



GLBS 2503 Global Studies
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
CRN 12315 Section 101
Fall 2020, MWF 1-1:50 PM, PY 200

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Course Description

This course introduces students to current issues in international politics and the global community. We will look at the impact that international interdependence has created within the political, economic, social, and environmental issue arenas. It is assumed students have limited prior knowledge of the topics, therefore this course allows students to develop an operational understanding of common world problems, and policies that have been created to address these issues. The first part of the semester sets the foundation by explaining the structure of the international stage and its key actors. The second part of the semester delves into the international economy, international law, and human rights. The third part of the semester completes the picture by analyzing some of today's emerging challenges, including environmental problems and changing political conditions. **The syllabus provides a general plan for the course; changes may be necessary. Any changes may be announced in class and/or posted to D2L.**

Learning Objectives:

- Identify key components of the contemporary international system.
- Discuss state sovereignty in the international system.
- Explain the existence and utility of international law, including identification of international judicial bodies and their functions.
- Understand the main organs of the United Nations and their functions.
- Identify at least one major regional IGO (EU, AU, OAS, ASEAN, etc.) in the international system and explain its goals and current status towards achieving those goals.
- Describe what an NGO is and identify the goals of major NGOs.
- Explain what a weapon of mass destruction is, present differing perspectives on policies and international treaties and regimes aimed at preventing the proliferation of such weapons, and articulate the position of those states that are trying to acquire such weapons.
- Define terrorism, present differing arguments seeking to explain the motivation of terrorists, and distinguish between terrorism and other forms of non-conventional warfare.
- Articulate the concept of human rights, including the history of the growth of human rights, and the major international treaties and conventions relating to human rights.
- Discuss the major environmental issues facing the international system, as well as efforts made to deal with these issues, and the positions and controversies surrounding environmental issues.
- Describe the flow of finances and technology in the international system, including the main characteristics of international trade, and the impact of such trade on economic development and standards of living.

Required Textbook & Instructional Materials:

1. Realizeit Adaptive Learning Courseware—this courseware embeds a text (Snarr and Snarr, “Introducing Global Issues”), the RCII database, and other learning materials.
Realizeit subscription information:
 - a. If you are enrolled in the course in D2L, you are *automatically enrolled* into Realizeit, which is integrated into D2L.
 - b. You have **two weeks** from the start of the course to purchase access from Realizeit. Go to <https://realizeit.myshopify.com/products/msu-texas-global-issues-pols2401>
 - c. to purchase access (your access in D2L will automatically continue, but keep the confirmation email for your records). **You must purchase the access code for the online courseware by September 7.**
 - d. If you fail to purchase the access code within two weeks, your Realizeit access will be disabled. The system will retain your work. Once you complete the purchase, your access will be reenabled within 8 business hours. Please contact Realizeit if you drop the course, prior to **September 7**. There will be no refunds for the courseware after **September 7**. It will be **impossible to pass the class without purchasing the text access.**
 - e. Questions concerning the Realizeit courseware should be directed to: **888-210-6097** and gsusupport@realizeitlearning.com. This is 24/7 support.
 - f. Questions specific to the RCII should be directed to rcii@gsu.edu.
2. Readings/materials posted on D2L
3. Students are also expected to follow international news through such sources as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, Current History, Foreign Affairs, and Foreign Policy.

Note, for this course students must have adequate online access to complete the adaptive learning lessons in Realizeit as well as other coursework. Technical excuses for being unable to successfully do the coursework will not be accepted. You must complete all online course assignments using D2L between the specified times/dates listed in the weekly course outline below.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [2019-2020 MSU Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures:

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Plagiarism also includes using content you have produced for other classes or assignments, without prior approval from all instructors involved to “recycle” this material in this Global Studies class. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Electronic Devices:

Laptop computers and tablets are allowed for the purposes of taking notes and completing in-class assignments. Cellphone use is prohibited unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. Please mute all electronic devices before coming into class.

Many assignments in this course will be conducted in D2L. Tests and exams will utilize the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor for testing. In order to install these programs, you will need the following:

- A desktop computer or laptop other than a Chromebook. NOTE: Chromebooks are not compatible with the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor.
- Apple iPads may be used for quizzes and exams, but these are not advised for any assignment with a written component.

- Mobile phones and similar devices are not compatible with the required programs.
- A working webcam on the computing device used for the exam.
- Microsoft Office or a compatible program for written assignments. Access to Microsoft Office 365 available through the Office 365 for Students on the Microsoft website.

Please note: a limited number of webcams and laptops with cameras are available for check-out through the MSU Texas Moffett Library.

Office Hours:

Normally, office hours are an open invitation to walk into my office without appointment and discuss with me anything of concern related to the course. Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, I will hold virtual office hours this term. See the top of the syllabus for my generally available times. I will schedule a virtual Zoom appointment with you we can talk, but also stay healthy with use of social distancing.

