Contact information

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Communication: I intend to be approachable and available to all students in an effective and open learning atmosphere and to that end, look forward to meeting with each of you regarding class and other academic matters and we ask that students follow these guidelines.

1. Please ask questions during class, listed office hours, and before or after class. This time is set aside specifically for you, please take advantage of it.

2. Outside of these times, please email questions rather than call and leave messages. I am much more easily reached by email.

3. Be patient; if you email after 8pm or at 1:30am or 5am do not expect a prompt response. I will respond within 24 hours during the week, longer on the weekends.

4. Read the syllabus…many answers to your questions are there. You will then have immediate answers and will not need to wait for my (hopefully still on-time) response.

THANK YOU

Purpose of the course

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to many of the global issues we face as citizens of an increasingly connected world and the different patterns and ideas that help explain how the international system operates. Lecture, discussion, reading and writing assignments will encourage critical thinking about many of the political, social, economic,
and security issues that face us as both American citizens and members of the international community.

UNG General Education Learning Outcomes

This course addresses the following learning outcomes:

The student will:

1. Communicate effectively using multiple literacies and forms of expression;

2. Demonstrate analytic, contextual, and holistic thinking;

3. Engage in integrative learning;

4. Reflect critically and take informed action individually as citizens;

5. Analyze ethical interactions in local and global communities.

Course objectives and teaching philosophy

1. To introduce students to the theories and structures of international politics.

2. To introduce students to some of the important global issues facing our world.

3. To give students the opportunity to study a specific global issue of interest.

4. To encourage students to read the international news, overcome the one-sidedness of global media and enable them to become more informed, involved citizens.

5. To teach students to do introductory research and apply what they find to a particular issue and written assignment.

6. To encourage learning and respect of the opinions of others.

7. To enjoy coming to class and learning about the world.

Teaching Philosophy and Strategy – No knowledge of politics or the international system is necessary to excel in this course. What is
necessary is a desire to learn, discuss and share your opinions with others. This class will be structured around a class dialogue in which information, knowledge, and thought will be generated through discussion. While I will guide class discussions and provide lecture and background information, a good portion of the course will require your participation and opinion. I will quickly learn your names and you are expected to participate in class regularly.

Success in this course

You will earn a good grade in this course (A or B) by doing the following: 1) showing up consistently for class; 2) completing quality assignments and readings on time; 3) participating in class discussions; 4) taking good notes; and 5) having an open mind. The key to this class and ultimately the key to succeeding in college is showing up, paying attention, and getting involved in the course and its subject. Participation during class and critical thinking about its subject matter is the key to a good grade.

Required book


Requirements and grading scale – 450 points total

**Participation and attendance:** Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at every class. While I do not expect you to be familiar with all of the issues we discuss, only by reading, thinking about what you read, coming to class, and expressing your opinion will you learn. No reasoned/supported opinion is wrong (that’s why it’s called opinion). Every adequately argued viewpoint is of value to a learning atmosphere and I expect each of you to participate on a daily basis (50 points).

**Written assignments:** Four assignments due to Turnitin.com which involve applying concepts from the course to your “news assignment” topic. These are due on certain Fridays and correspond to in-class discussions. See schedule below for details. (25 points each; 100 points total)

**2 Exams:** Identification, matching, map quizzes (100pts each; 200pts total)
Common Assignment Paper: each student must write a 1200-1500 word paper based on their critical analysis of an assigned article dealing with a current global issue (100 points)

Grading Scale  A: 90 – 100, B: 80 – 89, C: 70 – 79, D: 60 – 69, F below 60

Make up tests and assignments

If you miss a test, assignment or paper there may be an opportunity for a make-up as long as you contact me with a valid and substantiated excuse within 48 hours of the exam. You must have a valid reason why you missed the test and be able to strongly support your position. If you are sick go to the University Health Center or your personal doctor and get checked out, and obtain documentation with the dates and times you were unable to attend school. You must have full and verifiable documentation in order to qualify for a make-up. Be aware that make ups are given at the sole discretion of the instructor, Dr. Miner. Any test make-up will be in the form that the instructor chooses, normally all essay, and will be far more difficult than the original. Make up exams are a far more likely possibility if you contact me in advance. After the exam, paper, or assignment is due your chances of a makeup drop dramatically.

Turnitin.com

All written assignments are to be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin class id: 10292061 and password “Scott” (the author of our textbook).

Course schedule (may be modified for teaching purposes)

Introduction: Why study global issues? (Week of August 17th)
Analyzing security in a complicated world, IR Chapter 1
Written assignment #1: What’s your News Assignment topic about?
In-class discussion

The Structure of the International System (Week of August 24th)

Actors in the global system; who has power? IR Chapter 2
Friday discussion: what’s the content of your news topic?

Using IR theory to understand Global Issues (Weeks of August 31st, September 7th & 14th)

No class September 7th – Labor Day Holiday
Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism & World Systems Theory, IR Chapters 3 and 4
Friday discussion: Realism & Liberalism and your news topic
Friday discussion: Constructivism & WST and your news topic

No class the week of September 14th – I am at a conference
Friday assignment #2: How does IR theory explain a zombie apocalypse?

