

Fall 2004
INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL STUDIES
310-12900-01 & 02
Department of Politics Ithaca College

Time: TR 9:25-10:40 AM
Professor: Dr. Peyi Soyinka-Airewele
274-3508

Venue: Williams 323
Office: 314 Muller. Ext:

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Wed 12:00-2:00pm

Course Description

We inhabit an increasingly complex and interconnected world that is of strategic importance in the calculations of policymakers, the corporate world and the myriad of professionals and organizations concerned with socio-political and human wellbeing. Regardless of your disciplinary orientation, an ability to understand critical world issues is indispensable for navigating and engaging the challenges of any contemporary society. This course has been designed to allow students to investigate the nature, causes and impact of systemic processes and institutions on different regions of the world. It promises to be an exciting and difficult journey because our task will be to integrate critical frames from political science, history, sociology, and other fields in our exploration of the global system.

Our central concerns will include the construction of power, identity and hierarchy in the global system and the dilemma of human rights' protection in a competitive marketplace. In seeking to understand the gap between the rich and the impoverished of the earth, we will examine the ongoing debates on global history, 'cultural particularities' and representations of the other. We will also interrogate other complex analytical categories that are often abused in explaining political systems and the socio-cultural and economic systems that support or constrain them. Through our study of selected regions and countries, we will deepen our awareness of the realities, aspirations, processes and social structures that affect diverse societies and groups on our planet.

The course has several objectives:

1. To expose participants to the nature and dimensions of the vast disparities that characterize the global system and to sharpen our understanding of the causes and consequences of such divides.
2. To provide fundamental analytical frames from which we can address questions arising from critical global issues.
3. To foster dialogue that will contribute to the personal growth of all participants through the systematic questioning of old assumptions, the humanization of distant issues, social dilemmas and their potential solutions.

WebCT Course On-line: Students are required to log in regularly to the course site through <http://courses.ithaca.edu> Log in to WebCT using your Ithaca College username and password. Quizzes, assignments, news, links and important messages will be posted or mailed through the WEbCT Global Studies site. Please set up your WebCT email account to forward messages to your other accounts (e.g IC, Yahoo) immediately. I will give an in-class demonstration and the ITS helpdesk consultants will be glad to assist you thereafter.

Required texts: Students are required to have their own copies of the required texts by the second week of class. The following books will be needed for this course:
Bookstore: **Comparative Politics of the Third World**
Course Reader to be purchased from the Politics Department, 309 Muller.
Optional: For an excellent writing guide, order **Writing to Learn in Political Science** by Anne Edwards.

GRADING CRITERIA

Active Participation and Consistent Attendance are required. In general, assignments will be graded using a 4 point system closely linked to the college's GPA system.

Tests/Quizzes: 60% (To conclude the study of major topical sections)

Group Presentations/Report and Attendance/Participation: 20%

Final Research Paper: 20%

Course Requirements and General Policies

1. Completion of all assignments and required readings on schedule. Late submissions will be severely penalized and a failing grade will be recorded 48 hours after the deadline.
2. Regular and punctual attendance. The course is fashioned around an interactive design and your presence is crucial to the entire program. Absences from class without prior excuse will affect your grade negatively. If you make a habit of cutting classes (that is, more than 1 AWOL in a calendar month), you will be asked to withdraw from the course.
3. Effective participation in class discussions and other activities. Points related to in-class and group participation comprise a substantial proportion of the final course grade. In this respect, I will be looking for evidence of thoughtful preparation for the class, adequate knowledge of the issue under study and of the arguments, facts and issues in the readings. In contributing to the dialogue, your comments should build on or critique the text and other commentaries, articulate your position and ideas or simply ask constructive questions.
4. Participation skills. Participation grades reflect our commitment to mutual courtesy including gestures such as attentiveness to presentations by colleagues. Please do not conduct side conversations or read/study non course-related materials in class.
5. It is your (sole) responsibility to get notes and handouts if you are absent from class.
6. *Academic Integrity*. Academic honesty is required during exams and the conduct of all assignments. Plagiarism/other forms of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade at the least. Please refer to the Ithaca College codes in your handbook and read my paper guidelines for papers before submitting any work.
7. Use of office hours. Please use this opportunity to discuss assignments, tests or any difficulties you might be experiencing. E-mail is the preferred mode of contacting me outside office hours. Due to my schedule, I generally review college mail twice a week and will respond within that time frame.
8. The course syllabus is flexible and may be modified at any point in time.
9. Please see me early in the semester if you have any need for special accommodation.
10. Policy on make-up examination: Make-up assignments/exams and late submissions will be granted only in special situations, e.g medical or personal emergencies.

Note: I do not accept papers in class. Always submit your papers in the designated box outside my office.

COURSE SCHEDULE: THEMATIC OUTLINE AND READINGS FOR THE SEMESTER.

Reading Assignments from the primary text are designated as *Comp Pols.* All other readings are from the reader or handouts as indicated.

Please read assigned texts prior to class on the indicated dates.

Weekly Discussion Assignment: Prepare for class discussions weekly by reviewing and responding to the “Now it is your turn” section and other issues/questions raised in the text and in class.