Communication:

The best way to reach me is by email. **I will make all attempts to answer emails within 48 business hours unless it is over a holiday break.** You must check your email listed as the primary account in your Banner information, as I will use this address to communicate with you outside of class. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook. There may be some online office hours announced through D2L, if they vary from the office hours posted above. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information.

Attendance Policy:

This course has been planned as a fully face-to-face course for Fall 2020. As such, face masks are required to be worn in class at all times, per university policy. The class will meet in its regularly scheduled room but will utilize social distancing and an assigned seating chart. When the university transitions to fully online after Thanksgiving we will review during the last week of class and hold our finals virtually. In the event of increased incidence and risk of COVID-19 that results in the university moving back to a shelter-in-place mode, the course instruction will transition to fully online. More instructions will be given at that time.

I am required by the university to report failure to attend and complete assignments. I will randomly take in-person attendance and check for your D2L activity in our class on 10 random days during the semester. If you are absent, and haven't logged into D2L and completed work during that time, nor have you provided a legal or medical excuse for non-participation, your attendance grade will be marked as absent for that date. See the grading policy and breakdown of your grade calculations for more details.

Disability Accommodations:

Any student having an education disability plan on file with the university needs to inform me within the first week of the class so I make make the appropriate arrangements to accommodate your situation. In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Clery Act Notification:

Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature; sex or gender discrimination violate University policies. Any person experiencing such behavior may receive confidential support from the Counseling Center. Counseling Center staff will hold what you share in strict confidence. If you disclose sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex or gender

discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) to me, I as the instructor of this course am required to forward such information to the MSU Title IX office. This should not prevent you from speaking to me should you wish to do so, but know that what you tell me in this area cannot be held confidential, but must be shared with the Title IX office.

Grading

| <i>Assignments</i> | <i>Points</i> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Attendance and Participation | 10 |
| Exam 1 | 20 |
| Exam 2 | 20 |
| Exam 3 | 20 |
| Reading Quizzes (in Realizeit) | 20 |
| Map Quizzes (in Realizeit) | 10 |
| TOTAL | 100 |

Grading Scale:

| <i>Grade</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|--------------|-------------------|
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | Less than 60 |

Class Attendance and Participation (10 points):

Class meets three times a week, for approximately 38 class dates. Participation is based on attendance AND participation in discussion in class. I expect you to talk during class, engaging with me as the instructor, and your fellow students. Science has shown we learn best by asking and discussing our questions about issues. I encourage questions, dialogue, and open debate, just do not monopolize class discussions. I randomly take attendance at 10 time points during the term.

Exams (3, 20 points each):

These are administered through D2L, and are a mix of multiple choice and open answer, essay-based questions. You will need to bring a laptop or tablet to class the day of exams to take the exam. If you do not have access to either of these, please see me to make alternative arrangements. The exam content is based on lecture content and readings (the textbook readings and additional readings posted on D2L). Each exam will feature material introduced since the last exam only. Anything I say in the lectures, along with anything in the assigned readings could be used for the exams. The first two exams take place during the normal class period, and open at the start of class in D2L, lasting until class ends. The final exam will be taken off-site only, through D2L, and requires use of a laptop/tablet with a working webcam. CHROMEBOOKS WILL NOT WORK WITH THE EXAM SOFTWARE.

| Exam | Date |
|------|---|
| 1 | Friday, September 25 |
| 2 | Friday, October 25 |
| 3 | Monday, November 30-Monday, December 7 at 3pm |

Realizeit Materials - Reading Quizzes, Map Quizzes, RCII Quizzes- (30 points):

Thirty percent of final grade will be determined by your completion of 12 modules (11 content modules and 3 map quizzes counted as a separate module). You will work on these modules through the Realizeit courseware (accessible through D2L by going through the various modules or “sections”). The purpose of providing you with this courseware is to provide an integrated system through which you will be encouraged to do the readings and test your knowledge and understanding of the various content chapters. The set-up of the courseware is as follows:

