



Course Syllabus: GLBS 2503: Introduction to Global Studies

College of Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Spring 2026, Monday, Wednesday, Friday (11:00-11:50 AM)

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Mohsen Jalali

Office: O'Donohoe Hall, Room 204

office hours:

- *Monday:* 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- *Wednesday:* 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- *Thursday:* 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- *By Appointment* (I can accommodate your availability if the current office hours do not work for you)

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NOTE: The syllabus is subject to change, but any changes made to the syllabus will be communicated ahead of time and posted on D2L. The changes do not add more work. The amount of work remains the same.

Course Description

“Globalization” is a contested term. Some groups celebrate and cherish it; they see it as a way to create a more prosperous human world. On the other hand, globalization is despised and protested by many other groups, who view it as a path leading to more domination and inequality. By studying some major contemporary issues in international politics, the course explores the motivation and interests of global actors in today’s deeply connected world. The course prepares students for active citizenship in an increasingly globalized world, a borderless world with highly securitized borders. To be successful in this course, students do not need any prior knowledge; they only need to be excited for learning about global political issues beyond the borders of their own community.

The course aims to train students with a skillset to make sense of a world that is increasingly integrated yet highly divided. Students will learn to analyze global issues such as wars, conflicts, peace, economic integration, and cooperation. This global studies course provides a framework for understanding issues like international conflicts, terrorism, international economy and poverty, the international flow of money, the significance of international organizations such as the UN, IMF and INGOs. The course explores cooperation and fallout concerning matters such as climate change, global public health, as well as immigration and borders. What are the global forces that unite and separate people and countries?

Learning Objectives:

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

- Discuss some basic but fundamental concepts and theories developed to explain and understand contemporary global issues,
- Discuss motivations and interests of actors in global politics,
- Explain war among states and non-state actors,

- Discuss state and state sovereignty in the international system,
- Discuss international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and INGOs and their role in the international social, economic, and political world,
- 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 international politics of economic development, poverty, finance, shell companies, and corruption in world politics,
- Discuss the major environmental issues facing the international system and border politics and immigration crises.
- Discuss the global public health and intergovernmental cooperation/or lack thereof in the contemporary globalized world.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

There is no assigned text you need to purchase for this course. All written material and video or audio material will be available to you through D2L. If you have difficulty accessing the material, it is your responsibility to notify me in advance of the class to which it is assigned.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

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](#).

A Note on Chat GPT

***AI use is strictly prohibited.**

This course assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any substantive portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and using artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT. The online portal for uploading assignments detects and flags sections of writing that has been generated by AI.

Academic dishonesty on exams, quizzes and assignments will result in a **Zero** on the quiz, assignment, or exam and the student or students in question may receive an F in the course and/or be turned over to the university for sanction. ***More than one incident of academic dishonesty during the course will automatically result in a course grade of F.**

The MSU Honor Creed applies in this course, and students are expected to abide by it. Student work in this course expected to be original and produced only for this course. Students may not use the textbook, chapter summaries, notes, PowerPoints, lectures, or any online material during quizzes and exams. Students may not collaborate with each other during quizzes or exams or to create substantially similar responses to writing assignments.

Grading

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.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
In-class quizzes (10*3)	30
Response/Policy Papers (3*10)	30
Presentations (1)	10
Attendance and Participation	30
Total Points	100

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Assignment Description

1. In-class quizzes (30 points):

- Each week, on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, you will have a quiz, sometimes on two of these days. The quiz will test your knowledge of the week's readings. These quizzes are graded out of 10 points, but they contribute 3 points to your final paper grade. I will provide around 15 quizzes throughout the term and count only your 10 highest scores toward your final grade. I will also use the grades for the quizzes interrelated with class participation. A person who has not read the materials, highly probable is participating less.

2. Response/Policy Papers (4 of them, each 10 points) (40 points):

- The topic of these papers will be responding analytically to some topics discussed in one or few weeks or writing a policy paper making policy recommendations about a particular issue. More specific guidelines will be given and discussed before each response/policy paper.
- A good paper must evaluate the merits and weaknesses of the arguments the student is writing about or the argument the student is making. Originality will be critical for your grade.

3. Presentations. Each student is expected to present once during the semester. Presentations must be at least 20 minutes, but they can be as long as half an hour.

4. Attendance and Participation (20 points):

- Students must attend the lectures. In addition, engagement during class is as important as attendance. Students are expected to participate in group discussions and class debates and demonstrate that they are fully present.
- Students observed using mobile phones, reading non-class materials, or otherwise not fully engaged in class, will not receive engagement credit for that class period. This syllabus serves as the notice of the above policies; students will receive no further alert if participation points are not earned during a class meeting.

