

GLST 1322: Global Issues

Fall 2008

Monday-Wednesday-Friday 1:00-1:50 in Teresa Hall

Dr. John V. Cotter, *Assistant Professor of Geography*

Cell: 512-619-0061

e-mail: johnvc@stedwards.edu

Office: André 218

Office Hours:

This introductory core course in Global Studies will examine a selection of major topics that affect the modern world. The goal will be to help you put current events and processes into a larger context. The format will be a mix of lecture and discussion, so recognize that participation is important. There is no prerequisite for this course.

This course will be divided into four segments:

1. GLOBALIZATION in all of its aspects will be examined in this first module. Several introductory lectures will trace the development of globalization and place it in context. Readings will be assigned in Annual Editions: Global Issues and will then be discussed in class. There will be a short quiz on the readings and an essay (4-5 pages) will be assigned to summarize this part of the course. The essay will require you to reflect on the variety of ways that globalization affects you personally.

2. GENOCIDE and regional conflicts will be the subject of this module, with a case study of the Hutu-Tutsi conflict in Rwanda and Burundi in Africa. The reading will be This voice in My Heart, the autobiography of Gilbert Tuhabonye, the sole survivor of a massacre in Burundi (who now lives in Austin). There will be a short quiz to summarize this segment.

3. GLOBAL WARMING has been chosen as an important global issue to look at in depth. The Weather Makers is the assigned reading. There will be a test at the end of this module.

3. OTHER GLOBAL ISSUES, including immigration, language, health & disease, religion, and strategic resources. We will attempt to define the range of global issues of importance today, as well as try to put them in a broad cultural and historical perspective. This part of the course will give you a chance to individually examine one global issue that particularly interests you. You will research a topic and then prepare a brief (10 minute) presentation for the class. PowerPoint is suggested but not required. These presentations will be given during the last two weeks of class. And, a final paper (6-7 pages) on the same topic as your presentation but in greater depth and listing all references will be due during finals week. This final paper will take the place of a final exam.

Course Objectives:

To examine the scope of contemporary global issues and place them in cultural and historical context.

To begin to develop analytic and critical thinking skills to understand and evaluate issues confronting global communities.

Required Books:

Annual Editions: Global Issues 08-09, 24rd edition
Robert M. Jackson, editor (McGraw-Hill, 2008) ISBN 0-07-339763-6

This Voice in My Heart by Gilbert Tuhabonye
(Amistad-Harper Collins, 2006) ISBN 0-06-081751-8

The Weather Makers by Tim Flannery
(Atlantic Monthly Press, 2005) ISBN 0-87113-935-9

Grading:

Two quizzes on readings	20%
Globalization paper	20%
Global Warming exam	20%
Classroom presentation	10%
Final paper	20%
Attendance and participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Policies:

It is expected that all assigned readings will be completed in advance of classroom discussions.

Daily attendance is expected. Excessive absences (missing 5 or more classes) are grounds for downgrading (by at least one letter grade for the final course grade), or, in extreme cases, being dropped from the class by the instructor.

All late assignments will be downgraded (a half letter grade per missed class). No work will be accepted more than two weeks after the due date.

No extra credit. Never. No way.

No incompletes will be given except for documented medical reasons.

University regulations concerning academic honesty will be strictly enforced. Note that "The St. Edward's University Undergraduate Bulletin and the Student Handbook state that a student who is dishonest in any work may receive the maximum penalty of a mark of F for that course. Withdrawl from a course is not allowed when an F has been imposed for academic dishonesty. Students caught committing academic dishonesty in this course will be subject to the full range of penalties as described in the Undergraduate Bulletin and Student Handbook." All assignments may be subject to textual similarity review at Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism.

Please inform the instructor of any disability that will require accommodations as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation.

Please ask questions and contribute to class discussions.