

University of Georgia
INTL 1100: Introduction to Global Issues
Spring 2015, MWF 11:15 A.M.-12:05 P.M.
Miller Learning Center 275

Instructor: Steven Walter
Email: swalter7@uga.edu
Office: Candler Hall B02
Phone: 706-542-6705 (main office)
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30pm, or by appointment
CRN: 25999

Course Description and Objectives

The world we live in today is more connected than previous generations could have possibly imagined. People, goods, and ideas move around the planet faster and faster every day. With this increased connectivity, however, come increased problems. Communications technology makes no distinction between truth and hateful rumor; enhanced range and speed of travel benefits humans as well as disease; and economic concerns which may have previously caused domestic unrest now have the potential to plunge the whole world into a depression. In other words, we live in a world of truly global issues (See what I did there?). This course will investigate some of the most pressing issues facing humanity in a simple and straightforward manner, by asking: what is the history of the issue? How is it currently impacting the world, and what is its potential future impact? What is being done to address it, and what can be done better? While the approach may be simple, the answers we find throughout the semester will likely be anything but.

Required Reading

All material for this course will be available online, on ELC, or e-mailed to all students. There are no required physical textbooks.

Course Expectations

Attendance and Participation (10% of your grade):

In order to get the most out of this class, you must attend regularly and participate often. To earn full credit, a student must be prepared to meaningfully engage in discussion, respond to questions, ask questions of

his/her own, and challenge the material (and the instructor). Speaking in front of the class or disagreeing with a text may be new to a lot of people, but it is absolutely essential for a lively class and a fulfilling college experience in general. Completing the assigned readings and attending every day will make this level of participation considerably easier. There will be a strong correlation between attendance and participation: in other words, you cannot get credit for participating if you are not present. See the attendance policy below for more details.

Quizzes (25% of your grade):

There are two types of quiz for this course. The first is a geography quiz designed to give students an idea of the world around them. (The importance of geography to international relations is best illustrated in [this recent post](#) regarding the Ukraine crisis) The quiz will count for 5% of your final grade, and will consist of several fill in the blank and matching questions. It is scheduled for Monday, February 16th. More details will be provided in the days to come.

The second type is a reading-check quiz which covers the required readings for a given day and will be administered *without notice* throughout the semester. The current plan is to administer four to eight quizzes, but this number may increase if it appears a large portion of students are failing to do the assigned reading. Questions will be short answer, multiple choice, or matching. The total value of all reading quizzes will be 20% of your final grade.

Writing Assignments (15% of your grade)

Out-of-class writing assignments will be your opportunity to review and analyze the material we have covered up to a given point. A total of three will be due throughout the semester at various times: the first will be due February 2nd the second will be due March 2nd and the third will be due April 6th. Each paper should be between 2-3 pages and cover any or all of the material discussed up to that point in class. You should use the paper to summarize a specific global issue and then go more in-depth, or tie together all of the global issues discussed during a section. More details will be given later in the semester during our writing workshop. Each assignment will count for 5% of your total grade. Absolutely no late work will be accepted, for any reason.

Exams (30% of your grade):

There will be two exams during the semester. Both will consist of several multiple choice questions and at least one essay drawn from the first half of the semester (for Exam 1) and the second half of the semester (for Exam 2). Exam 1 is currently scheduled for Friday, March 6th. Exam 2 will take place during the final exam slot. Each exam counts for 15% of your grade.

Final Project (20% of your grade):

The final project is open to a wide range of possibilities. The primary goal is to tackle a global issue that we will NOT cover in class and explore it in more depth. How you choose to cover the issue is largely up to you: you may write a 7-10 page paper examining the history, impact, and future outlook of a problem; you can create a poster and give a brief presentation to the class on your issue; you can create a podcast or prepare a brief lecture to give to the class; or you can undertake a more creative project like making a board game or creating a fake news broadcast. The only solid requirement is that there will be at least some written component and some presentation component. Students should choose an issue and have a rough idea of what they would like to do to present it by Wednesday, March 18th. You may work with a partner for this project, provided you each turn in a unique component. More details will be provided as the semester progresses.

