

GLOBAL 2, SPRING 2010
INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL SOCIOECONOMIC
AND POLITICAL PROCESSES
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 2:00-3:15 PM
1910 BUCHANAN

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Course Description

Purpose: This interdisciplinary course is designed to introduce students to the study of global socioeconomic and political processes, interactions, and changes that affect the contemporary world. In the twenty years since the end of the Cold War in 1990, the world has changed radically. The break-up of the Soviet Union, the waning of American power, the growing economic strength of Western Europe East Asia and the BRIC countries, the increase in religious and ethnic tensions in South Asia and the Middle East, the US military presence in Afghanistan and Iraq, the emergence of global environmental problems, the rapid spread of new communications technologies, and the global economic recession have given birth to new forms of social and political interactions. In this class, we will try to understand these developments in their regional and global contexts. Roughly one half of the lectures and readings will introduce global issues as they effect, and are effected by, people in particular regions of the world. The other half will look at key global issues on a transnational level. These will be presented in part through case studies that will highlight two ideas: (i) while globalization results from transnational forces, it is manifest nationally in ways that continue to depend upon local conditions and the responses of national governments; and (ii) while the globalization of information networks has made it increasingly easy to know a little about many events and processes, this information remains extremely difficult to interpret. The class is one of the gateway courses for the Global Studies major.

Requirements:

There will be two in-class multiple-choice *midterm exams* (on Monday, 26 April, and Wednesday, 19 May), and a multiple choice *final exam* on Monday, June 7, 4-7 pm. The first midterm will include material covered until 21 April. The second midterm will include only material covered during 28 April – 17 May. The final will cover the entire course. All exams will be closed-book tests. ***There will be no early or late examinations, and no make-ups, except for medical reasons or the death or hospitalization of a family member. If you plan to leave on vacation early and cannot take the final on the scheduled date, you should not take the course. Please do not request an exception – it won't be granted!***

Grade Percentages:

Mid-terms: 20% each (40% total)
Final: 25%
Policy Brief: 25% (See instructions posted on course website)
Participation in Section meetings: 10%

Guest Lecturers: A number of guest lecturers will make presentations throughout the quarter. These will typically be other UCSB faculty with expertise on the topic under discussion that day – faculty whom you may want to consider for other courses. You are responsible for their lecture materials on exams (some may not use powerpoint, so you will be on your own for note-taking in these cases).

Course Website and Use of Email:

There is a course website available through Gauchospace. Access to this website is a requirement for the course. Lecture notes will be posted on the site when appropriate. I will occasionally also post other materials of interest. Please also check email regularly, as your teaching assistants and I will contact you from time to time by email. Do not contact your TAs or me seeking assistance understanding course material via email. We have ample office hours for this purpose.

Required Reading

- You will be required to read articles made available in the course reader available from the *Alternative Copy Shop* (6556 Pardall Rd., Isla Vista). Copies of the reader will also be on reserve at Davidson Library.
- Required readings will be added on the course Gauchospace page.
- Newspapers! (see below).

Newspapers

As potential Global and International Studies majors, it is your responsibility to keep up with, and deepen your understanding of current events around the world. As such, roughly 1/4 of your exam questions will involve current events – many of which will not be discussed in lecture or section. This means that it is extremely unlikely that anybody (including me) could score 100% on their exams. This is as it should be. We never know enough about what is happening around the world. Any story covered by the following news sources will be considered fair game:

1. The BBC (www.bbc.com)
2. The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
3. Al Jazeera (<http://english.aljazeera.net/>)

I have chosen the above sources because of the quality and scope of their reporting, and because they are free. Some might deem these sources to be left-leaning. More right-leaning, more economically driven options, which unfortunately charge for access to their websites, include:

1. The Financial Times
2. The Economist
3. The Wall Street Journal.

Information on how to sign up for discounted student subscriptions is available on Gauchospace. Note also that archived articles from these sources can be accessed for free through search engines available through the UCSB library. Instructions for how to do this are on the course website. These searchable archives will be helpful for your policy briefs but are a very inconvenient way to access daily news.

Special Needs/Language/Personal Situations;

If you have a learning disability or a language barrier that requires special consideration or arrangements, please speak with me and your TA about it. You may use a dictionary during exams. Inform your TA early in the quarter if you are working more than 20 hours per week or are experiencing language or personal problems.

Discussion Section:

Attendance will be taken in section, and participation in section (& office hours) will count 10% towards your final grade. The quality of your contributions (relevance of your comments to the readings for the day, respectfulness of others) is more important than the quantity.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION: THINKING GLOBALLY

Monday, 29 March Are Borders Irrelevant? The Global Players

READING: Friedman, “The World is Ten Years Old”; Barber, “Introduction” and “The Old Economy and the Birth of the New McWorld”. Ceglowski, “Has Globalization Created a Borderless World?”.