	Date	Topic	Readings & Assignment
ONE: TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE GLOBAL SYSTEM: THE ANALYTICAL CHALLENGE			
1	Aug 26	Introductory class International & Comparative Studies	Please buy texts and reader ASAP (Bring assignment)
2	Aug 31, Sept 2	Challenge of Perspectives/ Positioning the Scholar	(Ch. 1) <i>Comp Pols. of the Third World</i> . “The Melian Dialogue” (In-class handouts)
TWO: UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL SYSTEM			
3	Sept 7 & 9	Structural Legacies	“What your world civilization class might have left out” Ch 2 <i>Comp Pols.</i> .
4	Sept 14 & 16	Structural Legacies: Colonialism and a changing world.	“Gold, God and Glory” ch 3. <i>Comp Pols.</i>
5	Sept 21 & 23	Neo-dependency: theory and cases	“Independence or In-dependence” ch. 4 <i>Comp Pols.</i>
6	Sept 28 & 30	The Globalization Debate	“Globalization: Help or Cure?” ch. 6. <i>Comp Pols.</i>
7	Oct 5 & 7	Debt and Poverty: The Impact of Structural Adjustment	“Prices and Politics” ch. 7 <i>Comp Pols.</i>
PART THREE: GLOBAL POLITICS AND CHANGE			
8	Oct 12	Alternative Approaches to Addressing Global Issues	Ch. 8 <i>Comp Pols.</i> Fall Break. No class on Oct 13.
9	Oct 19 & 21	The Power of Civil Society	“From Ideas to Action” ch 10 <i>Comp Pols.</i>
10	Oct 26 & 28	Violent Pathways to Change	“The Call to Arms” Ch 12 <i>Comp Pols</i>
11	Nov 2 & 4	Violent Pathways to Change continued	Ch 13 <i>Comp Pols</i>
12	Nov 9 & 11	Democratic Action	“Ballots, Not Bullets” Ch 14 <i>Comp Pols</i>
Please start to research your final paper by preparing a bibliography of the scholarly sources you will use in writing the paper.			
FOUR: LOCAL-GLOBAL PROBLEMS AND STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE research, presentations and discussions – see assignments guide			
13	Nov 16 & 18	Critical Global Issues: Arenas for Effective Action. (A case study)	C. Noble, Nobody’s Child (Reader) Invited Guest

	Date	Topic	Readings & Assignment
14	Nov 19- Nov 26	Thanksgiving Break	
15	Nov 30 & Dec 2	Re-envisioning the system: Group Presentations	“Global Challenges and Responses, Linking Cases and Theory” Chs 18 & 19 <i>Comp Pols</i> See www.maketradeair.com
16	Dec 7 & 9	“Views of the Global Core from the Margins”	“Third World Views of the Super Powers” Ch. 20 <i>Comp Pols</i> Final (pre-approved) research paper is due Friday Dec 10 by 12 noon

Additional handouts will be provided during the semester to supplement the readings above.

Study Notes and Class Preparations:

Please take notes while studying and write down some of your responses to the materials. Participants will be asked to comment on an issue or debate during our in-class discussion sessions. The entire class benefits when you introduce pertinent questions and comments and current news items for discussion and participation will be graded. Study guides and review sheets follow below and a detailed description of assignments, paper guides will be provided in class.

Study/Discussion/Debate Guide for Assigned readings

Please use this study guide and review your answers for class discussions.

Title of Article/Chapter in Text:

The Author's Name:

Summarize the main idea(s)/argument(s) in the reading

Prior to reading about and discussing this issue, my personal beliefs were:

List any important facts that the author uses to support each main idea.

Discuss the credentials and/or credibility of experts cited in the reading

Identify any opinions expressed

List any examples of bias or faulty reasoning in the article and explain why or provide alternative facts or reasoning

List any new terms/concepts that were discussed in the article and write a short definition

How does this issue or idea correlate with other material presented in class and/or other scholarly sources

Based on further consideration of this issue, my personal beliefs are now/still:

GUIDE TO WRITING PAPERS

A. General Paper Format and Guide:

1. Please type and staple neatly, do not use special folders.
2. Indicate your name, the paper title/assignment, course title and professor's name on a cover page or the top of the first page. Include pagination.
3. As much as possible, use 1.5 points font size.
4. 'A good way to improve your grade is to bring ideas from various sources to bear on your argument. Incorporate universal intellectual values such as clarity, accuracy, consistency, relevance, sound evidence, good reasons, depth and breadth.' (Hathaway)
5. Make reference to specific arguments, information, propositions, and evidence provided in the readings or elsewhere.
6. Combine a direct presentation of facts with thoughtful analysis and interpretation. Pieces of opinion may be a start but carefully formulated thoughts and a search for explanations and implications are a head-start for an 'A'.
7. You may use any standard reference or "works cited" format (eg Chicago style), but your references must be complete, consistent and correct. Remember that when you use an article in an edited book, the citation must be credited to the author of the article and not to the editor of the entire book. Avoid plagiarism like the plague and give credit as and when due. Plagiarism will earn a failing grade (at the least).
8. Works cited should refer to the original published pagination and not to the handwritten pagination you might find scribbled in the reader.
9. For research papers, please make sure your references include at least 70% scholarly works. Please see attached guide on "How to identify Scholarly/Refereed/Peer reviewed Articles". To cite electronic sources, please include all the usual information as well as the full name of website/database, URL and date downloaded" etc. The IC library website provides excellent guides on correct citations.
10. Proofread and edit ruthlessly. Ask a friend or visit the writing center for assistance with your draft.

If you need assistance with a paper, please see me ASAP. I will be delighted to help you- but it must be well ahead of the deadline and not a day before the paper is due.