

INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL ISSUES

Spring 2022

Instructor: Neil Williams	Time: TR 2:20 – 3:35 p.m. (CRN: 59953)
Email: snpwill@uga.edu	Place: MLC, Room 267

Course Pages:

1. <http://www.neilswilliams.com/teaching.html>
2. <https://uga.view.usg.edu>

Student Hours: 2-4pm Wednesdays on Zoom, or by appointment.

Required Texts:

- None

Objectives: This course is designed as an introduction to some of the main problems, issues and terms that are widely discussed in the study of global events and politics. We will focus becoming familiar with these common topics and events, and especially attempt to understand how these issues are related to each other and to broader social processes. While this is a course about worldwide occurrences that specifically approaches issues through the lens of political science, in our discussions and readings we will still draw from history, geography, anthropology, and sociology. In this way, we will hope to better contextualize these issues in larger debates about global directions and politics. Given this, keeping up with the news and current events would be very helpful and is strongly encouraged.

This course will also introduce students to the basics of social science research. Students should leave this course with greater familiarity in understanding and communicating social science research, as well as how to better analyze these issues on their own.

Perusall: All assignments and lecture slides will be available on [Perusall](#). Perusall is a cool e-reader which allows for collaborative annotation of readings, podcasts, and videos with both me and your peers. Due dates and reminders are also included in Perusall to help you keep track of assignments. It is free to create an account. After you have done so, our course can be accessed by entering the code **WILLIAMS-33FRL**.

Important Dates: Below are important test and due dates. Note that they, as well as everything else in the syllabus, may be changed as the semester continues. I will notify you in good time of any updates.

Midterm Due Tuesday March 15th, 2022
Project Proposal due Tuesday, March 15th, 2022
Final Project due Friday, May 6th, 2022
Project Memo due . Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 by
11:59 P.M.

Grading

- **Participation (25%):** **Attendance will not be taken** and participation will be evaluated in multiple ways. Active participation implies paying attention in class. Please come prepared to class having read and willing to discuss the assigned material. Keep in mind these points as you go through assignments:

1. What is the author's main point or argument?
2. What evidence do they use to support their argument?
3. Is there contradicting evidence?
4. How does the author's argument relate to the other readings from the course?

Participation will also be evaluated by your comments, annotations, and responses to the readings, videos, and slides on Persuall.

- **Midterm: (25%)** The midterm exam will be delivered electronically and will cover content up until this point. Although this exam will be open-note and book, I **HIGHLY** recommend studying before-hand.

- **Final project: (50%)** For the final project you are tasked with teaching non-experts about a concept or idea we've learned this semester or something else related to this course. You can use whatever medium you want, except for a standard essay or twitter threads. Otherwise, feel free to be creative. You can record a podcast, create a photo exhibit, write a magazine piece or a long-form blog post, write a set of poems, make a poster collage, write a work of fiction, a graphic novel, make a short film or documentary, a stand-up routine, play, etc. The possibilities are endless, but, regardless of the medium you choose, all projects will be graded on the following criteria:

- **Project proposal: (10%):** 1-2 page proposal of your project idea with description of your main points and planned approach
- **Project: (60%):** Project graded on the below criteria
 - * (30%): Demonstrates a clear understanding of the concept. While accessibility is important, represent the concept or topic accurately and faithfully.
 - * (30%) Makes clear why the concept is important for some aspects of politics (In a particular case or generally)
 - * (10%) Uses language that is accessible to a broad public
 - * (15%) Demonstrates effort commensurate with a final class project
 - * (15%) Showcases creativity and imaginative thinking
- **Project reflection memo: (30%)** 3-4 page memo attached explaining your project, its method, and how it relates to your project topic.

Final project adapted from project assignment conceived and developed by Hakeem Jefferson, Stanford University. Contact me in good time for deadlines on make-up work.

Grade Scale

>= 93.00	A	77.00 - 79.99	C+
90.00 - 92.99	A-	73.00 - 76.99	C
87.00 - 89.99	B+	70.00 - 72.99	C-
83.00 - 86.99	B	60.00 - 69.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	<= 59.99	F

Academic Honesty *The University of Georgia seeks to promote and ensure academic honesty and personal integrity among students and other members of the university community. A Culture of Honesty, UGA's academic honesty policy and procedures, was developed to serve these goals. All members of the academic community are responsible for knowing the policy and procedures on academic honesty.* (From [UGA Academic Honesty Website](#))

Disability Resources: If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting <http://drc.uga.edu>. Additionally, please contact me in good time and communicate any accommodations needed to participate in class and/or fulfill course requirements.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- UGA has several resources for a student seeking [mental health services](#) or [crisis support](#).
- If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit [BeWellUGA](#) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Technology: I permit laptops and other devices such as Kindles and iPads if they are being used for class-related purposes. If you are off-task (Facebook, Instagram, Myspace, Tik Tok, Neopets, Club Penguin, etc.) while on these devices, it will be deducted from your participation grade.

