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  
Instructor: Dr. Jaira J. Harrington  
Politics and International Affairs Department of Political Science  
Contact: harrinjj@wfu.edu

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

Texts for the course: Ann Kelleher & Laura Klein, Global Perspectives 4th 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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Element</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position Paper (Due XX)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Paper Research Proposal (Due XX)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revised Proposal + Annotated Bibliography+ Presentation (Due XX)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper Draft for approved topic (Due XX)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation (Due XX)</td>
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<td>Final Paper (Due XX)</td>
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<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td><strong>300 points</strong></td>
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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
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?

Seminar Research Paper Proposal Due

Presenters: Group D
Roger Sanjek, “The Enduring Inequalities of Race”
Karen Brodkin 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?

Group A:
The Singer Solution to World Poverty
K&K Chaps 4 & 5
Jan Pieterse “Globalization: Consensus and Controversies”

Original Position Activity

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?

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?

Group D:
K&K Chaps 6 & 7
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