

GLOBAL ISSUES
UN1025: SECTION E
FALL 2014
M/W/F 2:05 – 2:55
Dow 641

Instructor: Sam Sweitz

Office: Academic Office Building, Room 213

Telephone: Dr. Sweitz, 487-1476

Department of Social Sciences, 487-2113

E-mail: srsweitz@mtu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays 3:30 – 4:30 or by appointment

Graduate Teaching Assistants

Hamza Raheel, hfraheel@mtu.edu

Mizanur Rahman, ssmmizan@mtu.edu

Textbook, Equipment, and Readings

Steger, Manfred (2013). *Globalization: A very short introduction*, 3rd edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

iClicker (Personal Response System Transmitter)

Selected readings available through the course Canvas page.

Course Content

Global Issues explores a variety of themes that will help you understand and engage with critical issues in the modern world. The lectures, readings, and other media associated with this course offer a global perspective on the diversity of human societies in the contemporary world, drawing on anthropology, political science, history, geography, environmental studies, economics, and sociology. The course is divided into seven modules: culture and worldview, population, politics and governance, economic systems, environment, and sustainability.

Global Issues and University Student Learning Goals

UN1025 Global Issues is one of four core General Education courses that all students take as part of their degree program at Michigan Technological University. The university has identified eight [University Student Learning Goals](#) which all students--regardless of major--are expected to accomplish by the time they graduate. Global Issues focuses on two of these goals: Goal 3, Cultural Knowledge and Cross-Cultural Engagement and Goal 6, Information Literacy. In your General Education and degree program courses, you will develop skills and competencies in all eight of these interrelated, interdependent learning goals as part of Michigan Tech's mission of cultivating "intellectual diversity and a worldview adapted to the needs and challenges of the 21st century."

University Student Learning Goal 3: Global Literacy and Human Culture

A globally literate student will demonstrate the ability to understand and analyze issues on multiple scales and from diverse perspectives, acknowledging interconnectivity and complexity. As globally literate, students should 1) become informed and open-minded people who are attentive to diversity across the spectrum of differences, 2) seek to understand how their actions affect the human and natural world on multiple scales, and 3) address the world's most pressing and enduring issues while considering context, complexity, and interconnectivity.

University Student Learning Goal 6: Information Literacy

Students will be able to analyze the need for, strategically access, critically evaluate, and use information effectively, ethically, and legally.

Your work for this course may be used to assess the effectiveness of Global Issues in teaching these two goals. To find out more about what these goals mean and how they are assessed, consult the rubrics at the end of this document or visit the [Michigan Tech Assessment](#) page. You can find the full descriptions and rubrics used to assess these learning goals at the assessment page, or at the bottom of this syllabus.

Coursework and Grading

Your course grade will be the sum of your written assignment scores, exam scores, quiz scores, and course participation points divided by a possible 850 points for the class. The Course grade is comprised of the following:

Writing Assignments (200 points)

Research Paper Project

- Proposal (30 points)
- Draft (50 points)
- Peer Review (30 points)
- Final paper (90 points)

Discussion Posts (140 points)

Complete seven discussion exercises on Canvas (20 points each)

Quizzes (120 points)

Complete six reading quizzes on Canvas (20 points each)

Exams (350 points)

- Two midterm exams (100 points each)
- One final exam (150 points)

Participation (40 points)

Based on iClicker performance and other measures of in-class participation.

Total: 850 points

No extra credit will be given in this course.

Letter grades for exams, papers, quizzes, and for the final course grade will be assigned according to the standard Michigan Tech grading scale:

100.0 – 92.0%	A	87.9 – 82.0%	B	77.9 – 72.0%	C	67.9 – 60.0%	D
91.9 – 88.0%	AB	81.9 – 78.0%	BC	71.9 – 68.0%	CD	59.9 – 0.0%	F

Three exams will be held over the course of the semester. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions, and will cover material from class sessions, reading assignments, and various media presented as part of the course.

The **research paper** assignment requires you to construct a college-level research paper examining the impact of globalization on a social group. This assignment is broken up into four parts: a proposal, a rough draft, a peer review exercise, and a final paper.

A series of **six quizzes** will be given over the course of the semester. These quizzes will test your knowledge of topics discussed in class and information from assigned readings and media. You will complete these quizzes in Canvas on the day designated in the course schedule during the time they are available.

You will participate in **seven discussions** on Canvas. Discussion will address topics and readings covered in each module.

Course participation will be graded each week through in-class quizzes, polls, and survey questions. You will use your iClicker (Personal Response System) transmitters to answer quiz questions in-class. Please follow the registration instructions included with your transmitter and register your clicker online at *iclicker.com*.

