “The ICC”)

2/10 (F): Intervention and the Future of Human Rights

Assignments: G101 – Human Rights – Sections 26-30 (“Problem of Intervention” through “Responsibility...”)

G101 – Human Rights – Sections 44-47 (“Changing Players...” through “Social Movements...”)

Week 6: Culture and Identity

2/13 (M): What is Culture?

Assignments: Huntington, Samuel “Clash of Civilizations?” available here:

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/1993-06-01/clash-civilizations>

G101 – Culture – Sections 1-8 (“Culture and Globalization” through “A Clash of Civilizations”)

2/15 (W): Global versus Local

Assignments: G101 – Culture – Sections 9-17 (“Cultural Impact...” through “Sanctions”)
G101 – Human Rights – Sections 31-38 (“Impact of Globalization” through “Reproductive Rights...”)

2/17 (F): The Future of Culture and Identity in a Global World

Assignment: G101 – Culture – Sections 18-22 (“Other Cultural Challenges...” through “Conclusion”)

Week 7: International Crime

2/20 (M): Terrorism

Assignments: Crenshaw, Martha “The Causes of Terrorism” available here:

<http://courses.kvasaheim.com/hist319a/docs/Crenshaw%201981.PDF>

2/22 (W): Conflict Minerals/Blood Diamonds, Drugs, and Human Trafficking

Assignments: G101 – Human Rights – Section 39 (“Trafficking in Persons”)

UNESCO, “The Globalization of the Drug Trade” available here:

<http://www.unesco.org/most/sourdren.pdf>

Source Intelligence, “What are Conflict Minerals?” available here:

<http://www.sourceintelligence.com/what-are-conflict-minerals>

Amnesty International, “Conflict Diamonds” available here:

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/business-and-human-rights/oil-gas-and-mining-industries/conflict-diamonds>

2/24 (F): No Class, Instructor at conference

Week 8: Technology

2/27 (M): The Internet and Information Technology

Assignments: G101 – Technology – Sections 1-7 (“Information Technology” through “Short Term...Gains”)

G101 – Technology – Sections 16-21 (“Web 2.0” through “Cloud Computing”)

3/1 (W): Improving the World?

Assignment: G101 – Technology – Sections 8-15 (“Health Care” through “Modern Warfare”)

3/3 (F): Privacy, Security, and Cyber-Terror

Assignments: G101 – Technology - Sections 22-26 (“Concerns of the Technological Age” through “Conclusion”)

Gilmour, Stan “Policing Crime and Terrorism in Cyberspace” pgs. 149-153 only, available here:

<http://sgocnet.org/site/wpcontent/uploads/2014/06/EROCC119.pdf>

SPRING BREAK

Week 9: Catch-up and Exam #1

3/13 (M): Catch-up Day or Current Event

Assignments: Writing Assignment #2 due by the start of class

Other assignments TBA

3/15 (W): Review for Exam #1

Assignment: Come prepared with questions

3/17 (F): Exam #1

Assignment: Study!

Assignment: Start thinking of Final Project Ideas!

Week 10: Trade and Development

3/20 (M): The Basics of International Trade

Assignment: G101 – Trade – Sections 1-11 (“Introduction” to “The Trade Balance”)

3/22 (W): The Case for and Against Trade Liberalization

Assignment: Final Project Idea due by the start of class

G101 – Trade – Sections 12-26 (“Government Regulation” through “Trade and Environmental...”)

3/24 (F): Development: Why are Some Countries Rich while Others are Poor?

Assignment: G101 – Development – Sections 1-10 (“Introduction” through “Institutions of Development”)

Week 11: People, Health, and Food

3/27 (M): Helping the Human Condition

Assignment: G101 – Trade – Sections 11-19 (“Case Studies of Development Projects” through “Conclusion”)

3/29 (W): The GMO Debate

Assignments: Harmon, Amy “A Lonely Quest...” available here:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/05/us/on-hawaii-a-lonely-quest-for-facts-about-gmos.html?_r=0

G101 – Health – Sections 18-21 (“Genetically Modified Organisms” through “The U.S. and E.U.”)

Bracken, Tara “Put Away Your DDT” from Of Microbes and Men available here:

<http://www.ofmicrobesandmen.com/2014/11/23/>

3/31 (F): Disease!

Assignments: Bracken, Tara “The Columbian Exchange”, from Of Microbes and Men available here: <http://www.ofmicrobesandmen.com/2014/12/>

G101 – Health – Sections 1-17 (“Introduction” through “Conclusion”)

G101 – Health – Sections 22-29 (“Four Global Diseases- Introduction” through “Link between...”)

Week 12: Energy and Sustainability

4/3 (M): Powering the Planet

Assignments: G101 – Energy – Sections 1-16 (“Introduction” through “Nuclear Energy and Development”)

4/5 (W): Sustainability and Energy

Assignments: Barton, Erin “Writing the story of a sustainable future” available here:

<https://asunews.asu.edu/20140903-writing-story-sustainable-future>

G101 – Energy – Sections 16-33 (“Renewable and Alternative...” through “The First Law...”)

4/7 (F): Readings TBA

Week 13: People Moving, People Creating, and People Learning

4/10 (M): Migration

Assignments: Writing Assignment #3 due by the start of class

G101 – Migration – Sections 1-18 (“Introduction” through “Conclusion”)

4/12 (W): Art and Entertainment

Assignments: The Hollywood Reporter, “Globalization reinventing film industry” available here: <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/globalization-reinventing-film-industry-23154>

Aidi, Hisham “America's Hip-Hop Foreign Policy” available here: <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/03/americas-hip-hop-foreign-policy/284522/>

4/14 (F): Education

Assignments: G101 – Education – Sections 1-22 (“Introduction” through “Conclusion”)

Week 14: Sports!

4/17 (M): The Politics of the Olympics

Assignments: Fuller, Jaime “A not-so-brief history of politics and the Olympics” available here:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/02/05/machiavelli-meet-the-olympics>

The Economist, “Why would anyone want to host the Olympics?” available here:

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2013/09/economist-explains-0>

Bender, Andrew “Sochi's Long Term Economic Impact: Good or Bad?” available here: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewbender/2014/02/23/sochis-long-term-economic-impact-good-or-bad/>

4/19 (W): Student Presentations

Assignments: Student Presentations

4/19 (F): Student Presentations

Week 15: Beginning of the End

4/22 (M): Student Presentations

4/24 (W): Student Presentations

Assignment: Prepare for presentations

4/26 (F): Student Presentations

Assignment: Prepare for presentations

Week 17:

Final Exam TBA!