Coronavirus Information for Students**DawgCheck:**

Please perform a quick symptom check each weekday on DawgCheck—on the UGA app or website—whether you feel sick or not. It will help health providers monitor the health situation on campus: <https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>.

What do I do if I have Symptoms?:

Students showing symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

What do I do if I am notified that I have been exposed?

Students who learn they have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 14 days consistent with Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Please correspond with your instructor via email, with a cc: to Student Care & Outreach at sco@uga.edu to coordinate continuing your coursework while self-quarantined. If you develop symptoms, you should contact the University Health Center to make an appointment to be tested. You should continue to monitor your symptoms daily on DawgCheck.

How do I get a test?

Students who are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 should call the University Health Center. UHC is offering testing by appointment for students; appointments may be booked by calling 706-542-1162.

UGA will also be recruiting asymptomatic students to participate in surveillance tests. Students living in residence halls, Greek housing and off-campus apartment complexes are encouraged to participate.

What do I do if I test positive?

Any student with a positive COVID-19 test is required to report the test in DawgCheck and should self-isolate immediately. Students should not attend classes in-person until the isolation period is completed. Once you report the positive test through DawgCheck, UGA Student Care and Outreach will follow up with you.

Tentative Course Outline:**Week 1: Introductions*****Tuesday, January 11th, 2022***

- Syllabus

Thursday, January 13th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Bjorn Lomborg Sets Global Priorities. 2005. TED Talk.
 - “70 People Ages 5-75 Answer: Most Important Issue Facing the World?”. 2017. *Glamour*.

Week 2: Theories and actors: Understanding the Politics of Globalization***Tuesday, January 18th, 2022***

- *Before class*
 - What Is Globalization?. Globalization 101.
 - de Sousa Santos, Boaventura. 2006. “Globalizations.” *Theory, Culture & Society* 23(2-3): 393–399.

Thursday, January 20nd, 2022

- *Before class*

- Slaughter, Anne-Marie. 2011. “International Relations, Principal Theories.” *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law* 129.
- Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes. 2007. “Overview of Comparative Politics.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*,

Week 3: Capitalism and Global economics

Tuesday, January 25th, 2022

- *Before class*

- “What Is Capitalism?”. 2015. International Monetary Fund.
- “Capitalism: What is it?”. 2021. *Throughline*.

Thursday, January 27th, 2022

- *Before class*

- “Capitalism: What Makes Us Free?”. 2021. *Throughline*.
- “The Bretton Woods Monetary System (1944 - 1971)”. *Explained in One Minute*.
- “The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank”. *Explained in One Minute*.

Week 4: Inequality and Development

Tuesday, February 1st, 2022

- *Before class*

- Acker, Joan. 2004. “Gender, Capitalism and Globalization.” *Critical Sociology* 30 (1):17–41.

Thursday, February 3rd, 2022

- *Before class*

- “Reframing History: Bananas”. 2020. *Throughline*.
- “Aid in reverse: How Poor Countries Develop Rich Countries”- Jason Hickel, *The Guardian*

Week 5: Collective Action: Degradation, Resistance, & Resilience

Tuesday, February 8th, 2022

- *Before class*

- Whyte, Kyle Powys. 2014. “Indigenous Women, Climate Change Impacts, and Collective Action.” *Hypatia* 29(3): 599–616.
- Ibrahim, Hindou Oumarou. “Indigenous knowledge meets science to take on climate change”. Ted Talk.

Thursday, February 10th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Sisters on the Planet Series
 - *Optional*: Tir, Jaroslav, and Douglas M. Stinnett. "Weathering climate change: Can institutions mitigate international water conflict?." *Journal of Peace Research* 49, no. 1 (2012): 211-225.

Week 6: Conflict**Tuesday, February 15th, 2022**

- *Before class*
 - Hendrix, Cullen S., and Idean Salehyan. "Climate change, rainfall, and social conflict in Africa." *Journal of Peace Research* 49, no. 1 (2012): 35-50.
 - *Optional*: Dixon, Jeffrey. 2009. "What Causes Civil Wars? Integrating Quantitative Research Findings." *International Studies Review* 11(4): 707-735.

Thursday, February 17th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - "Colombia: The long road to peace after the civil war". 2019. DW Documentary.
 - "World Report 2020: Colombia". 2021. Human Rights Watch.

Week 7: Repression**Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022**

- *Before class*
 - "Operation Condor: A Latin American alliance that led to disappearances and death". 2015. CGTN America.
 - Schwartz, Rachel A., and Scott Straus. 2018. "What drives violence against civilians in civil war? Evidence from Guatemala's conflict archives." *Journal of Peace Research* 55(2): 222-235.

Thursday, February 24th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - "The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia". 2019. Frontline.
 - "Update: Saudi Arabia". 2018. Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj.

