

**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
PLSC 120 GLOBAL ISSUES – SECT. 02
Fall 2013**

Instructor: Dr. Genevieve E. Meyers
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Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00am – 3:15pm
Location: Marshall 203
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 3:30pm – 4:30pm, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

People of diverse cultural and national backgrounds and experiences are relating to each other much more frequently and intensively, all around the world, than ever before. Global trade, the Internet, climate, migration, terrorism and concepts of human rights are just a few of the many types of interactions that are bringing distant people together in ways that may involve conflict or collaboration. This course will help develop awareness of the changing global context in which we live, of the importance of appreciating diverse perspectives and of the need for building bridges of communication and tolerance to address shared global challenges. Many global issues are controversial and subject to varying perspectives. Each semester, the course will focus on a particular contemporary global issues (such as terrorism, genocide, human rights, global gender issues, ethnic identity and conflict, migration and democratization), not to find a single “correct” solution, but rather to develop skills in analyzing diverse interpretations and considering our own roles and civic responsibilities on a global scale.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

The format of this course combines lectures, discussions, quizzes, and assignments based on readings. In order to have an informative and fun class, you should cover the assigned readings, attend class, contribute to discussions and ask questions when you feel the need to. To advance this process, each student is expected to have short notes about the assigned readings to use in the discussion.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Michael T. Snarr and D. Neil Snarr (eds). 2012. *Introducing Global Issues* (5th edition). Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

The textbook can be found at the University bookstore or from various online bookstores such as Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.com etc.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Readings

The syllabus indicates the required readings. **Students are expected to have completed the required readings before each class.** Take time to read them analytically, carefully, and reflectively. You are expected to make short notes as you read noting in particular the major thesis of the reading, points that impress you the most, answers to some questions that you have, and remember you do not have to agree with the readings; so write down your critiques as well. Bring your notes to class for the discussion. Success in the course requires a demonstrated familiarity with and understanding of the material presented in the class discussions and the readings. Needless to state, regular class attendance is necessary.

Assignments

- a) Class quizzes will be held every Thursday and if missed will not be made up.
- b) A midterm exam

The midterm will cover the first eight chapters and will be an in-class exam.

- c) A final exam

The final exam will cover chapters 9 -16 and will be an in-class exam.

- d) Class participation

Active participation in discussions is critical. Therefore, regular class attendance is necessary. Each student is expected to be able to write a short paragraph on each of the topics being covered and use it in the discussions.

A more detailed description of the above-mentioned assignments and exams shall be given during the course.

COURSE GRADING:

Class participation and attendance	20%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	30%
Total	100%

Grading scale:

GRADE	TOTAL POINTS
A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	0-59

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICIES:

- Students are encouraged to keep time and keep their cell phones off during class time. If a student is unable to come to class, she/he is advised to inform the instructor in advance and will bear the responsibility of obtaining missed material from classmates.
- As a courtesy to fellow students, everyone is expected to arrive ready for class at 2:00pm. If you anticipate not being able to attend the class, please notify the instructor and plan to acquire notes and/or handouts from another student.
- Students should refrain from class abstentions and late coming. Students are to remain in class until the completion of the class period. Habitual absence, lateness, and leaving class before time shall result in low final grades. All students are expected to read the required chapters before class.
- All take home written assignments are due at the end of the class period of the date specified in the course syllabus. Late assignments will lose 1 point grade for each late submission day. Students are advised to undertake extensive research in answering take home assignments. Where other books, journals and newspapers are used, care should be taken to indicate so by offering footnotes or citations in inverted comas with the source of the information. Failure to indicate source or failure to acknowledge cited work as not your own will be cause for a charge of plagiarism.
- Assignments **should not** be electronically mailed.
- If a student cannot attend class when an examination is given, she/he must make arrangements to take the test **BEFORE** the assigned date.
- The deadline to withdraw from the course with a "W" grade is November 12, 2013.
- Lap tops and other tablets are **not allowed** in the class.
- Cell phones **must be turned off** and put kept out of reach during the class.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

There are no computer requirements for this course.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY: All students should be familiar with the university's policy concerning academic dishonesty. This policy can be found at:

http://www.emich.edu/studentconduct/facultylinks/academic_integrity.php

POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

The University has a disability resource center. For more information go to the following website: www.emich.edu/drc/

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: Students can find information concerning the university's policy regarding inclement weather on:

<http://www.emich.edu/univcomm/emuclosings.html>

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week of Sept. 3

- Introduction to the course and a walk through the course outline.

Week of Sept. 10 Introducing Globalization and Global Issues

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapter 1

Week of Sept. 17 Weapons Proliferation and Conflict

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapter 2

Week of Jan. 24 Nationalism

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapter 3

Week of Oct. 1 Human Rights in a Changing World and Global Security

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapter 4 and Chapter 5

Week of Oct. 8 Free Trade vs. Protectionism

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapter 6

Week of Oct. 15 The Political Economy of Development

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapter 7

Week of Oct. 22 Poverty and Inequality in a Global Economy

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapter 8
- Give students guidelines for midterm exam

Week of Oct. 29 Population and Migration

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapter 9
- **MID-TERM EXAM – Thursday Oct.31**

Week of Nov. 5 Women and Development, Children

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapters 10 and 11

Week of Nov. 12 Health

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapter 12

Week of Nov. 19 Sustainable Development

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapters 13

Week of Nov. 26 Regulating the Atmospheric Commons

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapters 14
- **NO CLASS ON THURSDAY NOV. 28 – Happy Thanksgiving!**

Week of Dec. 3 Conflict and Cooperation over Natural Resources

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapter 15

Week of Dec. 10 Future Prospects

- Snarr and Snarr, Chapter 16
- Give guidelines for final exam

Week of Dec. 17

- **FINAL EXAM: Thursday Dec. 19 11:00am – 12:30pm**