Course Policies

Attendance:

Regular attendance is essential to succeeding in this course. That being said, some absences cannot be avoided. I follow the university's guidelines for excused absences: any class period missed due to a University-sanctioned event (conference/sport/trip), a documented medical reason (e.g. doctor's note), or death or serious injury to a direct relative (mother, father, child, sibling, grandparent) will be counted as excused. These absences will not count against your grade, and you will be allowed to make up any quiz, presentation, or exam that happened to fall on the excused date.

All other absences will count as unexcused: illnesses without a doctor's note provided within a week of the absence, sleeping through class, forgetting class, or missing for any other reason will count against your final grade. In addition, you will *not* be allowed to make up any quiz, presentation, or exam that falls on the date of an unexcused absence. No exceptions. The missed assignment grade will count as a zero. However, I understand some days you simply feel too lousy to go to class, but not lousy enough to go the doctor, so every student will get two freebie unexcused absences which will not count against the attendance/participation grade. To repeat, though, any assignments missed due to an unexcused absence (even a “freebie” absence) will be counted as a zero. Use the freebies wisely.

Any unexcused absence after the second freebie will deduct a half point from your total grade, up to five percentage points. As noted earlier, lack of attendance will also impact the participation grade.

Grades:

This class will use the standard plus/minus grading system. Grades will be rounded to the nearest point.

A= 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D= 60-69	F= Below 60
A- = 90-92	B= 83-86	C= 73-76		
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72		

Cell Phones:

Cell phones, MP3 players, and other noise-making devices (does anyone use a beeper or pager anymore?) must be silenced and put away during class. Also, there is no reason to have head phones on during class time. Frequent disruptions may result in a reduction in the participation grade.

Laptops and Tablets:

Laptops and tablets are permitted in class for note-taking and research purposes *only*. If you choose to use a laptop during class, please be courteous to your instructor and your colleagues: turn off the sound and avoid the temptation to tweet, facebook, or whatever else the kids these days are doing online. If these items become a distraction, I reserve the right to discontinue their use.

Academic Honesty:

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor. Any instance of cheating or plagiarism could be grounds for removal from the course with a grade of WF.

Class Discussion and Debate:

At times during the class, we will be discussing controversial and/or sensitive subjects. It is of the utmost importance that all students conduct themselves in professional, respectful manner. Personal attacks, hateful speech, or general disrespect to the instructor or your colleagues will not be tolerated. This does not mean you have to agree with everything being said: far from it! If you disagree with anything and can back it up, feel free to challenge your classmates, the textbook, or the instructor. Lively, informed, and passionate debate is at the heart of politics.

Communicating with the Instructor:

The best way to get in contact with the instructor is through e-mail at swalter7@uga.edu. All students will be expected to check their own UGA e-mail addresses for important updates about the course, assignments, etc. ELC will be used to post course content, but e-mail will be the most common means of communication.

If you have any questions you cannot or do not want to address over e-mail, please feel free to visit my office hours. They are scheduled for Wednesdays at 2:30 until 4:30 P.M. in Candler Hall B02. I am also available by appointment, or immediately before and after class.

Staying Informed:

For a course like this, it is important to keep up with major events around the world. This course should make you into a better-informed citizen, but a lot of that work falls on you the student. Where you get your news is entirely up to you, but be sure to cite your sources if you try to bring it up as a point in class discussion. Some suggested sites include: [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [CNN](#), [NPR](#), or political blogs such as [The Monkey Cage](#), [The Quantitative Peace](#), or [The Duck of Minerva](#).

Changes to the Syllabus:

This syllabus should be considered a general plan and not a hard and fast guide. All efforts will be made to keep test dates and due dates the same as listed, and any changes will be announced well in advance. This notice applies to policies as well as assignments. With that in mind, be sure to come to class and check your e-mail regularly so that you do not miss out on any new information.

Course Schedule

All assignments are due on the day which they are listed, and all reading should be completed by the day listed.

G101 refers to www.globalization101.org and the descriptions following refer to topics and sections.

Week 1: Introduction

January 5 (M): Syllabus Day

Assignment: Read Syllabus

January 7 (W): Course Introduction

Assignments: Review Syllabus

Familiarize yourself with www.globalization101.org

January 9 (F): What is Globalization?

