

POLITICAL SCIENCE 110: GLOBAL ISSUES

Fall 2016
Section 002
M/W/F – 12:20-1:10 pm
Ross Hall 60

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:15-2:15, and by appointment

Course Description:

Looking across the global landscape of the 21st century we encounter some curious paradoxes: *Why do we see vigorous drug trafficking in the Western Hemisphere even as governments (including the United States) spend billions of dollars in attempts to restrain such activity? What explains why famine and chronic malnutrition engulf much of the African continent even as the “Green Revolution” of the mid-20th century vastly increased global food production? Why are many of the countries most vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change those who contribute least to the problem of greenhouse gas emissions?*

The main objective of this course is to provide an introduction to some of the major issues and challenges facing world populations and leaders today. What explains puzzling questions like those above, and what’s being done to address these global challenges?

So, what are “global issues”? Let’s consider four assumptions about global issues that together provide a framework we’ll use throughout the course:

- ✓ *Global issues are global in scope.* Being “global in scope” may mean that an issue is inherently cross-border, like migration. But, it can also mean that an issue is *experienced* globally—like violence against women—even if it doesn’t literally “cross borders.”
- ✓ *Global issues are complex and interdependent.* That is, global issues not only are multi-dimensional, but also overlap in regard to causes and consequences. Understanding global issues oftentimes requires looking at political and social systems as well as natural (e.g. ecological) systems. In addition taking an interdisciplinary approach, we must pay attention to how aspects of global issues play out at local, national, and inter/transnational scales—and how these scales relate to each other in practice.
- ✓ *Global issues are inherently “political.”* That means that they are shaped by who is making decisions, how, and to whose benefit—or peril. In other words, *power matters*

when we're talking about the causes and consequences of global problems, and their solutions.

- ✓ *Global issues require collective action and problem-solving.* Global issues not only cross national borders, but also are subject to multiple interpretations within and across countries. How do we frame global issues and their potential "solutions"? How can and do multiple governments, domestic and international organizations, and businesses collaborate to address global problems? What distinguishes "business as usual" from alternative practices and/or dramatic efforts at change?

We'll consider the ideas in this framework as we study five overarching issue areas. These include **1) global trade and globalization, 2) the global "war on terror," 3) violence against women, 4) environmental degradation and crises, 5) and global food and agricultural politics.** Within each of these areas, we will pay attention not only to how various people and groups present and define key issues and problems, but also to what proposed "solutions" and/or alternatives have surfaced in local and global contexts.

Course Objectives:

- To identify and explain the overarching features of several major issues and challenges facing world populations and leaders today.
- To describe and analyze the substance of major contemporary global issues including global trade, the use of drones in war, violence against women, industrial agriculture, and climate change.
- To compare and contrast government, private sector, and civil society responses and proposed solutions to global issues.

Required Texts:

1. Brown, Lester. (2011) *World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse*. New York: W. W. Norton and Co. Inc.
2. Rivoli, Pietra. (2009 or 2014) *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy*. New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
3. Patel, Raj. (2012) *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System*. New York: Melville House.

All required texts will be available for purchase at the UNCO Bookstore located on the first floor of the University Center (970-351-2135). Brown's book has also been uploaded as a PDF to Blackboard. The book is also available for purchase (\$15) or free download here: <http://www.earthpolicy.org/books/wote>.

All required readings *not contained* in the above texts are posted on Blackboard (BB). You are also responsible for material contained in films, handouts, lectures, guest lectures, and other supplements to the readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

- 1. Preparation and Engagement (15%).** This part of your grade reflects your in-class preparedness, respectful engagement, and performance on exercises and quizzes. While there is not a separate attendance grade, attendance is required for this course, and the best way to reflect that you've been coming to class is to perform well in this category. A basic recipe for doing well includes: 1) completing the readings due prior to class, 2) coming to class, and 3) engaging in our course discussions of the material. To get more out of class, bring the required readings with you (books, and when possible, articles printed from Blackboard). *Exercises and quizzes cannot be made up, nor are there late submissions accepted—hence why attendance matters for this part of your grade.*
- 2. Global Issues Report. (25%)** What global issue do you want to learn more about? This report is an opportunity to exam, in-depth, a global issue (or problem) of your choosing. Your report can focus on a topic we are covering in class, but you are not limited to those on the syllabus. There are several mini-assignments you will complete before submitting your final report, each with their own deadline (see course schedule, below). This will help you progress from beginning to end. See full instructions and assignment details in the “Global Issues Report” folder on Blackboard (left hand menu). *Mini-assignments are to be submitted by 12 pm on the day they are due. Both mini-assignments and the final report will be docked 10% for each day they are late.*
- 3. Midterm exam.* (30%)** To be taken **Monday, October 3, in class.** This exam will cover readings, films, and other course materials introduced thus far. A study guide will be provided.
- 4. Final Exam.* (30%)** To be taken **Friday, Dec. 9, 1:30-4 pm.** This exam will emphasize materials from the second part of the course (i.e. post-midterm). A study guide will be provided.

* **There are no exam make-ups.** Please note the date of class exams on your calendar and talk to me ASAP if you foresee a problem with an exam date. Dates of final exams are determined by the University and cannot be adjusted.

Academic Integrity: *Any violation of academic integrity standards (plagiarism, etc.) will result, minimally, in failing the compromised course assignment, and potentially the entire class. All violations of the Student Code of Conduct will be addressed in accordance with University policy. See http://www.unco.edu/dos/pdf/StudentCodeofConduct.pdf#nameddest=SC_integrity.*

Classroom Policies and Expectations: It is expected that during our time together in class you will be respectful. Disruptive or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and can result in being asked to leave the class. Moreover, a pattern of disruption *will* affect your grade in the class. **A note on technology here:** we are all aware that technology is pervasive, but it is expected that you will use it appropriately in the classroom. Taking notes on a computer is fine if this strategy works for you; if so, please sit towards the side of the classroom so as not to distract your peers. In contrast, playing games or using headphones in class are not appropriate, and phones should not be kept on your desk. Please keep phones off or silenced and in your bag for the entire class period.

