



Midwestern State University
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

GLBS 2503 INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL STUDIES

Summer 1
Section X30 (Online Course)

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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. Throughout the course, we will study the structure of the international stage and its key actors. And we will delve into key subjects including the international economy, international law, and human rights. We will also analyze some of today's emerging challenges, including environmental problems and changing political conditions.

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course, students are expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes. They will be able to:

- 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.
- 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
- describe the flow of finances and technology in the international system

NOTE: The syllabus provides a general plan for the course, and changes may be necessary throughout the semester. Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes made to this syllabus will be announced in class and posted on D2L.



Course Requirements

Completing ALL the readings and regular attendance (online) will be required of all students. Active participation in discussions is critical for students to succeed in this course.

Assignment	Point	Notes
Final exam	30	Online format
Midterm exam	30	Online format
Current event paper (2)	10 (5 x 2)	At least 700 words each
Movie reflection papers (2)	10 (5 x 2)	At least 700 words each
Engagement (attendance + participation)	20	Online participation

- 1. Exams (Midterm: 30 points / Final: 30 points):** Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and some short answer questions. Questions will test your understanding of the key concepts that will be covered in class. For both exams, I will utilize the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor. A study guide will be provided before the exams.
- 2. Current event paper (10 points):** You will choose 2 topical global/international issue over the semester and write two 700-word analysis papers. The topic may be any political/social issue in which you are interested or about which you have a strong opinion. You should also relate the topic to what you learned in the course this term. A good paper must be critical and goes beyond a summary of the issue. Originality will be critical for your grade (similarity rate above 5% will be penalized). This assignment should be submitted electronically via D2L.
- 3. Movie reflections papers (10 points):** During the semester, we will watch 2 movies on international politics. You will be expected to respond to each of the movies in a short reflection paper (at least 700 words). Again, your response must be critical and go beyond a summary or a description of those movies. Originality will be critical for your grade (similarity rate above 5% will be penalized). All papers should be submitted electronically via D2L.
- 4. Engagement with the course (20 points):** This is a fully online course; however, your attendance and participation are still vital to learning the material presented in this course. Lecture slides and assignments will be posted on D2L based on the course schedule below. Regular logins to D2L to participate online discussions will be required. I will closely monitor your participation and consider your original postings as your attendance and your replies to other postings as your class participation. In each week, the online discussion boards will become unable to write at 11:00 pm on Sunday. Unexcused absences will significantly lower your final grade.

Your final grade will be based on the quality of assignments listed above. It will be determined using the following percentage scale:

A = 100 – 90 B = 89 – 80 C = 79 – 70 D = 69 – 60 F < 60



Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

This course has been planned as a fully online course. I will use D2L for posting syllabus, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook, as well as for course materials and testing. Therefore, each student is expected to be familiar with this platform. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information. If you experience any difficulties, please contact the IT technicians immediately and let me know your problems. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TAKE EXAMS.

For your midterm and final examinations, I will utilize the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor. In order to install these programs, you will need the following:

- **A desktop computer or laptop** other than a Chromebook. 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 is available through the Office 365 for Students on the Microsoft website.

On Academic Honesty

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). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#).

Student Disability Services

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 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.

Textbooks

1. Richard Payne. 2017. *Global Issues: Politics, Economics, and Culture*. 5th Edition. Pearson (Recommended Textbook)
2. Machael T. Snarr & D. Neil Snarr. 2021. *Introducing Global Issues*. 7th Edition. Lynne Rienner Publishers (Recommended Reading)

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Module 1 – Module 3, May 31 – June 5)

Module 1 – Introduction & Challenges of Globalization

Discussion Topics: What role do nonstate actors play in international relations? What are the five waves of globalization and examples of globalization for each time period? What factors contribute to the decline of state sovereignty? How advances in technology have contributed to globalization? What are some of the arguments made against globalization?

- *Global Issues*, Chapter 1
- Online discussion will be closed on June 5 at 11:00 pm

Module 2 – The Struggle for Primacy in a Global Society

Discussion Topics: What are some other elements of power than economic power and military power? What are the three types of leadership? What are some strategies from maintaining power and preventing rising powers from creating disorder in the international system? What are some current examples of challenges to American hegemony?

- *Global Issues*, Chapter 2
- Online discussion will be closed on June 5 at 11:00 pm

Module 3 – Human Rights

Discussion Topics: What are the differences between relativistic and universal human rights? How are they different in their scope and normative assumptions? What are the differences between positive and negative human rights? Are sanctions an effective weapon for promoting human rights? What is humanitarian intervention?

- *Global Issues*, Chapter 3
- Online discussion will be closed on June 5 at 11:00 pm
- **Movie Watching:** “Hotel Rwanda” (Netflix)
- A reflection paper should be submitted by June 5 (11:00 pm)

Week 2 (Module 4 – Module 6, June 6 – June 12)

Module 4 – Promoting Democracy

Discussion Topics: How would you define democracy? What are some of the basic elements that are needed for democracy to flourish? What is the role of civil society in promoting democracy? What are the ways in which the United States could better promote democracy throughout the world today?

