

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

POLS 2500
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12.00 – 1:15
326 Old Main

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:30-11:30, or by appointment

A university education is not so much getting the right answers to someone else's questions, it is about learning to evaluate existing questions and coming up with new ones. International Studies (or Global Studies, we will discuss the relative merits of the two terms) is a way of looking at the world that is designed to disrupt the standard ways we have used to understand how the world works. Essentially, this class is designed to introduce you to the real world issues usually addressed within International Studies. The class will get you to think about how addressing these issues and the way we explain them are useful in your time at university, and how they relate to potential career paths.

Perhaps these two literary quotes are a better way to sum up my hopes for the class:

“Even if you had never seen the ocean you had a picture of it in your head from what you had been told by foreign people who sometimes came upriver. You knew that one day you would go out into a world of marble pavements and peacocks, of hillsides buzzing with heat, the fragrance of crushed herbs rising around you as you walked. You planned for what your journeys would bring you: the touch of warm terra-cotta, the night sky of another climate, alien flowers, the stone-eyed gaze of other people's saints.”

Wolf Hall, Hilary Mantel

"The world is big. Some people are unable to comprehend that simple fact. They want the world on their own terms, its peoples just like them and their friends, its places like the manicured little patch on which they live. But this is a foolish and blind wish. Diversity is not an abnormality but the very reality of our planet. The human world manifests the same reality and will not seek our permission to celebrate itself in the magnificence of its endless varieties. Civility is a sensible attribute in this kind of world we have; narrowness of heart and mind is not." (Chinua Achebe)

Bottom Line: The class is designed to help you explore the topic of international studies and the real world.

Learning Objectives

After taking this class students will:-

- understand the various meanings of international/global studies
- understand and interpret what is meant by the term “globalization”
- understand terminology and frameworks required to explore various topics of international studies
- make connections between the different topics discussed
- explore how your understanding of the topics have been advanced
- consider how the concepts we discussed have helped you understand real world issues
- consider how the class material is relevant for your continuing university education
- consider how the class material is useful for your future careers

Instruction methods

To provide the information necessary for your work the course will consist of lectures, a textbook, videos, and in-class discussions.

Required Readings:

Patricia J. Campbell, Aran MacKinnon, and Christy R. Stevens, 2010, *An Introduction to Global Studies*, Wiley-Blackwell.

The USU library has purchased this book as an e-book. My understanding is that there is unlimited access (no limited on amount of users or the amount of times a person may use the book). So, there should be no reason to purchase the book. However, the book is on sale at the USU bookstore if you would prefer to use a hardcopy. Because it is available as an e-book, the book is not on reserve.

Your Responsibilities

You are responsible for obtaining the lecture notes, and so you should come to class. I expect attendance. Attendance is part of your grade, and your active participation in the class through weekly in-class activities will be part of the grade. You may also download the lecture slides from Canvas (see below) to supplement your notes or print them out in advance to help you take notes.

Coming to class means arriving on time, staying for the duration and being attentive: no talking (*it drives me nuts!*), newspaper reading, text messaging (*I might just go ballistic!!*), or snoring. And, of course, please turn your cell-phones off.

No late assignments will be accepted, unless there is a medical or family emergency documented by the Dean’s office– meaning something sudden, drastic, and unforeseen. If you have scheduled events, such as weddings, family reunions, job interviews, etc., coming up plan ahead and hand in the assignment early!

No cheating! See below.

Academic Integrity

By remaining in this class after being presented this syllabus, it is understood that you will follow and be bound by the most recent version of the USU Student Code, and especially the policies on academic integrity (Section VI). It is my policy that plagiarizing from any other sources (including published works and web-sites) is a form of cheating that will definitely result in an “F” for the assignment and maybe even the course. Your written work must be independently produced, and must not display cross-over or direct similarity with the work of a classmate; this too is a form of cheating that will definitely result in an “F” for the assignment and maybe even the course. Self-plagiarism, either for assignments within this class or using material you have written for other classes, is also a violation of academic integrity and counts as a form of cheating.

All cases of cheating will be reported to the Dean’s office

Civility Policy

The expectation of in-class discussion of the course material reflects a belief in informed debate that respects individual opinions and differences. Each member of the Utah State University community is responsible for fostering an atmosphere imbued with dignity, respect, tolerance, appreciation of diversity and positive regard for all members of our collegiate community.

Accessing Canvas.

To access the course page:

1. Type the following url “ <https://canvas.usu.edu>” in to your browser to get to the main Canvas page.
2. Log-in to Canvas using you’re A Number and Password.
3. Select the "Introduction to International Studies" link under the Courses window. You will be redirected to the POLS 2500 course page, where you will be able to access the course syllabus, lecture notes/slides, and assignments. If additional readings, discussion groups, and your performance records are added and activated during the semester they will be made available in Canvas too.

