

**IDIS/POLS 1800
Global Issues
Summer 2022
Number of Credit Hours: 3**

Instructor: Eric N. Budd
Office: Miller Hall Room 308
Telephone: 978 665-3732
E-mail: ebudd@fitchburgstate.edu
Office Hours: By appointment via Google Meets

OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This paragraph must be taken directly from the university catalog description of the course. In addition to this paragraph you may choose to provide more information in the copy you distribute to students.]

This course examines the interdependency of the world's nations by focusing on current events in the international area and issues such as ozone depletion, pollution, the global economy, conflict and cooperation, population and hunger. Credit will not be given for both IDIS 1800 and [POLS 1800](#). CTW, GDCN

Here is the description from my syllabus:

Throughout the Cold War era, the United States viewed the global arena through the "lenses" of its struggle to contain communism. As a result, many pressing issues were relegated to the backburner, as security considerations were given precedence. With the ending of the Cold War, these issues are now starting to come to the forefront. This course represents an introduction to some of the most pressing issues of our day. Through an examination of these issues, this course is designed to offer the students a greater understanding of how the global arena operates, as well as of the current situation in different parts of the world.

COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students in this course will:

- 1. Examine some of the major challenges/issues of our time.**

2. Analyze the barriers to global efforts to address these challenges/issues.
3. Identify the historical development or origins of these challenges/issues.
4. Assess the connections between the different challenges/issues.
5. Identify different perspectives on these challenges/issues.

INSTRUCTOR'S ATTENDANCE POLICY: Not applicable since an online class__

TEXTS: None required__

ASSESSMENTS/COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Course requirements entail a mid-term, a final examination/simulation, a research presentation on a Global Issue selected by the student, and class participation. The mid-term will represent 25% of the grade, the final examination/simulation will be 30%, the research presentation will be 25%, and the remaining 20% will be for participation

FINAL PROJECT/EXAM DESCRIPTION:

The final is a simulation of a meeting of the United Nations, where each student represents a different country. By midnight of the last class, they will submit the following papers, which represents their final examination:

- Statistical Profile of the Country from data in the *CIA Factbook*.
<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html> (see attached)
- Using data from the CIA Factbook and <http://www.nationmaster.com>, write a 1-2 page profile of what your life would be like if you lived in that nation. Some topics to address could include: life expectancy, health, education, employment, family, wealth/class, identity, rights/freedom, etc.
- Four short papers (1-2 pages each) on any four of the following issues: human rights, economic development/challenges, health issues, military/security threats, environmental problems, or societal conflicts. For these papers, students will read several articles and then use them as the basis for a short paper exploring the issues/challenges their country faces in this area. Each paper should have a list of works cited. Do not use Wikipedia!

Please note: These must address four separate Global Issues, in other words they cannot all be about the environment, etc.

- **A position paper (2-3 pages) on the Global Issue that your country feels is the most important Global Issue, and thus the one that the global community should focus upon. This paper should include why your country feels this issue is the most significant, and any proposals for ways to address that issue. Please Note: This paper should be posted at the Discussion Board, while the other papers should be uploaded via the Assignments Tab at Blackboard.**

COURSE OUTLINE:

In chronological order, list the proposed dates, topics to be covered and the readings and activities expected from the candidates in preparation for those class sessions. Due dates for assignments and activities are listed.

Please Note: For each Discussion Board assigned below, students comment on the Discussion Board and then are asked to comment on several of their classmates' comments over the next day or so.

CLASS ONE: Tuesday

Topic: Course Introduction & Global Cooperation and Conflict

Required Readings:

1. In *Global Politics in a Changing World*, read Chapter 1: "Continuity and Change in Global Politics," pp. 1-32.

Assignments:

1. Discussion Board on International Relations Theory and the Challenge of Getting Global Cooperation

CLASS TWO: Thursday

Topic: Overpopulation and the Food Supply

Required Readings:

1. “The New Population Bomb: Four Megatrends that Will Change the World”
2. “Why Famine Persists,” *New York Times Sunday Magazine* ,
3. “The light at the end of the Chunnel,” *New York Times Sunday Magazine*
4. “Population Growth, Migration & Urbanization”

Assignments:

1. Discussion Board commenting on the article “The New Population Bomb: Four Megatrends that will Change the World”

CLASS THREE: Tuesday

Topic: Environmental Degradation & Protection

Required Readings:

1. In *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Global Issues*, Read Unit 2

Assignments:

1. Discussion Board where students select from a list of environmental issues, do some online research on the topic, and summarize their findings.

CLASS FOUR: Thursday

Topic: Nationalist Conflict

Required Readings:

1. In *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, Read Chapter 3: “Nations and Society”

Assignments:

1. Discussion board where students do some research online on different incidents/examples of nationalist conflicts globally and then summarize their findings.