Assignments: G101- "What is Globalization?"

Fukuyama, Francis "The End of History?" available [here](#)

Week 2: Geopolitics and War

January 12 (M): The Nation-State and International Relations Theory

Assignment: *International Politics on the World Stage*, Chapter 1 available [here](#)

January 14 (W): Why War?

Assignments: Fearon, James D. "Rationalist Explanations for War" available [here](#)

January 16 (F): NO CLASS – INSTRUCTOR AT A CONFERENCE

Week 3: Geopolitics and War (continued)

January 19 (M): NO CLASS – UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY

January 21 (W): Civil War and the Future of Conflict

Assignments: Familiarize yourself with the Global Conflict Tracker ([here](#)) and the 10 Priority I Conflicts
Dixon, Jeffrey “What Causes Civil Wars?” available on ELC

January 23 (F): Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) and Non-proliferation

Assignments: Central Intelligence Agency “Terrorist CBRN: Materials and Effects” available [here](#)
Lettow, Paul “Strengthening the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime” pgs. 1-17, 32 available [here](#)

Week 4: The Environment

January 26 (M): Globalization, Wildlife, and the Environment

Assignment: G101 – Environment – Sections 1-11 (“Introduction” through “Loss of Biodiversity”)

January 28 (W): Climate Change and Looking Forward

Assignment: G101 – Environment – Sections 12-19 (“Ecosystems” through “Is Sustainable Development...”)

January 30 (F): Writing Workshop

Assignment: Come with questions

Week 5: Human Rights

February 2 (M): What are Human Rights?

Assignments: **Writing Assignment #1 due by the start of class**

G101 – Human Rights – Sections 1-9 (“Introduction” through “The UDHR Document”)

February 4 (W): Physical Integrity Rights and Legal Practices

Assignment: G101 – Human Rights – Sections 15-25 (“Human Rights and Violence” through “The ICC”)

February 6 (F): Intervention and the Future of Human Rights

Assignments: G101 – Human Rights – Sections 26-30 (“Problem of Intervention” through “Responsibility...”)
G101 – Human Rights – Sections 44-47 (“Changing Players...” through “Social Movements...”)

Week 6: Culture and Identity

February 9 (M): What is Culture?

Assignments: Huntington, Samuel “Clash of Civilizations?” available [here](#)

G101 – Culture – Sections 1-8 (“Culture and Globalization” through “A Clash of Civilizations”)

February 11 (W): Global versus Local

Assignments: G101 – Culture – Sections 9-17 (“Cultural Impact...” through “Sanctions”)

G101 – Human Rights – Sections 31-38 (“Impact of Globalization” through “Reproductive Rights...”)

February 13 (F): The Future of Culture and Identity in a Global World

Assignment: G101 – Culture – Sections 18-22 (“Other Cultural Challenges...” through “Conclusion”)

Week 7: International Crime

February 16 (M): Terrorism

Assignments: **Geography Quiz**

Crenshaw, Martha “The Causes of Terrorism” available [here](#)

February 18 (W): Conflict Minerals/Blood Diamonds, Drugs, and Human Trafficking

Assignments: G101 – Human Rights – Section 39 (“Trafficking in Persons”)

UNESCO, “The Globalization of the Drug Trade” available [here](#)

Source Intelligence, “What are Conflict Minerals?” available [here](#)

Amnesty International, “Conflict Diamonds” available [here](#)

February 20 (F): NO CLASS – INSTRUCTOR AT A CONFERENCE

Week 8: Technology

February 23 (M): The Internet and Information Technology

Assignments: G101 – Technology – Sections 1-7 (“Information Technology” through “Short Term...Gains”)

G101 – Technology – Sections 16-21 (“Web 2.0” through “Cloud Computing”)

February 25 (W): Improving the World?

Assignment: G101 – Technology – Sections 8-15 (“Health Care” through “Modern Warfare”)

February 27 (F): Privacy, Security, and Cyber-Terror

Assignments: G101 – Technology - Sections 22-26 (“Concerns of the Technological Age” through “Conclusion”)

Gilmour, Stan “Policing Crime and Terrorism in Cyberspace” pgs. 149-153 only, available [here](#)

Week 9: Catch-up and Exam #1

March 2 (M): Catch-up Day or Current Event

Assignments: **Writing Assignment #2 due by the start of class**

Other assignments TBA

March 4 (W): Review for Exam #1

Assignment: Come prepared with questions

March 6 (F): Exam #1

Assignment: Study!