Week 8: Cooperation & Global Governance***Tuesday, March 1st, 2022***

- *Before class*
 - Overview of the United Nations. UNA-UK
 - 70 Ways the UN Makes A Difference. United Nations Seventieth Anniversary
 - Nations United: Urgent Solutions for Urgent Times — Presented by Thandie Newton

Thursday, March 3rd, 2022

- **MIDTERM EXAM Distributed**
- *Before class*
 - The EU - what it is and what it does. European Commission.
 - Karp, Jeffrey A., and Shaun Bowler. “Broadening and Deepening or Broadening Versus Deepening: The Question of Enlargement and Europe’s ‘Hesitant Europeans’.” *European Journal of Political Research* 45, no. 3 (2006): 369-390.
 - *Optional*: The EU: Past, Present, and Future (a History Talk podcast)

March 8 & March 10- NO CLASS SPRING BREAK**Week 9: Migration*****Tuesday, March 15th, 2022***

- **MIDTERM EXAM Due**
- **Come with your project proposal to share!**
- *Before class*
 - Migration. Globalization 101.
 - What’s the Difference Between a Migrant and a Refugee? Migration Explained. World101.

Thursday, March 17th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Climate Migration- Bangladesh on the move. 2015. UNSW Community.
 - India has ramped up border security to stop refugees from Myanmar. 2021. DW News.

Week 10: Race and Discrimination***Tuesday, March 22nd, 2022***

- *Before class*
 - The Long, Bloody Strike For Ethnic Studies. 2020. Code Switch.
 - The Invention of Race. 2020. Throughline.

Thursday, March 24th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - 17,000 Islands, 700 Languages, And A Superhero. 2017. Code Switch
 - Saving A Language You're Learning To Speak. 2021. Code Switch.

Week 11: The Far Right**Tuesday, March 29th, 2022**

- *Before class*
 - How Jair Bolsonaro brought the far-right to power in Brazil. 2018. *Vox*.
 - Biroli, Flávia. 2016. "Political violence against women in Brazil: expressions and definitions." *Revista Direito e Práxis* 7(15): 557–589.

Thursday, March 31st, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Wahlström, Mattias, Anton Törnberg, and Hans Ekbrand. 2020. "Dynamics of violent and dehumanizing rhetoric in far-right social media." *New Media & Society*.
 - President Trump's (Anti-)Social Media. 2022. Code Switch.

Week 12: Populism and the Far Right II**Tuesday, April 5th, 2022**

- *Before class*
 - Friedman, Uri. "What Is a Populist?" *The Atlantic*. February 28, 2017.
 - India Elections: How Modi Tried to Use a Religious Crisis to Win Votes. 2019. *The New York Times*. The Dispatch.
 - Modi. 2020. Last Week Tonight with John Oliver. HBO

Thursday, April 7th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - White Nationalism. 2020. Throughline.

Week 13: Democratic Support**Tuesday, April 12th, 2022**

- *Before class*
 - Support for democracy declining in Latin America, report says. 2018. CBS News.
 - Carlin, Ryan E., and Matthew M. Singer. 2011. "Support for Polyarchy in the Americas." *Comparative Political Studies* 44(11): 1500–1526.

Thursday, April 14th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Zhai, Y. 2017. “Do Confucian values deter Chinese citizens’ support for democracy?” *Politics and Religion*.
 - Hong Kong Protests, One Year Later. 2021. *The New York Times*.

Week 14: Protest and Popular Dissent**Tuesday, April 19th, 2022**

- *Before class*
 - Ten years after the Arab Spring, democracy remains elusive in Egypt. 2021. PBS News Hour.
 - Witness History: The anthem of the Arab Spring. 2021. BBC World Service.
 - Witness History: The women of Egypt’s Arab Spring. 2021. BBC World Service.

Thursday, April 21st, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Nleya, Ndodana, Lisa Thompson, Chris Tapscott, Laurence Piper, et al. 2011. “Re-considering the origins of protest in South Africa: Some lessons from Cape Town and Pietermaritzburg.” *Africanus: Journal of Development Alternatives* 41(1): 14–29.
 - Shutting Down the Rainbow Nation: #FeesMustFall. 2015. Africa is a Country TV.
 - Why are Nigerians protesting? The #EndSARS movement explained. 2020. Global News.

Week 15: Policy and Solutions**Tuesday, April 26th, 2022**

- *Before class*
 - Women Make Change - Going Places: Girls’ Education in Ghana. 2015. Al Jazeera English.
 - Ghana’s Parent Trap. 2018. Rough Translation.
 - Language and the Global Learning Crisis: How Best to Teach Multilingual Children. 2015. American Institutes for Research.
 - *Optional*: She Looks Back: How Educating Liberian Girls Could Move the Whole Country Forward [Short]. 2012. American Institutes for Research.

Thursday, April 28th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Bolsa Familia: Program Credited with Reducing Brazilian Poverty. 2014. CGTN Americas Now.
 - Cash Transfers Explained: How Cash Empowers Poor Families in Zambia. 2016. American Institutes for Research.
 - Guy Standing: Cash Transfer in India [EN subs]. 2013. Basic Income Europe.

Week 16: When are Issues Global Issues?*Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022*

- *Before class*
 - Final wrap up
 - Discuss your final projects!!

Remember: Final project due Friday, May 6th, 2022 by 11:59 P.M.**Remember: Final project Memo due Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 by 11:59 P.M.**