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IDS4315 - Global Perspectives
Robert Bledsoe

Syllabus
Fall 2011

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	Global Perspectives
Course ID & Section	IDS4315-0W59
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Fall 2011
Location	Web-based

Course Description

Global Perspectives is a one-semester course designed to introduce the student to major global issues as viewed from varying perspectives. Scholars tell

us that what we see depends on where we sit; or what we see depends on the prescription of the glasses we wear. We will learn of various seats or glasses and then test selected global problems/issues against each of them. As John Stuart Mill observed : "He who knows only his side of the case knows little of it." To address an issue, we need to know where people are "coming from." The course is a core requirement for the International and Global Studies major (and minor) as well as an elective in the International/Comparative track of the Political Science major, the Political Science minor, and the Interdisciplinary Studies program.

Course Objectives

- Introduce the student to global long-term trends and the process of globalization
- Gain an understanding of global issues resulting from these trends, processes, and issues
- Become aware of the varying perspectives one can have on these trends, processes, and issues
- Gain an appreciation of how these perspectives shape the future of the international system
- Think critically about the varied impact of globalization upon the human condition

The primary purpose of the course is to nurture basic tools for you to better understand the world in which we live and how it is viewed from various lens/perspectives. These tools include critical thinking, appreciation of diversity, and accessing technology. **Critical thinking** is central to the analysis and assessment of the varied regional and global issues confronting humankind; **diversity** influences our choices and opportunities both within our community/country and our participation in the global community; and **technology** is an incredible door to introduce you to ideas you may have never before pondered.

Required Text

All students must purchase Henry R. Nau, *Perspectives on International Relations*. 3rd ed. CQ Press. 2012. ISBN:978-1-60426-732-7. The textbook is available at the UCF Bookstore and possibly off-campus bookstores as well as commercial web and rental sites. The textbook website is http://nau.cqpress.com.

Course Requirements

The course will consist of a series of **Learning Modules** based upon **Chapters** in your textbook (including reading each chapter and taking an **Assessment** on each chapter) and completing Learning Module **Assignments**.

Without the confines of scheduled class attendance, you must manage your time wisely. Refer to both the **Schedule** and the **Calendar** for availability and due dates for elements of the course. In order to keep up, you should schedule yourself to do a Module (reading, assessment, and assignment) each week. Putting off doing all the modules until the deadline will spell disaster for you!

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

There should be no missed assessments and assignments, since all are available for extended periods of time. If you wait until the last minute and the server is down, there are technical issues, or your computer crashes, that is not my problem. There is no extra credit built into the course.

Evaluation and Grading

The course grade is based upon completion of module assignments and assessments.If it is found that you are submitting work done by someone else, the minimum penalty will be a zero on the assignment or assessment and persistent infractions will lead to academic disciplinary action (see Academic Honesty section below).

To calculate your grade, each Module is worth 30 points (5 points for each of the two Assessments and 20 points for the Assignment) for a total of 210 points.In addition, you will receive 10 points for completing Module 0 (5 points for the email and 5 points for the eCommunity portions of the module).Thus the maximum point count is 220.Take your total point earned and divide by 220.Move your decimal over two places and you will have your % of the maximum points.

Assignment	Points
Module 0	10
Module 1	30
Module 2	30
Module 3	30
Module 4	30
Module 5	30
Module 6	30
Module 7	30
TOTAL	220

Letter Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

NOTE: There are no + or - grades for the final course grade.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

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File: Schedule

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Schedule

Week/Date	Topic	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1	Module 0: Introductory (opens 08/22/11)	• Email Instructor • Enter info in eCommunity • Read textbook Introduction	08/30/11
Weeks 1-2	Module 1: Perspectives on International Relations (opens 08/22/11)	• Read Chapters 1,2 • Take Assessments 1,2 • Complete web essay Assignment	09/06/11
Weeks 3-4	Module 2: Post-war World (opens 08/22/11)	• Read Chapters 4,5 • Take Assessments 4,5 • Complete web essay Assignment	09/20/11
Weeks 5-6	Module 3: Terrorism (opens 08/22/11)	• Read Chapters 6,7 • Take Assessments 6,7 • Complete web essay Assignment	10/04/11
Weeks 7-8	Module 4: Globalization (opens 08/22/11)	• Read Chapters 8,9 • Take Assessments 8,9 • Complete web essay Assignment	10/21/11

Weeks 9-10	Module 5: Global Inequality (opens 08/22/11)	• Read Chapters 10,13 • Take Assessments 10,13 • Complete web essay Assignment	11/04/11
Weeks 11-12	Module 6: Environment (opens 08/22/11)	• Read Chapter 14 • Take Assessment 14 • Complete web essay Assignment	11/21/11
Weeks 13-14	Module 7: Human Rights (opens 08/22/11)	• Read Chapters 15,16 • Take Assessments 15,16 • Complete web essay Assignment	12/02/11
	There is no Final Exam		

Note: All dates are subject to change by Dr. Bledsoe. Routinely check the class **Discussion** and **Calendar** for any changes or updates.

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Protocols

Classroom Expectations

The following ground rules will help your work in this course to go much more smoothly. Please carefully review these expectations and follow them.

1. Academic integrity will be appraised according to the student academic

behavior standards outlined in The Golden Rule of the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook. See http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/ for further details.