- **Readings:** Through D2L, you will click on the relevant section and it will immediately take you to the Realizeit site where you can access the various chapters assigned for your reading material (see full schedule below); read the text carefully; take notes, make annotations, underline important parts; jot down any questions you may have and ask them in class; **you should spend on average 1½ to 2 hours per week going through the readings; these readings are the foundation for the reading quizzes (see below) as well as for the exams**
- **Reading Quizzes:** There is a specific schedule listed below telling you when Realizeit quizzes must be completed. Each quiz will deal with questions related to specific chapters in the text so make sure you have done the reading, then enter the assessment through D2L (you may want to have two tabs open now, one for the reading and one for the assessment BUT you will not have enough time to check for answers in the reading if you have not actually yet done the reading); for each reading quiz, you will have 12 minutes within which to answer 12 multiple choice, matching or multi-select questions. You will have two attempts for each reading quiz and the highest score will be counted (but note that the questions are randomly chosen so your second quiz can have different questions from the first one.) After each module quiz due date ends, you will still be able to work on this material, and your “score” will go up in Realizeit, but the grade recorded from Realizeit to the D2L Gradebook will be the grade you have earned by the due date at 11:59PM.
- **RCII Quizzes:** The Robinson Country Intelligence Index (RCII) is designed to help you become more familiar with political and economic data and to this end, the courseware integrates the RCII and specific quizzes designed to test your familiarity with the index. You will click on the relevant RCII assessment in D2L and it will open up a quiz in Realizeit that will ask you specific questions; the answers are found by going through the RCII index (this tool will open in a separate window and you will have to finish specific steps in order to be able to answer RCII quiz questions). Make sure you read all the introductions to questions carefully as this will give you the exact instructions to follow on the index to be able to answer the questions. The very first two RCII quizzes are actually based on tutorials on how to use the index so these are simple but necessary starting points to learn how to navigate the RCII.
- **Map quizzes.** There will be three map quizzes that have to be completed by **Friday, November 20**. The three short map quizzes (*10-minute limit, 2 attempts*) each cover two regions of the world: A) Middle East/Former Soviet Union; B) Asia/Latin America; and C) Africa/Europe. Knowing the basic geography of the places we’re covering is central to getting the most out of this course. You will have two attempts per map quiz and you should make sure that you prepare yourself for the map quizzes by utilizing the map function in the RCII and/or consult an atlas.

OPTIONAL - End of Course Essay (Bonus up to 3 points):

You will be asked to choose a topic and/or country to follow with a Google alert for international news. After following this country/topic during the term, you can write a 3-page summary paper about current events related to that country/topic as it relates to what you learned in the course this term. Details on formatting will be provided after the Midterm.

Policy on Missed Work

There is no makeup allowed for Realizeit material or the End of Course Essay, because these can be completed over several days. Makeup for the exams will only be given in cases of legitimate and documented emergencies (medical excuse, death in family, event required by your degree program). You must request to makeup exams

within 7 days of the regular exam window. For the last exam, there is no extension or makeup because I am required to submit grades to the registrar's office shortly after the exam is taken.

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"

Please note, the semester's midpoint is **December 4. This is the last Day for "W"**. Students can **withdraw from the class up to this point and** receive a W for the class. However, there is a limited number of W's a student can receive over their academic career. **Drops after this date will receive grades of "F."** If you intend to withdraw from a course, you must do so yourself. If you are still on the roll when I have to assign grades and you haven't done any passing work, then you will fail. So, if you intend to drop, please make sure you do so in time. Also note, I have to report to the university whether students have attended class, and how regularly you attend. If you have never attended this class when I have to submit my report to the university, or you have stopped attending, it is possible that the university will drop you from the course, potentially impacting your academic record and financial assistance.

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L):

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a required part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact <https://msutexas.edu/distance/opr.php> to submit a D2L help request.

While I do not post most of my PowerPoint notes to D2L, I will post a few key slides to the site just prior to each exam. These copies will serve as your study guide for the exams.

Class Behavior Policies

In order to make this a successful class, it is important that we create an environment where everyone has an opportunity to learn. **This includes in-person and online classes.** During class periods, no cellphones or other electronic devices are allowed; laptops may be used ONLY for the purpose of taking notes. Please put away all headphones/earbuds/Airpods as well. You should know that the university policy on disruptive behavior in class applies. Disruptive class behavior for this purpose is defined by the instructor. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, verbal or physical threats, repeated obscenities, unreasonable interference with class discussion, making/receiving personal phone calls or pages (text messaging) during class, leaving and entering class frequently in the absence of notice to instructor of illness or other extenuating circumstances, and persisting in disruptive personal conversations with other class members. For purposes of this policy, it may also be considered disruptive behavior for a student to exhibit threatening, intimidating, or other inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates outside of class. If your behavior is disruptive to other students or the instructor, this will violate University guidelines, and you will be reported to administrative authorities.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Course Schedule:

You are expected to complete all readings BEFORE the class date listed. All reading quizzes are due at the beginning of the class period of the due date. *See next page for schedule.*