- *Global Issues*, Chapter 4
- Online discussion will be closed on June 12 at 11:00 pm

Module 5 – Global Terrorism

Discussion Topics: What is asymmetrical power? How does it relate to the war on terror? What are some of the goals of and reasons for terrorism? Is it ethical to use drones in the fight against terrorism? What are the reasons for and implications of the shift of global terrorism to Africa?

- *Global Issues, Chapter 5*
- **Online discussion will be closed on June 12 at 11:00 pm**

Module 6 – Weapons Proliferation

Discussion Topics: What are the problems of weapons proliferation? Do you think the world would be a safer place without nuclear weapons? Do you think national missile defense systems will help increase or decrease the level of nuclear proliferation? What are some examples of global efforts to control chemical and biological weapons?

- *Global Issues, Chapter 6*
- **Online discussion will be closed on June 12 at 11:00 pm**
- **Current event paper #1 should be submitted by June 12 (11:00 pm)**

Week 3 (Module 7 – Module 10, June 13 – June 19)

Module 7 – The Global Financial Crisis

Discussion Topics: How deregulation of financial markets and low interest rates contributed to creating the financial crisis? What are the implications of the stimulus package for the United States? What are the roles of subprime loans in real estate in the financial crisis and their broader social and economic implications?

- *Global Issues, Chapter 7*
- **Online discussion will be closed on June 19 at 11:00 pm**

Module 8 – Midterm Exam (June 15)

- Should be completed within the 24-hour window (June 15, 9 am – June 26, 9 am)

Module 9 – Global Trade

Discussion Topics: What are the causes and implications of insourcing? Do you think that globalization contributes to improving living standards around the world? What are the premises and principles of GATT? What are intellectual property rights? Do intellectual property rights potentially violate principles of free trade? What factors have helped environmental issues become a concern in global trade?

- *Global Issues, Chapter 8*
- **Online discussion will be closed on June 19 at 11:00 pm**

Module 10 – Global Inequality and Poverty

Discussion Topics: What role do government redistributive programs have in either increasing or decreasing inequality? Do you think globalization increases or decreases global and domestic inequality? What effect does domestic or global inequality have on promoting or hindering democratization? What are some of the main factors contributing to increasing global and domestic inequality? What can you do to help improve food security?

- *Global Issues, Chapter 9*
- **Online discussion will be closed on June 19 at 11:00 pm**

Week 4 (Module 11 – Module 13, June 20 – June 26)

Module 11 – Environmental Issues

Discussion Topics: What were some of the issues that led to the creation of the global environmental movement? What are some factors that influenced creating international environmental agreements? Why is deforestation an important issue? What are some of the strategies that environmental NGOs use to achieve their objectives?

- *Global Issues, Chapter 10*
- **Online discussion will be closed on June 26 at 11:00 pm**

Module 12 – Population and Migration

Discussion Topics: How will the global aging and pensions problems affect you? What are some of the causes, as well as negative consequences, of high and low population growth rates? Can you identify some of the push and pull factors that traditionally lead to increased regional and global migration?

- *Global Issues, Chapter 11*
- **Online discussion will be closed on June 26 at 11:00 pm**

Module 13 – Global Crime

Discussion Topics: What are some ways in which globalization facilitates the growth of global crime? How and to what extent has globalization affected the ability of states to diminish global criminal activities? How are American approaches to dealing with illegal drugs different from European approaches to drugs?

- *Global Issues, Chapter 12*
- **Online discussion will be closed on June 26 at 11:00 pm**
- **Movie Watching: “Beasts of No Nation” (Netflix)**
- **A reflection paper should be submitted by June 26 (11:00 pm)**

Week 5 (Module 14 – Module 16, June 27 – June 30)

Module 14 – Global Health Challenges

Discussion Topics: What are the causes and effects of the global obesity epidemic? How does obesity relate to the global epidemic of noncommunicable disease? What is the role of the WHO in preventing the spread of infectious diseases? How conflicts, global warming, and poverty contribute to the emergence and spread of infectious diseases?

- *Global Issues, Chapter 13*
- **Online discussion will be closed on June 30 at 11:00 pm**
- **Current event paper #2 should be submitted by June 30 (11:00 pm)**

Module 15 – Cultural Clashes and Conflict Resolution

Discussion Topics: How does globalization affect ethnicity, nationalism, and cultural clashes? What are the four approaches to resolving cultural conflicts? What caused the Rwandan genocide?

- *Global Issues, Chapter 14*
- **Online discussion will be closed on June 30 at 11:00 pm**

Module 16 – Final Exam (June 30)

- Should be completed within the 24-hour window (June 30, 9 am – July 1, 9 am)