2. Don't turn in late assignments. Late submissions will not be accepted.

3. Keep up with the readings. You have thirteen chapters to read; thirteen assessments to take; and seven web essays to complete. Students who keep up with the modules tend to do much better in this kind of class than those who put everything off until the last minute.

4. Don't miss an assessment. Missed assessments may not be retaken.

5. All of your work is to be done individually. There are no Group projects in this course.

E-mail

E-mail is not a graded component of this course but is an integral part of communicating and if necessary submitting assignments. Make sure you:

1. Check your e-mail at least twice per week (more often is better).

2. Be patient. Don't expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, two days is considered a reasonable amount of time to receive a reply (not counting weekends).

3. Inside the course mail function, in the "Subject" heading use something that is descriptive and refers to a particular assignment or topic. If you are communicating outside of the course mail function, use the course title in the Subject heading so I know you are a student in the class. If there is nothing that links your e-mail to the class, I will delete it as spam.

4. Be courteous and considerate. Being honest and expressing yourself freely is very important but being considerate of others online is just as important as in the classroom.

5. Make every effort to be clear. Online communication lacks the nonverbal cues that fill in much of the meaning in face-to-face communication.

6. Do not use all caps. This makes the message very hard to read and is considered "shouting." Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation (you may want to compose in a word processor, then cut and paste the message into the discussion or e-mail).

7. Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.

8. Sign your e-mail messages if it is outside of the course mail function. Otherwise, I will not likely recognize you.

9. Never assume that your e-mail can be read by no one except yourself; others may be able to read or access your mail. Never send or keep anything that you would not like seeing on the evening news (think of the Mark Foley scandal where a Florida Congressman was emailing Congressional Pages with questionable content). My AOL account is private but the UCF Groupwise account (mail.ucf.edu) is public domain, so choose accordingly.

Note: Review the Netiquette, Viruses and Technical Resources sections below.

Discussion

Many of the "rules of the road" or protocols that apply to e-mail also apply to the use of discussions. Use the following conventions when composing a discussion posting:

1. There are no discussion assignments as part of your course grade. It is an excellent means of communicating with your peers, asking questions about assignments or seeking help in finding correct links to material in modules. Since you may be encountering a similar problem that one of your colleagues already has asked and received information or help, it is a good practice to always check the Discussions function multiple times during the week.

2. I encourage all of you to help one another if there are difficulties or confusion. Be a good Samaritan.

3. If you want to send a personal message to the instructor or to another student, use e-mail rather than the discussions (see above E-mail Protocols).

4. Use the appropriate Discussion Topic. Use the Technical Discussion topic

for assistance with technical issues. Use the Student to Student Discussion topic for questions about course material or assignments. "Messages from the Prof" is reserved for me.

5. Be patient. Don't expect an immediate response when you send a message.

6. A helpful hint for use with both discussions and e-mail --- Compose your message in your word-processing application in order to check spelling, punctuation, and grammar --- then copy and paste your composition into e-mail or the discussion. This also saves online time. Poor spelling, punctuation, and grammar reflect poorly upon you. There are certain words that are central to a subject and your inability to spell them correctly is the equivalent to functional illiteracy. If you were applying to a professional grade civil service position and spelled government "goverment" or applied for a foreign service position and spelled it "foriegn," your application would likely not be well-received.

7. Be courteous and considerate. It is important to be honest and to express yourself freely, but being considerate of others is just as important and expected online, as it is in the classroom.

8. Use the "reply" button rather than the "compose" button if you are replying to someone else's posting.

9. Avoid posting large blocks of text. If you must, break them into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.

Note: Review the Netiquette, Viruses and Technical Resources sections below.

Netiquette

"Netiquette" has evolved to aid us in infusing our electronic communications with some of these missing behavioral pieces. "Emoticons" and other tools have become popular and I encourage their use when it will add to the clarity of your communication.

:-)
happy, pleased
:-(
sad, displeased
:-O
surprised
>:-|

angry

Abbreviate when possible. Examples:

LOL
laugh out loud, "I find this funny"
ROFL
rolling on floor laughing, really funny
BTW
by the way
grin
smiling
IMHO
in my humble opinion
FYI
for your info
Flame
antagonistic criticism

Netiquette continues to evolve and I am sure that we will have constant additions to this growing language. The important thing to remember is that all of the "cute" symbols in the world cannot replace your careful choice of words and "tone" in your communication.

You can learn more about Netiquette and electronic communication by visiting Learning Online.

Viruses

A virus can spell disaster. Your use of a reputable anti-virus program is a requirement for participation in this course (good ones include McAfee or Norton).

Also, back up your files: "My hard drive crashed." "My modem doesn't work." "My printer is out of ink." These are today's equivalents of "My dog ate my homework." And these events really do occur and they are really inconvenient when they do. However, these are not valid excuses for failing to get your work in on time.

Technical Resources

For specific problems in any of the areas below or for further information go to the corresponding link for assistance.

- UCF Home Page will help find UCF resources
- UCF Computer Service Desk – You can also call the Service Desk at 407-823-5117.

- Learning Online This site provides information on study skills for distance learners, the library and the writing center.
- Buying a new computer or upgrading your current equipment – http://www.cstore.ucf.edu/
- Hardware/Software Requirements
- Technical Discussion Topic: If you have technical questions and/or problems, please post a message to the Technical Discussion Topic. I encourage members of the class who are technically proficient to also monitor this discussion topic and assist your classmates.
- If your equipment problems prevent you from using e-mail from home, there are many computer labs on campus and virtually every public library offers Internet access.

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