Disability Accommodations: Any student requesting disability accommodations for this class must inform the instructor to receive appropriate and timely accommodations for the semester. All accommodations will be given on a confidential basis. Students are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Services office on campus (970-351-2289) to receive certified documentation and an accommodation letter to present to the course instructor. If you are unsure if you qualify for accommodations, please contact the Disability Support Services office at the number above.

Sexual Misconduct and Title IX: Title IX, part of federal law, makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. The University of Northern Colorado prohibits and will not tolerate sexual misconduct or gender-based discrimination of any kind. If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, please contact the UNC Counseling Center (970-351-2496) or the Assault Survivors Advocacy Program (970-351-4040). If you would like to learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, please visit www.unco.edu/sexualmisconduct. **Other resources:** Know Your Title IX (<http://knowyourix.org/>); End Rape on Campus (<http://endrapeoncampus.org/>); SurvJustice (<http://survjustice.org/>). **Note:** UNC is legally obligated to investigate sexual misconduct (including, but not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and intimate partner violence). If you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a faculty member, they have an obligation to report it to UNC's Title IX Coordinator. "Disclosure" may include communication in-person, via email/phone/text message, or through in/out of class assignments.

WHAT ARE "GLOBAL ISSUES"?

Week 1

Aug. 22 Course Introduction
Aug. 24 Read syllabus **plus** Brown, *World on the Edge*, Chap. 1
Aug. 16 Macy and Johnstone, "Three Stories of Our Time"

GLOBAL TRADE AND GLOBALIZATION

Week 2

Aug. 29 Rivoli, *Travels of a T-Shirt*, Chapters 1 and 2
Sept. 1 Rivoli, *Travels of a T-Shirt*, Chapter 5
Sept. 2 Rivoli, *Travels of a T-Shirt*, Chapters 6 and 7

Week 3

Sept. 5 **No class** – Labor Day
Sept. 7 Rivoli, *Travels of a T-Shirt*, Chapter 8
Sept. 9 Rivoli, *Travels of a T-Shirt*, Chapters 9
✓ **Due by 12 pm:** Proposal for GIP assignment. See "Global Issues Report" folder on BB for instructions and submission portals.

Week 4

Sept. 12 Rivoli, *Travels of a T-Shirt*, Chapter 10
 Sept. 14 Rivoli, *Travels of a T-Shirt*, Chapters 13 and 14
 Sept. 16 Rivoli, *Travels of a T-Shirt*, Chapter 15

GLOBAL “WAR ON TERROR”**Debating “Tools of War”: Surveillance and Drones****Week 5**

Sept. 19 CWRLW, “Bad ‘Leaker’ or Good “Whistleblower: A Test”
 Sept. 21/23 “Why Edward Snowden is a Hero” **and** “Edward Snowden is No Hero”
 Explore Wikileaks website: <http://wikileaks.org/>

Week 6

Sept. 26 Byman, “Why Drones Work: The Case for Washington’s Weapon of Choice”
 Sept. 28 Cronin, “Why Drones Fail: When Tactics Drive Strategy”
 Sept. 30 *In-class debate*

Oct. 3

Midterm exam**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN****Week 7**

Oct. 5 *Library session for GI paper: Annotated bibliographies*
 Oct. 7 World Health Organization (WHO), “Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women: Prevalence and Health Effects of Intimate Partner Violence and Non-Partner Sexual Violence,” **Introduction and Sections 2 through 4**

Week 8

Oct. 10 Goodwin, “Silence=Rape”
 Oct. 12 Mayanja, “Armed Conflict and Women”
 Oct. 14 Bachelet, “Increasing Women’s Access to Justice in Post-Conflict Societies”
 ✓ **Due by 12 pm:** GIP annotated bibliography – see BB for instructions and submission.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND CRISES**Week 9**

Oct. 17/19 Brown, *World on the Edge*, Chapters 2 and 3, “Falling Water Tables and Shrinking Harvests” and “Eroding Soils and Expanding Deserts”
 Oct. 21 Brown, *World on the Edge*, Chapters 4 and 6

Week 10:

Oct. 24 *Library session for GI paper: using sources effectively and citing correctly*
 Oct. 26/28 McKibbin, “A World at War”

Week 11:

- Oct. 31 *In-class peer feedback on paper drafts – bring your GI paper draft!*
Nov. 2 Brown, *World on the Edge*, Chapters 8 and 9
Nov. 4 In-class film
✓ **Due by 12 pm:** GIP Final Report – see BB for instructions and submission.

GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS**Week 12**

- Nov. 7 Rivoli, *Travels of a T-Shirt*, Chap. 3
Nov. 9 Patel, *Stuffed and Starved*, Chapter 1 (Introduction)
Nov. 11 Patel, *Stuffed and Starved*, Chapter 2

Week 13

- Nov. 14 Patel, *Stuffed and Starved*, Chapter 3
Nov. 16/18 Patel, *Stuffed and Starved*, Chapter 6

Week 14

- Nov. 21 In-class film
Nov. 23-27 No class – Thanksgiving

Week 15

- Nov. 28 Patel, *Stuffed and Starved*, Chapter 7
Nov. 30 Patel, *Stuffed and Starved*, Chapter 10
Dec. 2 Course conclusion and review for final

Final exam: Friday, Dec. 9, 1:30-4 pm