Course Schedule

| Dates | Reading Assignments/Exams | Due Dates |
|---|--|--|
| Week 1- Globalization Mon., Aug. 24 | Course Introduction and Lecture: Intro to System of International States | Begin module “Our Globalized World” |
| Wed., Aug. 26 | Lecture: Waves of Globalization | |
| Fri., Aug. 28 | Lecture: Understanding International News | |
| Week 2 – Mon., Aug. 31 | Lecture: United Nations | |
| Wed., Sep. 2 | Lecture: Nationalism and Identity | |
| Fri., Sep. 4 | Case: Israeli and Palestinian Nationalism | Our Globalized World module ends 11:59PM |
| Week 3 – Key Actors Mon., Sep. 7 | *** <i>LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY</i> *** Note: purchase deadline for Realizeit E-text access code | Begin module “Key Actors on the World Stage” |
| Wed., Sep. 9 | Lecture: Non-State Actors | |
| Fri., Sep. 11 | Lecture: Non-state actors and political violence | Key Actors module ends 11:59PM |
| Week 4 – Security Issues Mon., Sep. 14 | Lecture: State-initiated war | Begin module “Global Security: Old Issues, New Realities” |
| Wed., Sep. 16 | Lecture: Technology of War | |
| Fri., Sep. 18 | Lecture: NATO | Global Security: Old Issues, New Realities ends 11:59PM |
| Week 5 – Mon., Sep. 21 | Case: Isis and War in Syria – Part I | Begin module, “Global Security Challenges: Weapons Proliferation” |
| Wed., Sep. 23 | Case: Isis and War in Syria – Part II | |
| Fri., Sep. 25 | Exam 1 | Global Security Challenges: Weapons of Proliferation module ends 11:59PM |
| Week 6 – International Law & Rights Mon., Sep. 28 | Lecture: What is international law? | Begin module, “Quest for Human Rights” |
| Wed., Sep. 30 | Lecture: Human Rights | |
| Fri., Oct. 2 | Case: Russian Orphans | Quest for Human Rights module ends 11:59PM |
| Week 7 – Mon., Oct. 5 | Lecture: NGOs | |
| Wed., Oct. 7 – Intro to International Economics | Lecture: Political Economy, Part I | Begin module, “Global Political Economy” |
| Fri., Oct. 9 | Lecture: Political Economy, Part II | Global Political Economy module ends 11:59PM |
| Week 8 – Mon., Oct. 12 | Lecture: Trade and Globalization | Begin module, “Free Trade Debate” |
| Wed., Oct. 14 | Lecture: 2008 Financial Crisis | |

| Dates | Reading Assignments/Exams | Due Dates |
|--|--|---|
| Fri., Oct. 16 | Case: Digital Currency and the Dark Web | Free Trade Debate module ends 11:59PM |
| Mon., Oct. 19 | Lecture: Development Strategies | Begin module, “Dimensions and Strategies of Development” |
| Wed., Oct. 21 | Case: 2008 Global Financial Crisis | |
| Fri., Oct. 23 | Exam 2 | Dimensions and Strategies of Development module ends 11:59PM. |
| Mon., Oct. 26 Inequality, Health, & Demographic Issues | Lecture: Poverty and Inequality | Begin module, “Challenges of Population Growth and Migration” |
| Wed., Oct. 28 | Lecture: Population Growth and Migration | |
| Fri., Oct. 30 | Lecture: Diverse Strategies to Eliminate Poverty | Challenges of Population Growth and Migration module ends 11:59PM |
| Mon., Nov. 2 | Case: Global Health Policy Coordination | Begin module “Confronting Climate Change” |
| Wed., Nov. 4 Global Environmental Problems | Lecture: Conflict over Natural Resources | |
| Fri., Nov. 6 | Lecture: Barriers to Environmental Collaboration | Confronting Climate Change module ends 11:59P M |
| Mon., Nov. 9 | Case: The Resource Curse of Oil - https://youtu.be/yGDWAVBrM18 BBC Four Documentary | Begin module “Achieving Sustainable Development” |
| Wed., Nov. 11 | Lecture: Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals | |
| Fri., Nov. 13 | Lecture: Global Compact and CSR | Achieving Sustainable Development ends 11:59PM |
| Mon., Nov. 16 | Case: The Greta Effect - https://youtu.be/oCVQdr9QFwY Documentary | |
| Wed., Nov. 18 Shifts to Power | Lecture Terrorism: A Domestic or International | |
| Fri., Nov. 20 | Lecture: Foreign Aid | Map Quizzes end 11:59PM in Realizeit |
| Mon., Nov. 23 | Lecture: Shifting Power Balances | |
| 24-29 NOV | **** <i>THANKSGIVING BREAK</i> **** | |
| Mon., Nov. 30 | Lecture: Final Thoughts | Final exam opens in D2L |
| Wed., Dec. 2 | Careers in Political Science | |
| Fri., Dec. 4 | Virtual Office Hours | End of Course Essay deadline, 11:59PM |
| Mon., Dec 7 | FINAL EXAM CLOSSES AT 3PM | |
| | | |

Final course grade will be posted to D2L once all work has been assessed.