Wednesday, 31 March The World System: Politics and Economics

READING: Thurow, “New Rules: The American Economy in the Next Century”; So, “The World-System Perspective”

COURSE WEBSITE SUPPLEMENTARY: “The Globalization Website”, check out theories and glossary.

II. REGIONS: AN OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL REGIONS AND CURRENT ISSUES

Monday, 5 April South Asia: Globalization, Government Failure and Insurgency

READING: Zakaria, “India rising”; The Economist, “The Trials of Sheikh Hasina”, “Victory for the Tiger-Slayer”, “The Engineering Gap”, “The Taliban: Two Heads, Same Body”

Bowring, “India’s Opening with Bangladesh”, BBC “Q&A Kashmir Dispute”; Dawn, “India to get access to Headley: US”; Traub, “Can Pakistan be governed?”

COURSE WEBSITE SUPPLEMENTARY: Fareed Zakaria interviews Ahmed Rashid

Wednesday 7 April The European Union: Voluntary Supranationalism

Guest Lecture: Eve Darian-Smith, Global & International Studies/Law & Society

READING: “The European Union in Brief”

Monday 12 April Latin America: Development Strategies

READING: Green, “Growing Pains: Industrialization, the Debt Crisis and Neoliberalism”; Castaneda, “Latin America’s Left Turn” and “Adios, Monroe Doctrine”, Munoz, “Chile’s 9/11 and the legacy of General Pinochet.

Guest Lecture: Fernando Lopez-Alves, Sociology

Wednesday 14 April Africa

READING: Wade “Time for the West to practice what it preaches”; World Bank “Africa Achieving Healthy and Steady Growth Rate”, “Some interesting facts about Sub-Saharan Africa”; Queyranee “Congo: A critical political economic analysis of the war in the DRC and its effects on women”. Kristoff, “Aid – Can it Work?”; Sachs “How Aid Can Work”; Easterly “The White Man’s Burden”.

Guest Lecture: Howard Winant, Sociology

Monday 19 April China and East Asia

READING: So & Chiu, “The Semiperipheralization of the Newly Industrializing Economies”; Thornton, “Long Time Coming: The Prospects for Democracy in China”; Leung, “How Technology and Globalization will drive China in the 21st Century”; Zakaria, “Does the Future Belong to China?”.

Guest Lecture: Professor Richard Appelbaum, Global & International Studies/Sociology

Wednesday 21 April South-East Asia & the Pacific

READING: Phongpaichit & Baker, “A Different Country”; Stiglitz, “The East Asia Crisis: How IMF Policies Brought the World to The Verge of a Global Meltdown”; Rogoff “The IMF Strikes Back”; San Juan Jr. “Trajectories of the Filipino Diaspora”

Monday 26 April MIDTERM 1

Wednesday 28 April The Former Soviet Union

READINGS: Gaidar, “The Soviet Collapse: Grain and Oil”; Kramer, “Russia Shuts Off Gas Deliveries To Ukraine”;

Monday 3 May The Middle East

Guest Lecture: Marguerite Bouraad-Nash, Global & International Studies/Political Science

III. GLOBAL ISSUES

Wednesday 5 May The State of the World’s Oceans

READINGS: TBD

Guest Lecture: Dr. Andrea Neal, Ocean Futures

Monday 10 May Population, Food and Water

READINGS: Hazell, “Transforming Agriculture: The Green Revolution in Asia”, International Food Policy Research Institute, “Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Costs of Adaptation”

Wednesday 12 May West-Toxification and the Rise of Religious Nationalism

READINGS: Juergensmeyer "Religion in the New Global Order", “The Paradox of Nationalism in a Global World”; Zakaria "The only thing we have to fear"

Guest Lecture: Mark Juergensmeyer

Monday 17 May Trade, the Nation State and the Balloon Effect: Illicit Drugs

READINGS: World Drug Report, Section 1.3; Financial Times, “Guinea-Bissau Leader Killed”, “Guinea cocaine crusade nets senior officials”.

Wednesday 19 May Midterm 2

Monday 24 May National Economic Policy: Planning, Liberalism and everything in-between

READINGS: Chang, “Kicking away the ladder: the “real” history of free trade”; Bhagwati, “Feeble Critiques”; Stiglitz, “The Promise of Development”

Wednesday 26 May Is fair trade for all possible? The sobering history of coffee.

READINGS: Bates, Ch. 5, *Open Economy Politics: The Political Economy of the World Coffee Trade*; Pendergrast, Ch.5 & 10, *Uncommon Grounds: The history of coffee and how it transformed our world*
WEBSITE: Oxfam, *Mugged: Poverty in Your Cup*.

Monday 31 May Holiday

Wednesday 2 June Do we really understand Globalization? Cotton Suicides in India