CLASS FIVE: Tuesday

Topic: Human Rights

Required Readings:

1. In *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, Read Excerpts

Assignments:

1. Midterm. Essay questions will have been emailed to the students at least one week prior. **Late submissions marked down ½ grade/day late.**
2. Discussion Board on Human Rights. Students will pick a topic from a list, do some online research about the topic, and summarize their findings.

CLASS SIX: Thursday

Topic: Third World Development

Required Reading:

1. In *The Challenge of Third World Development*, read Chapter 9: “The Political Economy of Third World Development”

Assignment:

1. Discussion Board on different issues of global health and education. Students will pick from a list of topics, do some online research, and summarize their findings.

CLASS SEVEN: Tuesday

Topic: Free Trade

Required Readings:

1. “World Trade and Global Development: Theories of Economics in International Studies”

Assignments:

1. Discussion Board on the pros and cons of free trade.

CLASS EIGHT: Thursday

Topic: Global Security

Required Readings:

1. In *Globalization and Human Security*, read Chapters 6 & 7: “Averting Nuclear Armageddon: Reality Checks and Nuclear Balances” and “Roadmaps and Roadblocks: Securing Humanity in the 21st Century”
2. “Does Poverty Cause Terrorism?”

Assignments:

1. Discussion Board discussion of the article “Does Poverty Cause Terrorism?”

CLASS NINE: Tuesday

Topic: Globalization & the Role of the US in the Global Arena

Required Readings:

1. Friedman, “It’s a Flat World After All”
2. Ghemawat, “Why the World isn’t Flat”

Assignments:

1. Research Presentation due by midnight Tuesday August 10th. Students can pick from a list of potential topics or pick their own global issue to present on. Late Submissions will be marked down ½ grade/day late.

CLASS TEN: Thursday

Topic: Simulation and Final

Assignment:

1. Final/Simulation papers are due by midnight Thursday June 30th. Students will submit their Statistical Profile, paper on what their life would have been like if they had been born in their assigned country, and four short papers on their assigned country and 4 different global issues via Turnitin at the Blackboard site. Their position paper will be submitted at the Discussion Board for others to comment on as well.

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE GRADING POLICY

<u>4.0</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>95–100</u>
<u>3.7</u>	<u>A-</u>	<u>92–94</u>
<u>3.5</u>	<u>A-/B+</u>	<u>89–91</u>
<u>3.3</u>	<u>B+</u>	<u>86–88</u>
<u>3.0</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>83–85</u>
<u>2.7</u>	<u>B-</u>	<u>80–82</u>
<u>2.5</u>	<u>B-/C+</u>	<u>77–79</u>
<u>2.3</u>	<u>C+</u>	<u>74–76</u>
<u>2.0</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>71–73</u>
<u>1.7</u>	<u>C-</u>	<u>69–70</u>
<u>1.5</u>	<u>C-/D+</u>	<u>67–68</u>
<u>1.3</u>	<u>D+</u>	<u>64–66</u>
<u>1.0</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>60–63</u>
<u>0.0</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>0–59</u>
	<u>IN</u>	<u>Incomplete</u>
	<u>IP</u>	<u>In Progress</u>
	<u>W</u>	<u>Withdrawn</u>

CLASS POLICIES:

- o Policy on work handed in late and make up examinations (if applicable). **Late papers will be marked down ½ grade/day late.**
- o Any special rules, regulations or procedures None
- o Statement indicating each student is responsible for completing all course requirements and for keeping up with all activities of the course.

POLICY ON DISABILITY

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medication information, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment at the beginning of the course to talk with me. It is important that the issues relating to disabilities be discussed with me as soon as possible.

GRADE APPEAL

If you disagree with the evaluation of your work or believe an improper grade has been assigned, an appeal may be followed. Please discuss the matter with the instructor and refer to the Fitchburg State University Grade Appeal Policy in the university catalog.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

The faculty at Fitchburg State University require that work submitted in fulfillment of course requirements will be solely that of the individual candidate and all other sources will be cited appropriately. University Academic Integrity Policy, as outlined in the University Catalogue, will be strictly adhered to.

DISTANCE LEARNING & EXTENDED CAMPUS LIBRARY SERVICES

The Gallucci-Cirio Library at Fitchburg State University provides a full range of library services including borrowing privileges; document delivery (books and articles mailed to your home); Interlibrary Loan; reference assistance via: phone, email, IM, Blackboard's Collaboration and Elluminate tools, Skype and in-person; library instruction; research help and more. Any questions relating to library services should be directed to the Linda LeBlanc, Access Services Librarian, at 978-665-3062 or dllibrary@fitchburgstate.edu. There is also a special section for Distance Learning and Extended Campus Services at <http://fitchburgstate.libguides.com/dlservices> outlining the wide range of services available to you and how to access them.