War, Power and Conflict (Week of September 21st)
The changing nature of conflict, IR Chapter 5
Friday discussion: How can states and the international system combat terrorism? Discussion of Islamic State and Boko Haram

Exam 1 (Week of September 28th)
Review Monday; Exam 1 Wednesday and Friday

International Cooperation and Law (Weeks of October 5th and 12th)
Applying IR Theory to Cooperation in the United Nations and the European Union, IR Chapter 7
Friday discussion: The UN and your news assignment topic
Friday discussion: The EU and Greece
(Week of October 19th)
Global Issues Common Assignment explained
How does the International Economic System Function? IR Chapter 8
Written assignment #3: International economics and your news issue

International Economics (Week of October 26th)
How does the International Economic System Function? IR Chapter 9
Friday discussion: Internet security and economics

International Economic Organizations (Week of November 2nd)
Who runs the Economic System and how does everyone benefit? IR Chapter 10
Written assignment #4: The Global Recession / US deficit

Transnational Advocacy Networks (Week of November 9th)
Non-state actors and 21st Century Power, IR Chapter 13
Friday discussion: TAN’s, a force for good as well as evil
Course policies

Attendance Policy:

Class attendance is mandatory and will be taken at every class using a sign in sheet that I pass around the class.

I will learn your names within weeks using a seating chart, and if you miss the attendance sheet because you are late or leave early or forget to sign in you will be counted absent.

Each student must sign his/her own name on the attendance sheet. Dishonesty in attendance, signing others names, etc. will be dealt with using UNG dishonesty policies including, but not limited to, an academic warning, disciplinary write-up and/or expulsion from the course. Additional course academic dishonesty policies are listed below.

You are allowed five absences without penalty. Absences in excess of this amount will result in the student being dropped from the course and/or severely penalized in terms of their participation grade.
When possible, students are asked to notify the instructor of absences prior to the date the student will not be attending class. This will allow the student to know if the absence will be considered an excused absence and whether or not assignments or papers need to be turned in early or if quizzes or exams need to be taken early. Students should also recognize that documentation may be required for absences if they are considered excusable absences by the instructor. It remains at the instructor’s discretion whether or not this will be an excused absence from class. If you miss class you are responsible for getting the class material that was covered that day; the instructor and teaching assistant are not responsible for providing the day’s material for an absent student whether or not that student absence is excused.

The bottom line: come to class. If you miss I must have a definitive written excuse on paper or by email within 48 hours of the absence (school days).

If any student in this class is a member of a varsity athletic team or other university organization that requires frequent travel, you must present a schedule of the organization’s events to me during the first two weeks of classes. Additionally, if any of these absences interfere with examination times, a make-up exam must be scheduled. The scheduling of the make-up exam must be done with consultation with the instructor no more than 2 weeks after the exam date.

Participation grading:

The participation portion of the grade will be based on how actively a student participates by answering questions raised in class, contributing to class discussions in a meaningful way, or by raising questions that are central to understanding the material covered. As I will know your names I will be able to determine who is participating and who is not.

Participation in class is an essential part of the transfer of information and knowledge, a crucial component of the learning process. Education is just as much about conveying information in a way that others can understand it as it is about learning new information. Possessing knowledge and information loses some of its value if an individual possessing that knowledge and information does not have the ability to pass it to another.

I understand if you are not comfortable speaking in class. Part of the learning process involves overcoming those fears and speaking up. However, if you are not comfortable speaking in class every day, or consistently enough to earn the grade you would like, please come talk to me and we can work out another way for you to give input.
Participation can also be earned through consistent attendance, interest and alertness shown in class, as well as visitation and questions asked during office hours.

If you choose not to speak in class you can only earn a maximum of 43/50 attendance points with five absences or less.

**Discussion ground rules:**

**Goals**

1. We learn better together than alone. These are complicated issues. Hearing other students’ opinions allows us to look at issues in a way we might not have thought of before.
2. Discussions allow everyone to give their own opinions based on the readings, discussion and personal beliefs.
3. They enable students to better analyze issues and make you more comfortable speaking in class, something you will need in upper-level classes.

**Expectations**

1. I expect all of you to be in class, attentive and participate every day. This means giving your opinion on the subject being discussed and the reading assigned, either in class visitation during office hours.
2. You do not need to be right, brilliant, or the most persuasive participant. What I am looking for is effort in giving a well-thought out answer.
3. I expect that you will participate without being called on…
4. …but since I know your name I will call on you.

**Ground Rules**

1. Everyone gets a chance to participate. Do not monopolize discussion.
2. Let people finish their thoughts. Don’t interrupt others while they are speaking.
3. No personal attacks. ALL opinions are valid.
4. Side discussions are encouraged during class BUT should not be so loud as to drown out the person speaking.

**Turnitin.com information**

**Turnitin Statement**

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of
plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Academic Integrity Policy

Honor Code: “On my honor, I will not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, evade the truth or tolerate those who do” (2013-2014 Undergraduate Catalogue, Academic Information section, Academic Integrity sub-section).

