

University of Georgia
INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL ISSUES
Spring 2019

Course ID: INTL 1100
Units: 3

Location: Miller Center, 148
Meetings: MWF 9:05am – 9:55am

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Just
Email: thomas.just@uga.edu

Location: Candler B01
Office Hours: T 11:30am-1:30pm
W 1:30pm-3:30pm

COURSE SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

Because these issues are connected to our daily lives in a myriad of ways, this course will use a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating elements of history, geography, and anthropology as well as international relations and comparative politics. Though this course is titled “Global Issues,” the purpose of this course is not simply to memorize important issues and specific events surrounding these issues. Instead, this course is designed to help students adopt the research, analyzing, and reflection skills they will need both understand the international system as well as their place within it.

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Critically analyze and evaluate the global implications of foreign policy decisions
- Students will be able to evaluate the subfields of international affairs to understand their basic structure, foundational assumptions, and how these subfields help to better explain and predict events in the international system.
- Be able to understand and discuss a variety of contemporary issues in global politics and security studies

***Note:** the syllabus is subject to change during the semester. The list of topics and readings in the course outline is a general guideline or schedule. This is not a strict plan to cover at all cost. I establish my class pace based on the progress I sense from the class. Some topics may need additional coverage while others may need less.*

REQUIRED TEXT

Significant portions of the following books are assigned as required readings and will be available for purchase or rental through the UGA bookstore or other online retailers:

Bova, Russell. (2016) *How the World Works: A Brief Survey of International Relations*. Boston, MA: Pearson.

The CQ Researcher. (2019) *Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher*. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press.

REQUIRED: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

As this course deals with a number of contemporary themes and issues, students are required to read about and pay attention to current international events. Students should regularly read a number of international media sources, such as BBC World, the New York Times, Al-Jazeera, etc.

TEACHING METHODS

This course will be taught in a participatory lecture format. Participatory lecture format includes class discussion, presentations, and outside course work. The course requires student completion of readings, active participation in discussions during class, and written analysis and research of assigned topics.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

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: <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/>. 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.

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

1. Coming to class on scheduled days and being prepared to learn is extremely important. A great deal of what happens during the course is interactive; thus cannot be made up.
2. Please arrive on time for class; lateness is not only disruptive but will also have a negative effect on your class participation grade.
3. You will need to keep up with the readings, even if the class coverage is either faster or slower than the scheduled list of topics as specified on the class syllabus.
4. I encourage you to use the writing centers.
5. No extra-credit assignments will be granted on an individual or ad hoc basis.
6. Academic honesty is of utmost importance and failure to comply will result in a failing grade.
7. Cell phones – turn them off or place on silent mode when you enter the class.
8. Food and Beverages – please use common sense and show courtesy to your fellow classmates at all times.
9. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed during the course.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Disability Resource Center (DRC - <https://drc.uga.edu/>). All accommodations MUST be approved through the DRC.

COURSE COMMUNICATION AND QUESTIONS

Do not hesitate to ask if you have questions or problems. If you email me or the TA for this course, we will respond to questions about the readings, assignments, or just about anything related to the content of the course.

WEB RESOURCES

The internet can be an excellent source for data, basic background information, contemporary news, and government documents relevant to the study of international relations. With that being said, there is also a lot of inaccurate information available on the internet. Please be careful and use the same rigorous standards that should be applied to printed materials in your evaluation of online information.

COURSE EVALUATION

The final grade for each student enrolled in the course will consist of the instructor's evaluation of the following components:

Quizzes	20 points (2.5 points each)
Discussion Board Posts	20 points (5 points each)
Midterm Exam	30 points
Final Exam	30 points
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Total	100 points

GRADE SCALE

A	100 – 93%	B-	82 – 80%	D+	69 – 67%
A-	92 – 90%	C+	79 – 77%	D	66 – 63%
B+	89 – 87%	C	76 – 73%	D-	62 – 60%
B	86 – 83%	C-	72 – 70%	F	59% and below

All work is expected to be completed on time. Assignments must be submitted to the instructor via ELC by the designated due date and time. If you have any difficulty submitting the assignment via ELC on time, you must ensure the instructor receives an electronic copy prior to the deadline via e-mail. Also, be sure assignments are submitted in a format accepted by the online course platform (i.e. .doc or .pdf).

All assignments must follow a consistent citation format (i.e. MLA, APA, Chicago). Students are encouraged to use in-text parenthetical citations.

Your grades will be based upon the quality and clarity of the content, organization, discussion, grammar, and proper use of citations.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

In order for students to take full advantage of this course, participating constructively in

class lectures and discussions is strongly encouraged. Every student must do the assigned readings before attending/viewing the weekly class lecture. If you are not attending the lectures, this will affect your final grade. Students may miss three class sessions without penalty; however, any unexcused absences beyond the first three will reduce a student's final grade by 1% for each additional class session missed.

To be counted for attendance, students will need to sign in at the beginning of class each day using Arkaive (see more at www.arkaive.com). Please come early to ensure enough time for you to sign in and be in your seat before class starts, as Arkaive closes at the time class begins. If you would prefer not to use Arkaive, please let the instructor know and another method will be provided. If you arrive late or did not attend for an excused reason, please visit the Arkaive app to submit an Excusal Request. Once you have submitted an excusal request, the instructor will either approve or decline your request. Either way, you will get a notification in the Announcement tab of the app once they respond.

