

SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARTS SCIENCES
SOCIAL & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Global Issues
POLS 2401
(3) Credit Hours

Fall 2007
MWF 10-10:50AM
Room: J-109

Instructor: Dr. Rhonda Whitfield

Office: Atrium (J) Building, 3rd Floor, RM J319

Hours: MWF 9-10am; 12-1pm
And By Appointment

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Information outlined in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Any changes will be announced during class and students are responsible for learning of such changes.

Course Description: This course examines an interdisciplinary approach to selected topics in contemporary societies, using sociological, economic, geographic, and political perspectives. We will examine wealth and poverty, population dynamics, world hunger, energy and environmental crises, inequality and violence, global health, technology, privatization and urban issues. Strategies for change will also be explored. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the origins and potential solutions to challenges of a rapidly changing global society.

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and describe some major political, economic, social and environmental issues confronting the global community.
- Evaluate major threats to peace and stability in the world today, and be able to discuss the underlying reasons for a lack of resolution.
- Understand the role of power and military force in global affairs and limitations to the use of force.
- Evaluate the demographic, economic, and ethno-national dimensions to issues of development.

Required Reading: There is (1) required text for this course:

Robbins, R. H. (2004). *Talking points on global issues: A reader*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.

Additional readings may be assigned.

Assignments: Students will be evaluated based upon the following:

Exams (2)	50%
Oral Presentation	20%
Assignments	20%
Participation	<u>10%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Exams

There will be two exams for the course: mid-term and final. The examination format will be essay, which requires critical analytical responses.

Oral Presentation

A 10–15 minute oral presentation of a substantial inquiry into a *current* global issue is required. All topic selections must be approved by the instructor. Detailed instructions will be distributed during week two.

Assignments/Participation

This course is centered on interactive learning; therefore, participation is *imperative* in order to achieve and demonstrate mastery of the subject matter. Assignment and participation include attendance, readings, class discussions, group exercises, debates and other assigned projects.

Grading Scale: Grades will be distributed as follows:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

Students are welcome to appeal grades. All appeals must be submitted in writing (by electronic mail only) *no later than (1) calendar week after a grade has been awarded.*

NOTE: It is the student’s responsibility to follow up on the status of a grade appeal.

Students with Disabilities: Students who require classroom and/or academic adjustments due to special needs, please contact a counselor working with disabilities at 678.915.7244 no later than the first week of course.

Classroom Behavior: The classroom is a place where students learn in a safe and relaxed environment. Excessive talking, foul language, sleeping and any other form of disruptive behavior are considered a distraction and will not be tolerated. The use of cell phones and other audible devices is also a distraction; therefore, please turn off all audible devices BEFORE class begins. In addition, no tape recorders are allowed. Students who do not adhere to these policies will be dismissed from the class. Please note

that the instructor reserves the right to withdraw students from the course, should ANY form of unacceptable classroom behavior persists.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is expected for this course. To be considered present for the entire class period, students must be in their seats when the roll is called and remain present until class ends. Students are allowed (3) *unexcused absences* for the semester. Students with *excessive tardiness and absences* may be withdrawn from the course at the discretion of the instructor.

Make-up/Late Work: Make up exams and late work is allowed *only in the case of an extreme emergency and/or extenuating circumstances*. No make-up exam will be scheduled and no late work will be accepted until the students provide an acceptable documented excuse. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of the emergency (if possible) prior to the exam date. In-class assignments will NOT be made up under any circumstance.

Academic Honesty: Be sure you read the relevant section and know and understand the potential penalties in the University Academic Regulations in the current undergraduate catalog or on the campus web site. The penalty in this course for a first offense of academic dishonesty is a score of zero on the assignment in question and a written warning. Repeat offenders will receive a course grade of F.

Key Dates:

August 20	First Day of Classes
August 23	Drop/Add Ends
September 3	Labor Day Holiday
September 14	Early Warning Indicator Report Deadline
October 11	Last Day to Withdraw and Receive a "W"
November 21-23	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 6	Last Day of Classes
December 7-12	Final Exams

Tentative Course Outline:

Part I: Introduction to Global Issues (August 20th – September 24th)

Syllabus Overview
 Class Introductions
 Global Perspectives
 Economics
 Capitalism

READINGS: Sets I - IV

EXAM 1: Monday, September 24

PRESENTATIONS: Please sign up

Part II: Population and the Environment (September 26th – October 26th)

Population and Food
Wealth and Poverty
Energy and the Environment
Global Health

READINGS: Sets V-VIII

PRESENTATIONS: Please sign up

Part III: Alternative Futures (October 29th – December 5th)

Technology
Structural Violence
Indigenous People
Privatization and Urban Issues
The Independent Sector

READINGS: Sets IX - XIII

PRESENTATIONS: Please sign up

FINAL EXAM: TBA