Class Policies

Absences

You must attend class. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting and will be noted. **Students with more than 10 unexcused absences will get a grade F regardless of their performance in the class. It is recommended to withdraw from the class not to receive F.* Excused absences will be those as follows: illness, death in the family, legal proceedings occurring during class period, university-approved absence such as travel as member of a MSU sports team, or emergency situation as determined by me. Students must present documents to have their absences excused. I will automatically excuse 3 absences at the end of the semester regardless of any documentation. Use these allowed absences for the time that you get ill but you cannot go to doctor or other accident.

Safe Zone Statement:

This classroom is a place where students will be treated with respect. We will work together to create an inclusive space that respects equality and diversity in terms of race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, culture, age, or ability.

All students are free to express their ideas even the ones that might sound controversial so long as they are presented as an argument which can be defended and countered with another argument. Diversity of thought is appreciated, encouraged, and it is all what the class is about provided you can agree to disagree.

It is the expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment. Harassment, sexual misconduct, violence, bullying, and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and will result in removal from the classroom and reporting to the appropriate university authority. This syllabus is your warning.

Late Work

**Late work is accepted with grade reduction.* I accept late works up to two weeks. After that, I do not accept any submission. I encourage students to complete their assignments even if it is late.

Make Up Work/Tests

There are no make-up exam/tests if you miss any of the assignments, except for unexpected circumstances like medical emergencies. There is no extra credit in this course.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

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

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a 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 the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Web Browser for D2L: The preferred web browser for D2L is Google Chrome. While it works in Safari for many functions, Chrome is a more reliable browser for D2L. If you do not have Chrome or a similar web browser installed on your computer, I suggest that you do so before working through the course material.

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) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

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](#).

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.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Course Schedule

*Unit 1. Concepts and Tools

(Module 1) Jan 20–23rd **(Introduction)**

- **Monday**
 - ♦ (No Class) Martin Luther King Jr Day
- **Wednesday**
 - ♦ No Reading (Introduction to the Course and Syllabus)
- **Friday**
 - ♦ Marc Levinson - Chapter 1 (from the book *The Box*, 2016) (20 pages)
 - ♦ **(Optional)** Pietra Rivoli. *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy*. The “Preface” and “Chapter 1” (20 pages, easy read)

(Module 2) Jan 26-30 **(Conceptual Tools)**

- **Monday**
 - ♦ Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (from now on **FLS**). *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions* (2019) “Introduction” (14 pages) (D2L)
- **Wednesday (choose one of the readings)**
 - ♦ Zakaria - The Self-Destruction of American Power (6 pages) (D2L)
 - ♦ Alexander Cooley and Daniel Nexon - “How American Hegemony Ends,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2020 (8 pages) (D2L)
- **Friday**
 - ♦ *Watch*. Pankaj Ghemawat. “[Actually, the World Isn’t Flat](#)” (Video file, 2012). (17 minutes)
 - ♦ **(Optional)** Thomas Friedman, “It’s a Flat World, After All,” *The New York Times Magazine*, (April 3, 2005). (10 pages)

(Module 3) Feb 2-6 **(Global Governance as Collective Action: basic game theory)**

- **Monday**
 - ♦ FLS. “Interests: What do Actors Want from Politics?” (16 pages)
- **Wednesday**
 - ♦ FLS. “A Prime on Game Theory” (6 pages)
- **Friday**
 - ♦ Huntington - The Clash of Civilizations? (1993) - (29 pages)
 - ♦ Edward Said - The Myth of Clash Civilizations (lecture transcripts). (1998) - (13 pages)
 - https://youtu.be/ty_-zHrfEUY

*Unit 2. War and Conflict

Module 4 (Feb 9-13) **(Why are there Wars?)**

- **Monday**

- ♦ FLS. “Why Are There Wars?” (32 pages)
- **Wednesday**
 - ♦ Nils Gleditsch - The Decline of War—The Main Issues (4 pages)
- **Friday**
 - ♦ Tanisha Fazal and Paul Poast, “War is Not Over: What the Optimists get wrong about Conflict,” *Foreign Affairs* 2019. (7 pages)

***Response Paper 1**

***Due by Sunday Feb 15th at 11:00 AM.**

Module 5 (Feb 16-20)

(Internal Conflicts and External Interventions – conflict resolution)

- **Monday**
 - ♦ Autesserre. “The Peacebuilding World.” (chapter from *The Trouble with the Congo*). (23 pages)
- **Wednesday**
 - ♦ FLS. First part. “Civil War” (7 pages)
- **Friday**
 - ♦ FLS. Second part. “Civil War” (11 pages)

Module 6 (Feb 23-27)

(Global War on Terror)

