

GLOBAL ISSUES
PLSC 120
Winter 2016

Professor: Nitya Singh

Email: nitya.singh@emich.edu

Office Hours: Online

Students may also contact me via email if they have any questions.

Section/CRN: 26545 - PLSC 120.

Location: Online (<https://canvas.emich.edu/>)

Online Class: Lectures Online

Course Overview

This course examines global concerns that transcend boundaries of local and national communities. It emphasizes global perspectives and approaches to analyzing and solving world problems. Each week will focus on a particular contemporary global issue (such as terrorism, genocide, human rights, global gender issues, ethnic identity/conflict, migration, and democratization). This course is intended to provide a basic theoretical grounding of some of the challenges and opportunities facing the world, and how we can understand them. At the end of this course the students should have had developed a basic level of awareness of global challenges, and how these global events are impacting and changing our lives. In this class, we will discuss all the contemporary global issues on a week by week basis.

This course is part of the General Education Program. Some of the objectives of this course are:-

- Explore specific global issues influencing diverse nations and/or cultures, along with their interrelations within the global community.
- Explore their own culture and cultural practices and how these relate to the cultures and cultural practices of others in the global community.
- Explore the social and historical dynamics that create and influence nations, governments, global alliances, and global conflicts.
- Explore the causes and consequences of social, cultural, and racial intolerance in the world.
- Analyze and synthesize information from diverse sources to make informed decisions regarding global issues.

Materials

There is one required text book for this class. This book is available for purchase either at the campus bookstore or through any online vendor:

1. **James Lee Ray and Juliet Kaarbo. Global Politics. 10th Edition (Wadsworth Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-0-495-80264-8. (R&K)**

An important component in understanding the ideas in global politics is being able to relate them to current political events happening across the world. Therefore in this class we will discuss world events and as students you should be aware of them. I would encourage that you should daily keep a track of the major global happenings and events during the course of the semester

Some of the websites that can be of help are mentioned. (www.cnn.com, www.bbc.co.uk/news, abcnews.go.com etc.)

Course Requirements

The class will involve a combination of online lectures, tests as well as exams. My expectations for a student taking this course are that you access the online power point presentations posted online, stay current with the Reading Assignments, and regularly read news coverage of current events. The class has an Canvas (www.Canvas.edu) link and therefore you are required to logon to the site for the classes, assigned readings as well as other notes.

My office hours are held online. Therefore you can come online and interact with me or send me an email and I will be happy to reply back to you.

Grades, Assignments and Evaluation

The final grade in the class will be cumulative and will be calculated out of a total of 1000 points. The course letter grade assignment is mentioned below.

Course Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

500 – Cumulative Final Examination
500 – Tests (5 Tests, Each worth 100 points)

A = 93-100%	A = 930-1000
A- = 90-92%	A- = 900-929
B+ = 87-89%	B+ = 870-899
B = 83-86%	B = 830-869
B- = 80-82%	B- = 800-829
C+ = 77-79%	C+ = 770-799
C = 73-76%	C = 730-769
C- = 70-72%	C- = 700-729
D+ = 65-69%	D+ = 650-699
D = 60-64%	D = 600-649
D- = 55-59%	D- = 550-599
E = below 55%	E = 549 & below

Exams (50% or 500 Points)

The mid-term exam will occur after the major concepts in global issues have been taught, and will consist of essay type, multiple choices, fill in the blanks and True/False answer questions in any or all combinations. The final exam will be cumulative and will have the same format as the mid-term exam. All the exams are online and these exams can only be taken once.

Tests (50% or 500 Points)

We will also have 5 Tests during the course of the semester and each Test will be worth 100 points. The format of the tests will be a combination of multiple choices, fill in the blanks and True/False answer questions in any or all combinations. These Tests will be held at the end of each week. Please refer to the syllabus for the dates on which these tests are scheduled.

Academic Honesty

I have a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty and every student is expected to adhere to Eastern Michigan University's policy on academic honesty. If caught cheating on exams, turning in someone else's written work, or plagiarizing another's work you will fail this course. Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating, falsification, and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this course. Penalties for an act of academic dishonesty may range from receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, you may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The Student Conduct Code contains detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty but if you are not sure about whether something you are doing would be considered academic dishonesty, consult with the course instructor. You may access the Code online at: www.emich.edu/studentconduct/.