Please see the course Canvas page for specific instructions on the written assignments, including the rubric used for grading, and for a [general writing guide](#).

Course Communication

My office hours and contact information are listed at the top of the syllabus and on the course's main Canvas page. I will be happy to arrange an alternate meeting time if you are unable to meet with me during these hours. Please email me, speak to me before or after class, or phone me to make an appointment.

In addition, your course Teaching Assistant is available to answer questions about class sessions, readings, and assignments before and after class or outside of class by appointment. Check the course's main Canvas page for the TA's hours and contact information.

Class assignments, announcements, and reminders will be forwarded via Canvas and our course e-mail list throughout the semester. Both Canvas and the list use your MTU email address, so please check it regularly or set it up to forward to whatever account you most frequently check.

All general course information, including an up-to-date syllabus, the course schedule, grading information, and various other course related materials, will be available on the course site in your Canvas account.

My email communication with you will use your official MTU account, so please be sure to check your account for important course messages.

Make-up Exams and Quizzes

Make-up examinations will only be given to students who can document a legitimate absence as defined by the university's [attendance policy](#).

Excused absences include:

- 1) participation in an event on the university authorized activity list;
- 2) a death or major illness in the student's immediate family;
- 3) illness of a dependent family member;
- 4) participation in legal proceedings that require the student's presence;
- 5) a religious holy day;
- 6) illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class (as determined by a physician in writing); or
- 7) required participation in military duties.

The validity of all other absences is subject to the discretion of the instructor.

A student, when possible, should notify the instructor prior to a missed exam, but must notify the instructor *by the following class period* (via phone, email, or in person). As outlined in the [Attendance Policy](#), the instructor is under no obligation to provide a make-up exam in the case of an unexcused absence. If you do have a documented excuse you will be given a make-up exam within 14 calendar days of your last excused absence.

Academic Integrity

It is up to student and instructor to uphold the scholastic integrity of Michigan Technological University by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. Violations of the [Academic Integrity Policy](#) include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and facilitating academic misconduct. See the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) for definitions of these terms. If you have questions about possible cases of academic integrity, talk to your instructor, teaching assistant, or the [Dean of Students](#).

Students will not be allowed to use any electronic device during exams. Any student caught cheating on an exam will be required to turn in their test immediately and will receive a zero for the exam. Incidents of plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment. All incidents concerning scholastic dishonesty will be turned over to the Dean of Students, Office of Judicial Affairs for action.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Dean of Students, Room 130 of the Waino Wahtera Center in the Administration and Student Services Building. To contact them by phone please call 487-2212 or email deanofstudents@mtu.edu. Please contact them at the beginning of the semester so that we can work together to create the best learning environment

Course Schedule for UN1025 Section E

Check Canvas every week for updates and links to assigned readings, websites, and films

Week 1 (Sep 1-5): Introduction

Topics: Globalization, Global Sustainability

Reading: Steger, *Globalization*, Chapter 1

Week 2 (Sep 8-12): Culture & Worldview.

Topics: The Culture Concept, Worldviews

Reading: Steger, *Globalization*, Chapter 5. Articles on Canvas.

Quiz #1

Week 3 (Sept 15-19): **Culture & Worldview.**

Topics: Ethnicity, Race, Gender; Cultural Change

Reading: Articles on Canvas.

Discussion #1; Paper Proposal

Week 4 (Sept 22-26): **Population.**

Topics: World Demography, Population Challenges

Reading: Steger, *Globalization*, Chapter 2. Articles on Canvas.

Quiz 2

Week 5 (Sept 29-Oct 3): **Population**

Topics: Migration and Diasporas, Urbanization

Reading: Articles on Canvas.

Discussion #2; Exam #1 (Th/Fri)

Week 6 (Oct 6 - Oct 10): **Environment.**

Topics: Resources and Carrying Capacity

Reading: Steger, *Globalization*, Chapter 6. Articles on Canvas.

Discussion 3; Paper Draft

Week 7 (Oct 13 - Oct 17): **Environment.**

Topics: Human Impacts, Biodiversity, Climate Change

Reading: Articles on Canvas.

Quiz 3

Week 8 (Oct 20 - Oct 24): **Economic Systems.**

Topics: Capitalism and the Global Economy

Reading: Steger, *Globalization*, Chapter 3. Articles on Canvas.

Discussion 4

Week 9 (Oct 27-Oct 31): **Economic Systems.**

Topics: Economic Ideologies; Challenges to Economic Orthodoxy

Reading: Articles on Canvas.

Quiz 4; Exam 2 (Th/Fr)

Week 10 (Nov 3 - Nov 7): **Politics.**

Topics: States, Nations, and Governments

Reading: Steger, *Globalization*, Chapter 4. Articles on Canvas.