- **Monday**
 - ♦ Richard J. Payne – “Global Terrorism.” (From the book, *Global Issues Politics, Economics and Culture-Pearson* (2016). (15 pages)
- **Wednesday**
 - ♦ Taspinar. “Fighting Radicalism, not ‘Terrorism’: Root Causes of an International Actor Redefined” (12 pages)
- **Friday**
 - ♦ Watch. [Understanding Terrorism: What Causes Terrorism?](#)
 - ♦ Watch. [Understanding Terrorism: Does Terrorism Succeed?](#)

*** Response Paper 2**

***Due by Sunday Feb 28th at 11:00 PM.**

***Unit 3. (Global Economy)**

Module 7 (Mar 2-6)

(Global Trade)

- **Monday**
 - ♦ Reading to be decided
- **Wednesday**
 - ♦ Alan Blinder, “The Free-Trade Paradox.” *Foreign Affairs* January/February 2019. (6 pages)
- **Friday**

- ♦ *Watch.* Haley Edwards. “[What global trade deals are really about \(hint: it's not trade\).](#)” TEDx MidAtlantic. (11 minutes)

Module 8 (Mar 9-13)
(Spring Break)

NO CLASS

Module 9 (Mar 16-20)
(Eco Development and Poverty)

- **Monday**
 - ♦ Joseph Stiglitz. Chapter 1. “Another World Is Possible.” (From the book: *Making Globalization Work*). (17 pages)
- **Wednesday**
 - ♦ Joseph Stiglitz, “The promise of Development” Chapter 2. (From the book: *Making Globalization Work*) (35 pages)
- **Friday**
 - ♦ *Watch.* James Robinson. “[Why nations fail?](#)” TEDx Academy (18 minutes)

Module 10 (Mar 23-27)
(Global Finance and Corruption)

- **Monday**
 - ♦ Cooley and Sharman, “Transnational Corruption and the Globalized Individual.” (16 pages)
- **Wednesday**
 - ♦ Noah Coburn. Contracting the Intervention [in Afghanistan reconstruction projects]. (25 pages – very easy read)
- **Friday**
 - ♦ *Watch.* “Thomas Piketty: [New thoughts on capital in the twenty-first century.](#)”

***Unit 4. Global Issues**

Module 11 (Mar 30th - April 3)
(Mar 30th – April 3rd)

(Partial Week, Easter Holiday)

- **Monday** (reading and topic to be decided) – Lecture Posted online
- **Wednesday.** No class
- **Friday.** No class

***Response Paper 3.**

***Due by Sunday April 5th at 11:00 AM.**

Module 12 (April 6-10)
(Climate Change)

- **Monday**
 - ♦ Payne – Environment (From the book Global Issues Politics, Economics and Culture-Pearson (2016) (15 Pages)
- **Wednesday**
 - ♦ Bill McKibben. “Think Again: Climate Change,” *Foreign Policy* 170 (2009). (6 pages)

- **Friday**
 - ♦ *Watch.* “[Merchants of Doubt](#).” Watch on HBO/Prime/YouTube Movie/...
 - This is a documentary based on a book with the same title.

Module 13: April 13-17 **(Global Health)**

- **Monday**
 - ♦ Richard Payne. “Global Health Challenges.” (From *Global Issues Politics, Economics and Culture*. (2016) (14 pages)
- **Wednesday**
 - ♦ Brown, Cueto, Free, “The World Health Organization and the Transition from ‘International’ to ‘Global’ Public Health.” (2006) (9 pages)
- **Friday**
 - ♦ Stewart Patrick, “When the System Fails: COVID-19 and the Costs of Global Dysfunction,” *Foreign Affairs* July/August 2020. (8 pages)

Module 14 (April 20-24) **(Borders and Migration)**

- **Monday**
 - ♦ Payne. “Population and Migration.” (From *Global Issues Politics, Economics and Culture*. (2016) (15 pages)
- **Wednesday**
 - ♦ Nail. “A Tale of Two Crises: Migration and Terrorism after the Paris Attacks.”
- **Friday**
 - ♦ *Podcast.* [US Refugee Policy Since WWII](#).

Professor Maria Cristina Garcia talks about the United States' refugee policy since World War II. She speaks about qualifications to be a refugee and how those have changed as well as legislation governing quotas and procedures.

***Response Paper 4.**

***Due by Sunday April 27th at 11:00 AM.**

Module 15 (April 27-May 1st) **(Human Rights)**

- **Monday**
 - ♦ Mansbach and Rafferty – “Human Rights.” (From *Introduction to Global Politics*. (20 pages)
- **Wednesday**
 - ♦ Mansbach and Rafferty – “Human Rights.” (From *Introduction to Global Politics*. (15 pages)
- **Friday**
 - ♦ *Watch.* Samuel Moyn. “[Imperialism, Self-Determination, and the Rise of Human Rights](#).” (only first 60 minutes)

(Module 16) May 4-8 **(Texas in Global Politics & Presentations)**