

**First Year Seminar: Challenges to the Global Community  
Spring 2016**

Special Note: Topics highlighting or engaging sustainability are highlighted in GREEN throughout this syllabus.

Meeting Dates/Times: XXXX

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**Course Description:** This seminar is designed to enhance the students' ability to view and analyze global issues from a variety of perspectives. How do we identify, define, describe and negotiate difference within the global community? We will explore this question with the intersection of global issues including ethnicity and racism, globalization and economic inequality, **sustainability and the environment, population growth and migration**, gender inequality, human rights and international security. This is a discussion, reading and research-intensive course. During the semester you will hone your presentation and research skills by developing a research project related to the course topics.

**Student Learning Goals:**

By the completion of this course students should have:

- Developed a fundamental understanding of the theoretical frameworks, methodologies and contemporary debates in international studies
- Analyzed, critically engaged and assessed alternative perspectives and theories on global issues
- Increased proficiency in the mechanics of writing and argumentation
- Advanced their public presentation skills
- Applied these new strengths in argumentation to execute a 12-14 page research paper

**Texts for the course:** Ann Kelleher & Laura Klein, Global Perspectives 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.

All other readings will be made available through Sakai, the online portal for course materials.

**Course Format:** The class will utilize a variety of pedagogical techniques to foster a positive learning environment. Though I will give a lecture from time to time, daily lessons will be primarily student driven where I will play the role of facilitator. To maximize learning, all students MUST read the assigned material prior to class discussions.

**Grading Policy:** Your course grade is determined objectively from a combination of the short papers, participation points, the final paper and presentation. Class participation and overall respect for the course are the best options for enhancing your grade. Each grade element is as follows:

Participation and Attendance	50 points
Position Paper <b>(Due XX)</b>	25 points
Seminar Paper Research Proposal <b>(Due XX)</b>	25 points
Revised Proposal + Annotated Bibliography+ Presentation <b>(Due XX)</b>	25 points
Final Paper Draft for approved topic <b>(Due XX)</b>	25 points
Final Presentation <b>(Due XX)</b>	50 points
Final Paper <b>(Due XX)</b>	100 points
TOTAL:	<b>300 points</b>

## Conceptualizing International Studies

### XX (Date)

Welcome and Course Overview

General information: Syllabus, How to Use Sakai, Accessing Readings, Submitting Assignments

Establish ground rules for classroom discussion and debate

Reflections

*Topics to explore: What is international studies? Is international studies everything under the sun? Is there danger in a single story?*

### XX International Studies as a Field of Study

*Topics to explore: What are other nations, countries and communities talking about in the world? Is there a single story being told? What do we gain from a diversity of stories?*

**Readings:** Chap 1 in K&K

**Special Assignment for Today: Bring 2 current events from the front page of an international news source (not based in the U.S.)**

**Presentation Groups Revealed Today!**

## Theoretical Framework

### XX Power, Knowledge and Systems of Interpretation (Part I)

*Topics to explore: Is our perception of “we” and “they” real or imagined? What is the role of power in making those distinctions?*

**Presenters: Group A**

Timothy B. Powell, “Introduction: Re-Thinking Cultural Identity”

Edward Said, “Knowledge and Interpretation”

Ella Habibat Shohat, “Reflections by an Arab Jew”

### XX Power, Knowledge and Systems of Interpretation (Part II)

- **Position Paper Due TODAY**
- Continue to examine the role of power in paradigm, ways of thinking and interpreting the world
- Reflections

**Presenters: Group B**

Ella Habibat Shohat, “From Eurocentrism to Polycentrism”

Richard Robbins, “Indigenous Groups and Ethnic Conflict”

**CQ Researcher: Saving Indigenous Peoples**

**Class Debate: Should Indigenous people be educated in their own language?**

*While preserving the natural and physical spaces of indigenous communities, it is also important to see the intersections with cultural preservation and heritage.*

## Cultural Diversity

*Topics to explore: What frames of reference separate cultures? From where do these frames originate? How do they survive, change and decompose?*

**XX Presenters: Group C**

K & K, Chaps 2 and 3

Jan Pieterse, “Globalization and Human Integration”

Ralph Linton, “One hundred percent American”

**CQ Researcher: European Global Migration Crisis**

**Class Debate: How do we address the European Migration Crisis as a global community?**

*The global migration crisis can be observed through a lens of sustainability in terms of resource distribution and scarcity. This theme also appears later in the syllabus.*

Film: Special Flight

**XX** Finish up the film Special Flight, Discussion

**Guest speaker Ms. Rosalind Tedford on “How to do Research”**

### **Race and Racism**

*Topics to explore: What are the origins of racist discourse in science, structure and political economy? What are the present global implications of these origins?*

**XX**

**Seminar Research Paper Proposal Due**

**Presenters: Group D**

Leonard Lieberman, “A History of Scientific Racism”

Roger Sanjek, “The Enduring Inequalities of Race”

Karen Brodtkin Sacks, “How did Jews Become White Folks”

Michael K. Brown, “Race Preferences and Race Privileges”

Suggested (Not required!) Reading: Beverly Daniel Tatum, “Defining Racism”

Film: Rabbit Proof Fence

### **Globalization, Economic Sustainability, and the Debt Crisis in the Global South**

*Topics to explore: How is global wealth produced, distributed and rewarded? What does globalization mean? Who stands to gain and who loses?*

**XX**

**Group A:**

The Singer Solution to World Poverty

K&K Chaps 4 & 5

Jan Pieterse “Globalization: Consensus and Controversies”

Original Position Activity

**XX**

**Revised Proposal + Presentations + Annotated Bibliography Due**

**Group B:**

UNDP Changing Today’s Consumption Patterns for Tomorrow’s Human Development

Marshall Sahlins, The Original Affluent Society

CQ Researcher: Global Population Growth

### **Global Feminisms**

*Topics to explore: How do the global challenges that we examine affect the economic, political and social status of women? What are some key intersections, problems and opportunities?*

**XX**

**Group C:**

Lynne. E. Ford, “Two Paths to Equality”

**Cynthia Enloe, “Tracking the Militarized Global Sneaker”**

Christine Chinkin, “Gender Inequality and International Human Rights Law”

CEDAW

Film: The World Before Her

### **Population Growth, Resource Distribution, Ecological Sustainability and Migration**

*Topics to Explore: What are the issues surrounding population growth? What are the implications of these issues for the global community? How do these issues intersect with human rights and the global common good?*

**XX**

**Group D:**

K&K Chaps 6 & 7

Richard Robbins, "The Problem of Population Growth"  
Sit Bali, "Migration and Refugees"  
CQ Researcher: Global Hunger  
Film: Snowpiercer

### **War, 9/11, Terrorism and International Security**

*Topics to Explore: What is national security? Is it always convergent with others' security? How can international security be attained? What is terrorism and who is a terrorist?*

**XX**

**Final Paper Draft for Approved Topic, Peer Review Session**

K&K Chaps 8 & 9

CQ Researcher Terrorism in Africa

**XX** In Class Film: The Hurt Locker OR American Sniper

*Topics to explore: How do we define a winner or loser in war? What are the consequences and costs for our global community? What does it mean for the individual?*

**Nov 25 Happy Thanksgiving! No class!**

**XX**

**Concluding Discussion: Challenges and Prospects for Our Global Community**

**Final Paper Due (12-14 pages not including references)**

**In-Class Final Presentations**