

IS 100: Global Issues



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Fall Semester 2006
Room 212 HUMB
Time: 10:10-11:00 MWF
Course Web Page: www.usaonline.southalabama.edu

SYLLABUS

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This introductory course focuses on current global society. Using a variety of techniques, the course will

- introduce you to several of the more pressing global issues and demonstrate their interconnectedness;
- acquaint you with the main structural features of the global system (the nation-state system, the global capitalist economy, multi-culturalism, and androcentrism);
- expose you to some of the major theoretical perspectives in these areas;
- promote a global theory of the mind (that is, to try to get you to view the world from different perspectives); and,
- by showing the complex linkages between the issues and structural aspects of global society, encourage you to view current global issues within a broader context.

REQUIRED TEXT

- Snarr and Snarr, eds., *Introducing Global Issues*. 3rd edition (2005).
- Additional Readings for in-class activities will be made available either on-line or in-class.

WEB ENHANCED

All materials for this course are available on-line. To access, go to www.usaonline.southalabama.edu. Here you will find copies of the syllabus as well as additional readings, descriptions of assignments, links to further materials, etc. Some assignments for the class can only be done by using the course web page. Please check the site during the first week of class to make sure you have access.

METHODS/ASSIGNMENTS

IN-CLASS

- a) Lectures & Discussion. Some days will be devoted to regular lectures and discussion. The power-point presentations will be made available on-line through the course web page.
- b) Games/Simulations. We will use a number of participatory activities in class. Some outside reading and questions may be required. *You must come to class prepared to participate.*
- c) Videos. We will watch some videos examining various global issues and country perspectives. A handout with questions and issues will be used for in-class discussion.
- d) Exams. There will be three multiple-choice exams during the semester. The final is not comprehensive.

OUT-OF-CLASS

- a) Readings. You are expected to read all the assigned material. We may not cover the material in class, but the readings are nonetheless very important in complementing what we are doing in class. And of course, the exams will include questions about the readings.
- b) 3 Short written assignments. (the course web page contains more detailed instructions for each of these assignments).
 - 1. *Fate of Melos Debate*. This is a 1-2 page paper based on a historic debate with relevance to the modern nation-state system. It requires some background reading.
 - 2. *INGO summary*. Select one international NGO and based on the information you find on their website, do a 1-2 page summary outlining the global problem the organization focuses its work on, the type of work it engages in, etc.
 - 3. *Global Issue*. Pick a global issue and collect a series of newspaper articles and/or news clips on it during the semester. Write a 2-3 page summary and analysis of the issue. Try to relate the issue to the broader questions we are looking at in class.
- c) Extra Credit? Think you might need some? The International Studies Program will sponsor events during the semester (movie, workshop, IS forum). You will be invited to attend and can earn points.

GRADING

- In-class participation = 10% of the final grade
- Short Written Assignments = 30% of the final grade
- Exams = 60% of the final grade

OTHER

Responsible accommodation will be made for any student with a handicap or disability. Exam dates and required readings are subject to change. Students are responsible for being aware of any announced changes. Do not call the department secretary for information; come to class.

COURSE OUTLINE/SCHEDULE

Dates	Topics/Activities	Readings
Week 1 Aug 21-25	I. Introduction: > Thinking about global issues & course overview > <u>In-class activity</u> “Baranga”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Introducing Globalization and Global Issues” —<i>M.T. Snarr</i>.
Week 2 Aug 28 – Sept 1 Week 3 Sept 4 – Sept 8 Week 4 Sept 11 – Sept 15 Week 5 Sept 18 – Sept 22 SEPT 22	II. The Nation-State System (power rules) > Realism versus Idealism, nationalism, the rights of countries, security dilemmas and war, cooperation and international law, the political dimensions of globalization > Videos: “Foreign Policy and the Nation-State;” “Foreign Policy, the Nation-State and Domestic Politics;” “Human Rights” > <u>In-class activities:</u> “Melos Debate” EXAM 1 * Melos Paper due by Sept 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weapons Proliferation and Conflict—<i>J.S. Lantis</i>. • Nationalism—<i>L.M. Kassem, A.N. Talbott, and M.T. Snarr</i>. • Globalization and Human Rights—<i>D.N. Snarr</i>. • Global Security and Insecurity: Responses to Terrorism and Other Threats—<i>J. Patterson, E. Kretzmann, and T. Smith</i>. <u>Handouts:</u> > “Melos Debate”

Dates	Topics/Activities	Readings
Week 6 Sept 25 – Sept 29 Week 7 Oct 2 – Oct 6 Week 8 Oct 9 – Oct 13 OCT 16	III. Global Capitalist Economy (money rules) ➤ Structure, rules and operation ➤ Problems of development ➤ Videos: “The New Rules of the Game” and “The New Rulers of the World” ➤ <u>In-class activity</u> : “International Trade Game” EXAM 2 *NGO paper due Oct 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Trade vs. Protectionism: Values and Controversies—<i>Moon</i>. • International Capital Flows and Institutions—<i>Scholl</i>. • Poverty in a Global Economy—<i>Reeves</i>. • Population and Migration—<i>Percy Kraly</i> • Children—<i>Kent</i>. • Health—<i>Nelson</i>.

Dates	Topics/Activities	Readings
Week 9 Oct 16 – Oct 20 Week 10 Oct 23 – Oct 27	IV. Multiculturalism, Values and Culture Systems ➤ Modernism (Westernism) and Postmodernism (the west rules) ➤ The cultural and ideological dimensions of globalization ➤ <u>In-class activity</u> : “The United States is not the Globe”	Handout: “The United States in Not the Globe”
Week 11 Oct 30 – Nov 3 Week 12 Nov 6 – Nov 10*	V. Androcentrism (men rule) ➤ Androcentrism, Feminism and Women in the World ➤ Video: “The power dead-even rule” and “Ladies First” ➤ <u>In-class activity</u> : “Discussion groups”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and Development—<i>E. Boulding and H. Parker</i>. • Additional readings will be made available.
Week 13 Nov 13 – Nov 17 Week 14 & 15 Nov 20 Nov 27 – Dec 1	VI. The Environment: Linking Issues and Structures ➤ Video: “Global Environmental Issues” ➤ <u>In-class activity</u> : “The Pursuit of a Green Global Conscience”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development—<i>Chasek and Miller</i>. • Protection of the Atmospheric Commons—<i>Seis</i>. • Conflict and Cooperation over Natural Resources—<i>Davenport and Scapple</i>.
Week 16 Dec 4 DEC 8 (10:30)*	VII. Challenges and the future of globalization FINAL EXAM * Global Issue paper due Dec. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Prospects—<i>M.T. Snarr</i>.

**Nov 10 Last Day to Drop*