

## CSC/ECN/GEG/PLS/SOC 3100

### Global Threats and Problems

Spring 2013

12:30-1:45p; 3040 Physical Science Building

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This is an interdisciplinary study of current global problems. Four different social scientific approaches will be used to analyze complex questions regarding the survival of humanity given current threats to our environments, cultures, geopolitical affiliations, and socioeconomic structures. This semester topics will include famine, terrorism/war, and natural disasters.

#### Student Learning Objectives:

- 1) Analyze and interpret data related to current threats to the world's population.
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding of the impact and importance of such threats in both the industrialized and developing nations of the world.
- 3) Present, in both written and oral formats, reactions to case studies and other critical thinking exercises designed to highlight challenges, conflicts, and potential solutions related to the resources needed to support humanity.
- 4) Recognize differences in the approaches taken by different societies in addressing various problems and challenges related to the continued survival of humanity.
- 5) Recognize differences in the approaches taken in various social and natural science disciplines to analyze various problems and challenges related to the continued survival of humanity.

Readings: Assigned by individual instructors and posted on D2L or distributed in class.

#### Evaluation:

3 Exams (20% each)	60%
3 Short Papers (10% each)	30%
3 Critical Thinking Exercises (1% each)	3%
1 Socratic Final	7%

*Exams* will be composed of four equally weighted essay questions; one from each instructor regarding the content from his or her discipline specific information. You might expect these questions to be complex in nature requiring integration of material or comparisons across perspectives.

*Papers* will be designed as a review and discussion of cultural indicators regarding the unit topic. They should be typed and may be single spaced but no longer than a single page. You will select a current news article, television report, or film (documentary) to review. You will then provide a very brief summary of the major point and discuss how this supports or refutes the information provided in class regarding the subject. Be sure to provide a full bibliographic reference for your source. You will bring this review to class for small group discussion turning them in at the end. Papers will be scored out of 10 points maximum. Meeting minimum content and writing expectations will earn a “C” or seven points. Better than average writing or content address can each move the score up a letter grade, while poorer than average of either can move the score down a letter grade.

*Critical thinking exercises* will be provided at the close of content for each unit. This will give you both as individuals and as a group the opportunity to use what you have learned. Your attendance and participation in each exercise will earn you a percentage point for your grade.

A *Socratic Final* will be used as your method of final evaluation. The content will cover the entire semester. These oral exams will be given in small groups during the regularly scheduled final exam.

### Class Policies

*Attendance* is expected at each class meeting. Material provided will extend beyond the information in the text. As it is impossible to evaluate each piece of information on an exam, your presence is vital to a comprehensive understanding of the material. You are responsible for all material, announcements, and decisions made in class regardless of your attendance.

*Your participation* is expected at each class meeting. We will be prepared for period of education and thought provoking discussion. Each student should be prepared both with readings and frame of mind.

*Academic dishonesty* in any form (including cheating and plagiarism) will not be tolerated. Please review university guidelines on this subject. Any infraction of academic dishonesty is reported to the Department of Judicial Affairs regardless of severity.

*Exams* will be taken at the appointed time unless you have extreme documented circumstances and have notified your instructor prior to the scheduled exam. If you are late to an exam, you have only the time remaining in which to complete the exam.

*Papers and homework assignments* are due at the beginning of the designated class period.

*Excused absences* due to school sponsored activities are handled according to university policy. You should notify me in advance.

*Accommodations* are made for students with special needs per the guidelines of the Office of Disability Services. Please provide your documentation and see Dr. Gillespie to make arrangements.

To ensure that the classroom environment is conducive to learning, the following *behaviors are prohibited* : Eating, sleeping, reading unrelated materials, exiting, tardiness, discussions not assigned by the professor, and littering.

If you have *questions*, need further explanations, or require additional help with the material, please seek an answer as soon as possible. As with most college courses, this material builds upon itself. Waiting for help puts you at an immediate disadvantage for future content.

# Tentative Course Schedule (with lecturer for the day)

## COURSE INTRODUCTION:

- Tu: 1-8 Dissemination of course materials, review of syllabus and expectations, introduction of faculty
- Th: 1-10 Presentations of “State of the World” according to perspectives of political science and geography (Craig and McNitt)
- Tu: 1-15 Presentations of “State of the World” according to perspectives of economics and sociology (Bruehler and Gillespie)

## UNIT 1: Poverty and Global Inequality

- Th: 1-17 The Geography Perspective (Craig)
- Tu: 1-22 The Economics Perspective (Bruehler)
- Th: 1-24 The Political Science Perspective (McNitt)
- Tu: 1-29 The Sociology Perspective (Gillespie)
- Th: 1-31 Content Rebuttals (Craig and Bruehler)
- Tu: 2-5 Content Rebuttals (McNitt and Gillespie)
- Th: 2-7 Critical Thinking Exercise 1
- Tu: 2-12 Small group discussion, Unit 1 Papers due
- Th: 2-14 Unit 1 Exam

## UNIT 2: Global Warming

- Tu: 2-19 The Economics Perspective (Bruehler)
- Th: 2-21 The Political Science Perspective (McNitt)
- Tu: 2-26 The Sociology Perspective (Gillespie)
- Th: 2-28 The Geography Perspective (Craig)
- Tu: 3-5 Content Rebuttals (Bruehler and McNitt)
- Th: 3-7 Content Rebuttals (Gillespie and Craig)

## SPRING BREAK

- Tu: 3-19 Critical Thinking Exercise 2
- Th: 3-21 Small group discussion, Unit 2 Papers due
- Tu: 3-26 Unit 2 Exam

## UNIT 3: Terrorism and War

- Th: 3-28 Political Science Perspective (McNitt)
- Tu: 4-2 Geography Perspective (Craig)
- Th: 4-4 Sociology Perspective (Gillespie)
- Tu: 4-9 Economics Perspective (Bruehler)
- Th: 4-11 Content Rebuttals (McNitt and Craig)
- Tu: 4-16 Content Rebuttals (Gillespie and Bruehler)
- Th: 4-18 Critical Thinking Exercise 3
- Tu: 4-23 Small group discussion, Unit 3 Papers due
- Th: 4-25 Unit 3 Exam

Final Exam: Wed, May 1, 8-10am in groups