QUIZZES (20 points)

During select weeks, students will be asked to take an online quiz on ELC pertaining to that week's readings. Each quiz will consist of 5 questions and is worth a total of 2.5 points. Quizzes will be due by Friday at 12:00pm ET of the assigned week. Students should check the course schedule below in the syllabus for quiz due dates.

DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS (20 points)

During select weeks, the instructor will post a question regarding the weekly readings on ELC. Students must provide a 250-word minimum response to eight questions over the course of the semester (5 points each). As this will be a discussion board format, student responses may address the question directly or another classmate's answer to the question. Either way, each response must invoke concepts from that week's assigned course readings. Students are also encouraged to cite other relevant sources and/or current events in their posts. Responses will be evaluated based on clarity, creativity, respectfulness shown toward classmates, and the student's demonstration of understanding of the weekly readings. Each week's discussion board will open prior to that week's Monday lecture on the given topic and close on Wednesday at 12:00pm ET.

MIDTERM EXAM (30 points) - Due Wednesday February 27 by 9:05am ET

Students will be required to take a midterm examination during the eighth week of the semester that will cover the course readings and lectures to that point. The midterm will consist of a series of essay questions, in which students will need to critically analyze and demonstrate a clear understanding of the course material from the first eight weeks. The exam questions will be made available to students at least five days in advance of the due date. Students may use their own notes and the texts to help them in crafting their essay answers; however, each student must write their answers in their own words and independently. Each student's responses will be evaluated based on their ability to critically analyze the readings, apply concepts discussed in class lectures, and organize their thoughts in an effective and persuasive manner.

FINAL EXAM (30 points) – Due Monday April 29 by 9:05am ET

The final exam will consist of a series of essay questions that will require students to demonstrate a clear understanding of the course material since the midterm exam. The final will be in a similar format to the midterm consisting of a series of essay questions, in which students must synthesize the lessons learned from the readings, course lectures, and other activities related to the course. The questions for the final will be made available to students at least five days prior to the final exam due date. Each student's responses will be evaluated based on their ability to critically analyze the readings, apply concepts discussed in class lectures, and organize their thoughts in an effective and persuasive manner.

Note---For all assignments (exams, discussion posts, and attendance points), late submissions will not be accepted, except in emergency cases at the discretion of the instructor.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (January 9) – Major Themes in Global Issues

- Introduction to Course

Week 2 (January 14) – How to Think About World Politics

- Chapter 1 of Bova

Week 3 (January 21) – Continuity and Change in World Politics

- Chapter 2 of Bova
 - Quiz #1 due Friday by 12:00pm ET

No Class on January 21 – MLK Day

Week 4 (January 28)– The Sources of Foreign Policy

- Chapter 3 of Bova
- Chapter 6 of CQ Researcher
 - Quiz #2 due Friday by 12:00pm ET

Week 5 (February 4) – War and Violence in World Politics

- Chapter 4 of Bova
- Savun, Burcu and Brian Phillips (2009). “Democracy, Foreign Policy, and Terrorism,” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53(6): 878-904.
 - Discussion Board #1 due by Tuesday at 12:00pm ET
 - Quiz #3 due Friday by 12:00pm ET

Week 6 (February 11): International Law and Organizations

- Chapter 5 of Bova
- Chapter 7 of CQ Researcher
 - Quiz #4 due Friday by 12:00pm ET

Week 7 (February 18): Human Rights

- Chapter 6 of Bova
- Chapter 8 of CQ Researcher
 - Discussion Board #2 due by Tuesday at 12:00pm ET
 - Quiz #5 due Friday by 12:00pm ET

Week 8 (February 25): Midterm Exam

Midterm Examination Due Wednesday February 27 by 9:05am ET

Week 9 (March 4): Economic Globalization

- Chapter 7 of Bova
- Chapter 9 of CQ Researcher
 - Quiz #6 due Friday by 12:00pm ET

Week 10 (March 11):

Spring Break - No Class from March 11-15

Week 11 (March 18): Transnational Challenges

- Chapter 8 of Bova
- Chapter 15 of CQ Researcher
 - Quiz #7 due Friday by 12:00pm ET

Week 12 (March 25): Competing Visions of the 21st Century

- Chapter 9 of Bova
 - Quiz #8 due by Friday at 12:00pm ET

Week 13 (April 1): Soft Power and the Diffusion of Power

- Chapter 3 of CQ Researcher
- Nye, Joseph. (2008) "Public Diplomacy and Soft Power." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 616: 94-109.

Week 14 (April 8): Smart Power

- Nye, Joseph. (2009) “Get Smart: Combining Hard and Soft Power.” *Foreign Affairs* 88(4): 160-163.

Week 15 (April 15): TBA – Class Vote on Topic

- TBA
 - Discussion Board #4 due by Tuesday at 12:00pm ET

Week 16 (April 22): Final Exam

Review for Final Exam

Final Exam Due – Monday April 29 by 9:05am ET