I would like to emphasize that you should **not assume** what any of the policies imply. If you are in any doubt regarding any of the course policies I encourage you to come and talk to me. Furthermore you should **always check** with me whether it is acceptable to work together with another student on a project or assignment; until so assigned to by the instructor.

Students with Special Needs

If you wish to be accommodated for your disability, EMU Board of Regents Policy 8.3 requires that you first register with the Students with Disabilities Office (SDO) in 240 EMU Student Center. You may contact SDO by telephone (734.487.2470). Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the SDO promptly as you will only be accommodated from the date you register with them forward. No retroactive accommodations are possible.

Note on Grading Methods and Syllabus

All tests and papers will be graded blind by the instructor. If a student would like to appeal the grading of a question, he or she should submit to the instructor his or her grievance in writing, explaining why he or she feels that the *given response* was inadequately assessed. The status of students' scholarship, potential entrance into law school / grad school will not be taken into consideration in grading.

In addition this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Such changes will be announced in a fair and timely manner.

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

Week 1: Theoretical Perspectives and Historical Background (January 6)

Wednesday: Introduction to the class

- Chapter 2 (R&K)

Week 2: Major Theories of International Relations (January 11 and 13)

Monday

- Chapter 1 (R&K)

Wednesday

- Chapter 3 (R&K)

Week 3: Major Theories of International Relations (January 18 and 20)

Monday

- Chapter 4 (R&K)

Wednesday

- Chapter 5 (R&K)

Week 4: Globalization and Test 1 (January 25 and 27)

Monday

- **Test 1**

Wednesday

- Chapter 10 (R&K)

Week 5: Globalization Continued (February 1 and 3)

Monday

- Chapter 11 (R&K)

Wednesday

- Chapter 12 and Chapter 14 (R&K)

Week 6: Foreign Policy of Major Countries and Test 2 (February 8 and 10)

Monday

- **Test 2**

Wednesday

- Foreign Policy of the United States of America (No readings. For more information see the PowerPoint slides posted on Canvas)

Week 7: Foreign Policy of Major Countries Continued (February 15 and 17)

Monday: Foreign Policy of India, China (No readings. For more information see the PowerPoint slides posted on Canvas)

Wednesday: Foreign Policy of Iran and North Korea (No readings. For more information see the PowerPoint slides posted on Canvas)

Week 8: Winter Break

2/22 – 2/28 – No Class (Winter Break)

Week 9: International Conflict and Test 3 (March 7 and 9)

Monday

- **Test 3**

Wednesday

- Chapter 6 and 8 (R&K)

Week 10: Weapons of Mass Destruction (March 14 and 16)

Monday and Wednesday: What are WMD's.

- Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Weapons
- India, Pakistan, North Korea, Iran
- No readings. For more information see the PowerPoint slides posted on Canvas.

Week 11: Test 4 and Terrorism (March 21 and 23)

Monday

- Chapter 7 (R&K) on Terrorism.
- Also we will discuss about the role of Intelligence in combating terrorism.
- No readings. For more information see the PowerPoint slides posted on Canvas

Wednesday

- **TEST 4**

Week 12: International Organization, UN, NGO's (March 28 and 30)

Monday

- Chapter 9 (R&K) – What are International Organizations

Wednesday

- United Nations
- No readings. For more information see the PowerPoint slides posted on Canvas

Week 13: Intelligence Services (April 4 and 6)

Monday:

- Intelligence Services
- No readings. For more information see the PowerPoint slides posted on Canvas.

Wednesday: **Test 5**

Week 14: International Development (April 11 and 13)

Monday: The North South Gap

- No readings. For more information see the PowerPoint slides posted on Canvas.

Wednesday: International Economic Development

- No readings. For more information see the PowerPoint slides posted on Canvas

Week 15: Final Examination (April 18 to April 24)

Final Examination: Can be taken anytime between December April 18 and April 24 (Online)