Week 10: Spring Break

March 9 – March 13 (M-F): NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Assignment: Start thinking of Final Project Ideas!

Week 11: Trade and Development

March 16 (M): The Basics of International Trade

Assignment: G101 – Trade – Sections 1-11 (“Introduction” to “The Trade Balance”)

March 18 (W): The Case for and Against Trade Liberalization

Assignment: **Final Project Idea due by the start of class**

G101 – Trade – Sections 12-26 (“Government Regulation” through “Trade and Environmental...”)

March 20 (F): Development: Why are Some Countries Rich while Others are Poor?

Assignment: G101 – Development – Sections 1-10 (“Introduction” through “Institutions of Development”)

Week 12: People, Health, and Food

March 23 (M): Helping the Human Condition

Assignment: G101 – Trade – Sections 11-19 (“Case Studies of Development Projects” through “Conclusion”)

March 25 (W): The GMO Debate

Assignments: Harmon, Amy “A Lonely Quest...” available [here](#)

G101 – Health – Sections 18-21 (“Genetically Modified Organisms” through “The U.S. and E.U.”)

Bracken, Tara “Put Away Your DDT” from *Of Microbes and Men* available [here](#)

March 27 (F): Disease!

Assignments: Bracken, Tara “The Columbian Exchange”, from *Of Microbes and Men* available [here](#)

G101 – Health – Sections 1-17 (“Introduction” through “Conclusion”)

G101 – Health – Sections 22-29 (“Four Global Diseases- Introduction” through “Link between...”)

Week 13: Energy and Sustainability

March 30 (M): Powering the Planet

Assignments: G101 – Energy – Sections 1-16 (“Introduction” through “Nuclear Energy and Development”)

April 1 (W): Sustainability and Energy

Assignments: Barton, Erin “Writing the story of a sustainable future” available [here](#)

G101 – Energy – Sections 16-33 (“Renewable and Alternative...” through “The First Law...”)

April 3 (F): NO CLASS – INSTRUCTOR AT A CONFERENCE

Week 14: People Moving, People Creating, and People Learning

April 6 (M): Migration

Assignments: **Writing Assignment #3 due by the start of class**

G101 – Migration – Sections 1-18 (“Introduction” through “Conclusion”)

April 8 (W): Art and Entertainment

Assignments: The Hollywood Reporter, “Globalization reinventing film industry” available [here](#)

Aidi, Hisham “America's Hip-Hop Foreign Policy” available [here](#)

April 10 (F): Education

Assignments: G101 – Education – Sections 1-22 (“Introduction” through “Conclusion”)

Week 15: Sports!

April 13 (M): The Politics of the Olympics

Assignments: Fuller, Jaime “A not-so-brief history of politics and the Olympics” available [here](#)

The Economist, “Why would anyone want to host the Olympics?” available [here](#)

Bender, Andrew “Sochi's Long Term Economic Impact: Good or Bad?” available [here](#)

April 15 (W): The World Cup

Assignments: Al Jazeera, “Qatar labour issues not FIFA's responsibility” available [here](#)

The Economist, “FIFA and Corruption: Hear no evil” available [here](#)

Kuper, Simon “The Global Game” available [here](#)

April 17 (F): NO CLASS – INSTRUCTOR AT A CONFERENCE

Week 16:

April 20 (M): Project Workday/Catch-up Day

Assignments: Come with questions about your project

Other Assignments TBA

April 22 (W): Student Presentations

Assignment: Prepare for presentations

April 24 (F): Student Presentations

Assignment: Prepare for presentations

Week 17:

April 27 (M): Student Presentations and Exam Review

Assignment: Come with questions

April 28 (T): Reading Day: No Class

Assignment: **Final Projects (written component) Due by 11:59PM**

May 1 (F): Final Exam 12:00-3:00pm

Assignment: Study!