Syllabus (tentative)

GLS 2000: Contemporary Global Issues  
Monday, Wednesday 3:30 - 4:45  
Fall 2008

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Catalog Description: This course examines a selection of global issues from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. Students will be exposed to the complexities of these issues which are the result of the confluence of historical, geographical, economic, cultural, and political factors; emphasis will be placed on how different societies view global issues, as well as how different perspectives can alter one’s understanding of them. (MULTI-CULTURAL; CROSS-DISCIPLINARY).

Course Overview
In this class we will consider globalization from four key perspectives: economical, political, cultural and ideological. These issues will be considered from interdisciplinary perspectives, including social analysis, humanities, and the arts. In addition, we will examine each issue from a number of “sides.” Overall, we will be moving between the global and the local, because even issues which affect many people and many places affect them differently according to who and where they are. This means that you will study both the “big picture” for each issue, as well as the particular contexts for that issue as it plays out in specific locations.

Required Reading:


Requirements and Evaluation:
Blog: 20%  
Presentation: 15%  
Paper: 25%  
Final Exam: 25%  
Participation: 15%
Participation: Participation is not limited to attendance; students must come to class prepared to speak out, argue, present ideas and propose solutions. Minimally this means that all reading and other assignments must be completed before class. Because I expect much of your learning to occur in the classroom, each absence over two will drop your participation grade by one letter. More than five absences during the semester and you fail the course. Perfect attendance will be rewarded in the participation grade.

Paper: There will be one conceptual papers (minimum extension 10 pages) which require students to demonstrate their understanding of one issue related to the subjects discussed in class. This paper require certain degree of independent research. Even though the development of original ideas is not the main goal, certain degree of critical thinking is expected. Student need to cite the sources of their information.

Exam: There will be a final comprehensive exam to test your understanding of class material, with objective questions and, most importantly, essays. This exam will ask for you to link units together and compare case studies. All materials reviewed in the class (including the documentaries) may appear in this exam.

Presentation: The course sections titled “From where you stand” is your opportunity to bring into the classroom particular aspects of the globalization debate that are specially interested to you. For each section, 6 students will form a panel and each of them will make a very brief individual presentation (in no case longer that 10 minutes), outlining the characteristics, repercussions, trends, developments... of a particular phenomenon.

Blog: each student must open a blog to be used just for this course at the following blog portal: https://www.blogger.com/start. Follow the instructions on the page and, once it is running, take note of your address; I will ask you to write it down in the 2nd session of the course.
Before each “article debate” sessions of the course (5 total) you have to had posted in your blog a short 300-words-summary of the required reading for that day. This summary should end with your critical evaluation of the reading.
You will not receive individual feed-back on these assignments, but we will visit randomly a couple of blogs before each class in order to start the discussion on the articles.
The evaluation of the blog will happen at the end of the semester and will take into account that you post them timely, that day demonstrate understanding of the reading and that they have an appropriate extension.

Course Calendar

Agust______________________________________________________________
*  
W 27. Presentation

September_________________________________________________________
*  
M 1. (Labor day)


* M 15. The economic dimension. (GVSI 37-68)

[Further documentation: “Commodity Chains and Marketing Strategies: Nike and the Global Athletic Footware Industry” (GR163-...)]

* M 22 Perspectives: Globalization tapes (DVD 2690)
    [Further documentation: Losers & Winners (DVD 2190)]

W 24 From where you stand: the impact of global economy.

* M 29. Political dimension of Globalization. (GVSI 56-68)
October

W 1. Nation-state and global governance.
Article discussion: Strange, Susan. “The declining authority of States” (GR 228-... Elect. Reserve)
[Further documentation: “Partisan Politics in Global Economy” (GR 247-...)]

* M 6. Perspectives: UN and global governance.
[Further documentation: A question of Rights: the Making of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights --VC 9886]


*****(Fall break)*****

M 22. The role of media.
Article discussion: Price, Monroe E. “Media and Sovereignty” (GR 306-… Elec. Reserve)
[Further documentation: “Cultural Imperialism” (GR 317-…)]

10ª Sem
L 27 Post-colonial, migrant cultures.
Roberto Bolaño’s short story “Anne Moore's Life” (Elec. Reserve)
[Further documentation: The Spectre of Hope: with Sebastian Salgado & John Berger (VC 12201)]

Article discussion: World Commission on Environment and Development. “From One Earth to One World“ (GR 404-… Elec. Reserve)

Novembre ____________________________________________________________
11ª Sem
L 3 Perspectives: An Inconvenient Truth (DVD 1505)

M 5 From where you stand: culture and/or ecology in the global setting.

12ª Sem.
L 10 Ideological questions. (GVSI 93-112)


13ª Sem.
M 17 From where you stand: Contradictory faces of our globalized world.

W 19 Challenges to globalism (GVSI. 113-135)

14ª Sem
M 24. Perspectives: Argentina: Hopes in hard times (VC 12708)

Papers due

Dicembre _____________________________________________________________
15ª Sem
M 1 Perspectives: local responses to global issues.

W3 A global war on Globalism: yihadist-related-terrorism. The Al Qaeda files. In search of bin Laden [library electronic resource]

16ª Sem
M 8 From where you stand: The future (of the) globe.

Final exam (on the day assigned by the university calendar)