You may wish to familiarize yourself with Canvas by reviewing any of the online tutorials, which may be accessed from your Canvas homepage.

Please note that you are responsible for properly accessing material posted to the Canvas system!

Course Outline:

Week 1, August 31: Introduction

Reading: *Introduction to Global Studies (IGS)*, Preface and Chapter 1.

Week 2, September 5 and 7: Globalization and Global Citizenship

Reading: *IGS* Chapter 1.

Week 3, Sept. 12 and 14: Nation-State System

Reading: *IGS* Chapter 2.

Week 4, Sept. 19 & 21: International Organizations

Reading: *IGS* Chapter 3.

Week 5, Sept. 26 & 28: Human Rights

Reading: *IGS* Chapter 4.

Week 6, Oct. 3 & 5: Population and Consumption

Reading: *IGS* Chapter 6.

Week 7, Oct. 10 & 12: Infectious Disease and Globalization

Reading: *IGS* Chapter 5.

Week 8, Oct. 17: The Natural Environment

Reading: *IGS* Chapter 7.

Week 9, Oct. 24 & 26: The Gendered World

Reading: *IGS* Chapter 8.

Week 10, Oct. 31 & Nov. 2: The Gendered World

Reading: *IGS* Chapter 8.

Week 11, Nov. 7 & 9: Information and Communication Technologies

Reading: *IGS* Chapter 9.

Week 12, Nov. 14 & 16: In-class exercise (15th) and careers talk (17th)

No reading – my guess is you deserve a break. But we will have an in-class exercise on Tuesday.

Week 13, Nov. 21: Video Response Exercise and Discussion of Final Exam

Week 14, Nov. 28 & 30: War and Violent Conflict

Reading: *IGS* Chapter 10.

Week 15, Dec. 5 & 7: Peace

Reading: *IGS* Chapter 11.

TAKE HOME FINAL DUE DECEMBER 14, 1:30pm in my mailbox in Old Main Hall 320

There is no final exam other than the take-home final.

Requirements and Grading

You are responsible for accessing the Canvas website for this class to get the class material and keep up to date with any class announcements.

Class Participation counts towards 40% of your final grade. Woody Allen's rule (80% of life is just showing up) does **not** apply to this class. Your class participation will be graded through weekly in-class exercises that will vary from week to week. They will include short written responses to video, short reflective essays, or organized group activities. They will occur in **either** the Tuesday or Thursday class with no prior announcement. The assignments will be graded as either Pass or Fail. If you complete 10 passing level assignments over the course of the semester you will receive the full amount of this component of your final grade. For each assignment missing or not receiving a passing grade you will lose 4% of the score used to calculate your final grade

You are required to read all the assigned materials and discuss them in class. You are required to participate in the classroom discussions. Attendance and participation is expected. Your

Weekly Response Papers count towards 40% of your final grade. They are due at the beginning of each Tuesday class. The best 9 out of a maximum of 12 response papers will count for your final grade (You may elect to do more than 9 and let me calculate the best 9, or you may skip up to 3 papers with no penalty). A response paper should be about one and a half pages in length (there is no need for it to be longer), double-spaced,

12 point font, one-inch margins. Proof-reading, spelling, good grammar are expected, and points will be deducted for poor presentation.

The response papers should consist of two paragraphs. The first paragraph is a reflection on how the week's class has changed your understanding of the particular topic. What assumptions, understanding, and opinions did you have prior to the week's material, and in what ways has this changed? In other words, tell me how you're thinking on the topic has changed. If it is a topic you had little or no familiarity with then tell me how this new topic has added or changed your thinking about how the world works. If you came to the topic with a certain level of knowledge, then tell me how your knowledge and understanding has been advanced. However you begin the week's topic there is room for advancing your understanding – for example, if you think you know what is has been presented in the chapter then use the “Researching to Learn” feature in the textbook to access new material or opinions.

The second paragraph of the paper should take two or three concepts briefly defined in the highlighted boxes in the chapter assigned for the week and say how you think they are relevant to understanding an ongoing real world issue. The purpose here is to show why you think the concept is relevant to the real world issue and how you think the application of the concept helps you further understand the issue.

Take Home Final Exam counts towards 20% of your final grade. This exam will be assigned on November 15 and will be due on or before December 14 at 1:30pm. You will be given a choice of three questions, of which you will choose just one. The questions will be designed to show how your knowledge and understanding of global studies has advanced over the course of the semester. The questions will allow you to explore the idea of global studies as a whole or focus on one or two topics that interest you the most. You will be asked to write a paper of approximately 3 double-spaced typed pages.

No late assignments will be accepted. All deadlines are absolute and final. Exceptions will only be made in the case of family or medical emergencies documented by the student through the Dean's office.