To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use

- another person’s idea, opinion, or theory;

- any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings—any pieces of information—that are not common knowledge;

- quotations of another person’s actual spoken or written words; or

- paraphrase of another person's spoken or written words.

- Plagiarism also includes the repeated use of a student’s work from another assignment or class. In other words, a student cannot “recycle” his/her own work from another assignment in the class or any other class and re-use it. Citing prior work also does not get around plagiarism; each assignment must be original.

If the professor concludes that a violation of the Academic Integrity policy has occurred, the professor can (1) penalize the student and file and incident report with the Academic Integrity Council or (2) refer the matter directly to the Academic Integrity Council. If an incident report is filed, the professor will review the completed report with the student and will request that the student sign the report as an indication that the student is aware of its contents.

“Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site (Turnitin.com)."
If you are caught plagiarizing you will receive a zero on the test, assignment or paper without the opportunity for a second chance; the instructor also reserves the right to fail a student for the course.

University Academic Policies

UNG academic policies are found at the following link:  http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php

News Assignment

You are each assigned a News Assignment topic which you follow during the entire semester. Once chosen, each student will use the same topic for all four written assignments; you are not to switch topics. The goal is to enable you to learn about a topic in some depth, how to apply ideas and concepts from Global Issues to that topic and share your findings with the class.

PART 1: read and summarize two (2) interesting and relevant articles from different news sources that talk about the global issue topic. News sources can be newspapers, magazines, blogs...any internet or paper news source…but you are not allowed to use a source twice. So, for example, you cannot use the Atlanta-Journal Constitution, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune more than once for the entire semester. Using a source for more than one article will result in a zero for the assignment that duplicates a source. I am looking for a concise yet thorough description of the article’s content.

PART 2: apply the assigned questions for the written assignment to the articles you have chosen to summarize, fully explaining how they go together and applying the assigned concept to your News Assignment topic. You can do this in any way that makes sense to you and is an accurate usage of the concept, term, or answer to the question asked. I am looking for an understanding of Global Issues concepts and their application to the real world.

Summarize both articles on a single word-processing document in two detailed, 7-10 sentence paragraphs, one paragraph for each article. A good rule of thumb in doing these assignments is to remember that I am not reading the articles, so it is your job to fully explain and summarize them, as well as apply them to the questions asked for that week. Clear/detailed writing will earn the most points, and short submissions with a lack of detail and explanation will receive fewer points. A good overall length is 1 to 1 ½ single-spaced pages. Other tips:

- Citations for your articles must be done using APA format http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/.
- Please single-space your assignment and use a regular font and font size such as Times New Roman 12pt font. One inch margins are suggested.
- Due dates are on the syllabus and Turnitin.com; no late assignments will be accepted without proper documentation, so do not ask!
You must upload your assignment to Turnitin.com (do not load the articles)

Topic assignments – and assigned students by academic major:

1. The Islamic State – all International Affairs/Political Science majors
2. Internet security – all Computer Science majors
3. Greece’s economic default – all Business majors
4. The African terrorist group, Boko Haram – all Criminal Justice majors
5. The fight for women’s and children’s rights around the world – all Education/Science majors

Please look at the following International Affairs Research Guide on the UNG website for leads on how to find news articles about your topic:
http://libguides.ung.edu/content.php?pid=283990&sid=2338014

You are also free to do Google or other web searches, and to use old fashioned newspapers!

Common Assignment Paper – article assignments will be provided in October

The common assignment for POLS 2401—Global Issues is an analytical essay. This paper should consist of 1200-1500 words. It must be typed following APA style (or similar), 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spacing, page-numbered and one-inch margins

This assignment addresses the University System of Georgia Learning Outcome II: Global Perspective -- Students will analyze political, cultural, or socioeconomic interactions among people and cultures of the world.

To prevent instances of cheating and plagiarism, all papers must be submitted through Turnitin.com. Through Turnitin.com, the instructor will need to create an account and password for the class, and within that class, create an assignment. The account ID and password created by the instructor needs to be provided to the students, along with the deadline (date and time) so that the students can complete the assignment on time.

Students need to answer the following four questions:

**Question #1**: What is the global issue raised in this article? Provide specific examples from the article to support your answer.

**Question #2**: What is the main argument put forth by the author(s) in discussing this global issue? What theoretical perspective (i.e., realist, liberal, radical, etc.) and/or empirical evidence do the authors use to support their argument(s)? Are they successful in effectively demonstrating their points? Provide specific examples from the article to support your answer.

**Question #3**: Identify the main actors in the international system affected by this global issue and at which particular level of analysis that actor operates (individual, state/domestic, and
systemic/global). How does this global issue affect the different actors in the international system, for example individuals, states, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, etc.? Provide specific examples to illustrate your points.

**Question #4:** Considering the relevance of this issue today, what should be done in the future? What actors should respond and how? In your answer address the impact on and/or response by individuals, states, and transnational actors (IGOs, NGOs, etc.).