

Political Science 2401 - GLOBAL ISSUES
Summer (10-week semester) 2008

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Thomas E. Rotnem

OFFICE HOURS: TTH 12:00-1:00 p.m. or by appointment

OFFICE PHONE: (678) 915-7523 (If no answer, please leave detailed message.)

e-mail: trotnem@spsu.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS:

- 1) Introducing Global Issues, 3rd edition. 2005. Michael T. Snarr & D. Neil Snarr, eds. Lynne Rienner Publishers: Boulder, CO.
- 2) In addition, additional readings will be placed on **e-reserve** in the Library during the semester. (See syllabus for asterisked [*] items.)
- 3) Moreover, *at least* ten short newspaper articles will be handed out in class; these should be read and their contents are testable.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

POLS 2401, Global Issues: An introduction to international relations covering such issues as diplomacy, nuclear politics, war, secret intelligence, revolution, international development, debt, and dependence. Global Issues is an introductory survey course designed to introduce the student to numerous current issues confronting the globe's policy-makers and populations. Specifically, the course provides an opportunity for diversity in the student's educational program and provides information that fosters community responsibility and global understanding. 3-0-3

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will be able to:

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

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES & ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Lectures will be used together with class discussion. In addition, audio-visual materials will also be used to reinforce lectures and class discussions. Students **WILL BE EXPECTED to read the required textbook and other assigned materials and be prepared to participate** in class discussion.

The questions for the exams will be drawn from readings and classroom lectures. [NOTE: While the readings and lectures are designed to complement each other, they do not cover identical material. Thus, in order to do well in this course, the student is **strongly** encouraged to both attend lectures and do all the readings. Please recognize that a **strong** relationship exists between attendance and class performance.]

EVALUATION:

Requirements:

1. Exam I	30%
2. Exam II	30%
3. Exam III	20%
4. Attendance & participation	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

EXAMS may include a variety of types of questions, including both objective and essay (identifications & essay) questions. Dates of tests will be set no less than one week in advance.

NOTE: In cases where a student's final grade is on the borderline, the instructor will use discretion to assign the higher grade based upon the student's **exceptional classroom participation and attendance.

GENERAL POLICIES:

Make-up policy: No make-up exams or incompletes will be given, except in cases of **documented** medical, family or job emergency.

Academic Dishonesty: Any student found to be cheating or submitting someone else's work as the student's own work (in accordance with Student Life Regulations I.A.) will receive a minimal punishment of a grade of "F" in this course, with a letter to the registrar stating that the grade was awarded for academic dishonesty.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the counselor working with disabilities at (678) 915-7489 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students engaging in disruptive behavior, e.g., talking during class, receiving cell phone calls, sleeping in class, entering class late, leaving class early, reading extra-course materials, using computers for non-course-related

activities, etc., **WILL** be penalized. Such behavior is not only distracting to the instructor, but also annoying to your colleagues.

Should you have a problem or a particular extenuating circumstance, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience.

Finally: If you have a question, **please ASK!**

Grading Scale:

A= 100-90
B= 89-80
C= 79-70
D= 69-60
F= 59- 0

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

May 20	-	Classes begin
May 22	-	Drop/Add period ends & Fee payment deadline
June 20	-	Last day of regular withdrawal period
July 24	-	Last day of Classes

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE AND READING REQUIREMENTS

Week One:

"Global Issues" – Introduction to Course:

- syllabus
- pre-test
- Lecture – *"Introduction to Global Issues"*

Weeks One/Two/Three:

Population Growth and the "Graying Syndrome":

READ: Chapters 1, 9 of Snarr & Snarr

- * "China Tries Easing Once-Brutal Approach to Family Planning," by Leslie Chang
- * "China's Burden of Age," by James Kyngge
- * "Nasty, Brutish and Long," by Jeremy Seabrook
- * "Rapid Ageing of Developing World Surprises U.N. Experts," by Mark Turner
- * "Seniors Boom is Global Trend," by Robert Rosenblatt

- * “Going Gray: For Ailing Japan, Longevity Begins to Take Its Toll,” by Sebastian Moffett
- * “Spanish and Italian Mothers to Front a New Baby Boom,” by Leslie Crawford

Weeks Three/Four/Five:

Global Terrorism and Religious Fundamentalisms:

READ: Chapter 5 of Snarr & Snarr

- * “Religion and Terrorism” by Walter Laqueur

- * “America Inspires Both Longing and Loathing in Arab World,” by John Burns
- * “The Allies Who Made Our Foes,” by Fareed Zakaria
- * “Why Egypt Produces Extremists,” by Geneive Abdo
- * “Islamist Threat Closer to Home,” by Hugh Williamson, Stephen Fidler
- * “Muslim Americans in Line with U.S. Values,” Edward Luce

Exam I – Week 4: June 10th, 2nd hour

Weeks Five/Six/Seven/Eight:

Weapons Proliferation - Chemical, Biological and Nuclear:

READ: Chapter 2 of Snarr & Snarr

General:

- * “Mass Destruction for Sale,” by Stephen Fidler

Biological:

- * “The Nightmare of Bioterrorism,” by Laurie Garrett
- * “A New Breed of Medical Horror,” by Josh Fischman and Nell Boyce
- * “The Smallpox Tradeoff,” by Susan Okie
- * “Court Admits Japan Tested Viruses on Chinese Prisoners,” by David Pilling and Ken Hijino
- * “Efforts to Cut Risk of Bio-Terror Under Way,” by Frances Williams
- * “U.S. Urges Retention of Smallpox Virus,” by NTI, Global Security Newswire

Chemical:

- * “The Enduring Pain of Halabja,” by Guy Dinmore
- * “Al Qaeda’s Quest for a Toxin,” by Joby Warrick

Nuclear:

- * "Where Warheads Are Made," by James Glanz and Dennis Overbye
- * "The Bunker Nightmare Goes Nuclear," by Andrew Koch
- * "India Prepares for the Prospect of Nuclear War," by Edna Fernandes
- * "Three Minutes Away from Disaster," by Edward Luce
- * "Nuclear Theft Causes Global Alert," by Alexander Nicoll
- * "Kyrgyzstan Intercepts Radioactive Material," by NTI, Global Security Newswire
- * "Russia Stops 120 Nuclear Smuggling Attempts in 2007," by NTI, Global Security Newswire

Exam II – Week 7: July 3rd, 2nd hour

Weeks Eight/Nine/Ten:

Nationalism - Case Studies of Rwanda and Canada:

READ: Chapter 3 of Snarr & Snarr

- * "Bystanders to Genocide," by Samantha Power
- * "The Task of Rebuilding a Nation," by Andrew England
- * "Man of Few Apologies," by Andrew England
- * "Separatist Movements in Constitutional Democracies: Canada and Quebec Nationalism," by Raymond Taras and Rajat Ganguly

Week Ten:

Natural Resource Conflicts around the World:

READ: Chapters 15, 16 of Snarr & Snarr

- * "U.S. Economic Lifeblood Tied to Fragile Middle East," by Michael Kanell

Exam III – Week Ten: July 24th, 2nd hour

** NOTE: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course.
Deviations MAY become necessary. **