Discussion 5; Peer Review

Week 11 (Nov 10-Nov 14): **Politics.**

Topics: International Law, International and Transnational Organizations

Reading: Articles on Canvas.

Discussion 6

Week 12 (Nov 17-Nov 21): **Development.**

Topics: Development in Context, Development Theories

Reading: Steger, *Globalization*, Chapter 7. Articles on Canvas.

Quiz 5

Week 13: Thanksgiving Break

Week 14 (Dec 1 - Dec 5) **Development.**

Topics: Development Metrics, Foreign Aid, Deindustrialization

Reading: Articles on Canvas.

Quiz 6; Final Paper

Week 15 (Dec 8 - Dec 12) **Sustainability.**

Topics: Sustainable Futures

Reading: Articles on Canvas.

Discussion 7

Final Exam - December 15, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

TEN WAYS TO SUCCEED IN GLOBAL ISSUES*

The world around us and people in it are interesting, intriguing, and often surprising. I hope you enjoy studying it this semester and I hope that you will take something more away from this course than simply three required credit hours for your degree. However, the fact that this course is required does not obligate me to make it easy or for you to simply *do just enough to pass*. In fact, this is a demanding course. If you want to do well (*and you all should*), please take the following advice.

1. **Come to class every day, pay attention, and take reasonable notes.** If you have trouble seeing the presentations or hearing the lecture, change seats. If you must miss a class, get the notes from someone who was there. If you still have questions about the lecture after getting the notes, then speak with one of the teaching assistants or me outside of class. Your performance in this course will relate directly to your attendance and the attention you pay in class.
2. **Ask questions when you do not understand something presented in class or in your readings.** If you are unclear on some aspect of the material, chances are your classmates are having difficulty with it as well. Why not go ahead and do your classmates – and yourself - a favor by asking about it in class?
3. **Take advantage of our office hours.** If you have additional questions, concerns, and/or comments don't be shy, come and see one of the Teaching Assistants or me during my office hours. We are here to help you learn. Do not wait until the end of the semester to ask for help, it will be too late.
4. **Write down the major points made in the lecture at the end of each class.** Summarizing the lecture at its close in this way is an extremely effective method of firmly implanting what was covered in class in your memory. Getting in the habit of doing this on a regular basis takes some discipline but it is worth the effort.
5. **Keep up with the reading.** Many students say they earned nothing but A's in high school without ever opening a book. Maybe you got through that way, too. If so, let me assure you, that was *then* and this is *now*. To do well in this class you must begin reading on the first day of the semester and keep reading until it ends. The reading assignments are broken out by topic in the syllabus. You should read the assigned work *before* the topic is discussed in lecture, i.e. the readings listed for Week 2 **should be done prior to the lectures that week. This material will be on the tests.**
6. **Outline what you read.** Read the abstract or the conclusion first, then go on to the body of the work. Concentrate on finding the author's main ideas and listing the data he or she uses to support these ideas (Hint: coloring your text with yellow highlighting is not outlining). When you finish reading, (a) summarize what the author said in your own words, (b) consider how these conclusions relate to the lectures and the other course readings, and (c) put this information on note cards for later study and review prior to the examination.
7. **Organize a small study group or join a GI Study Group through the Multiliteracies Center.** Such a group should be composed of a small number of your classmates and should meet regularly outside of class to review the material being covered. Global Issues study groups through the Multiliteracies Center are led by coaches who can help direct your focus, improve your scholarship, and therefore improve your final grade.
8. **Communicate with your Teaching Assistants.** The course Teaching Assistants are here to help answer questions and to grade your work. If you have questions regarding your performance on written work please talk first to the Teaching Assistants, as they will have insight into your particular performance and can suggest ways in which you might improve your work.
9. **Resolve to do well right from the first day of this course, and then follow through.** The beginning of the semester – not the end – is the time to start working on a good grade in a course. (This is doubly true if you are currently on Scholastic Probation.) In a similar vein,

if you find yourself in trouble during the term, do not wait until the end of the semester to ask for help. It will be too late.

10. **Remember Michigan Tech is “the Big Leagues”.** This is not high school or junior college. “Big League” status translates into demanding professors, challenging lectures, lots of reading, and tough tests. It also means you are competing with other smart, ambitious, hard-working students. **Coming to Michigan Tech was *your choice*. No doubt you decided to come here in part because you want the benefits that are conferred by a university degree that means something. Therefore, do not complain about the amount of work necessary to earn that degree. As they say, “If it was easy, everyone would do it!”**

*Adapted with permission from Dr. D. Bruce Dickson, Anthropology Department, Texas A&M University