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Fall 2007 TR 9.25
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Thinking Globally Acting Globally :Learning Community (Pols 102.001 Contemporary Political Issues)

Freshman Only

Course Description

The technological and communication revolution of the 21st century is simultaneously integrating societies across the globe, while rapidly changing how societies interact with each other. Global problems of the human sufferings of war, genocide, starvation and environmental disasters are becoming more transparent, exposing how the realities of consumptive actions and practices of some communities invariably contribute to global inequalities. All communities on the face of the globe are interdependent. The extent to which human beings on the planet today can achieve quality of life depends more and more on the actions and practices of participants in global communities.

This course seeks to question how we move beyond the present status quo politics of self interest, which invariably privileges a duty and obligation to individual and or group satisfaction. The satisfactions are evident in Nation-State's exclusive focus on achieving its national interest to the detriment and survival of other States; the Corporation's focus on profit maximization regardless of a downward spiral on workers wages; or the Individual's pursuit of material goods while disregarding the demeaning working environments they are produced in. As an alternative the course explores how can we create a politics of transnationalism which at its core seeks to build a global community based on nurturing a sense of a global ethical shared responsibility. In other words envisioning and embracing a politics which transcends boundaries and promotes a sense of duty and obligation despite difference, nationality, geography, gender, race, sexuality etc.

Course Goals:

The major goals of this course are threefold:

1. To enable students to examine substantive knowledge which informs global interaction;
2. To enable students to learn procedural skills of participating in local and global action. Students will therefore examine how local outcomes affect and are affected by political and economic practices far from home. Students will employ a global lens which penetrates the structure of the global market place and helps to highlight interconnectedness between products, producers, and consumers at both the global and local levels. This approach helps students to understand that in fact we are not as powerless as we are lead to believe, since we can create

spaces of empowerment starting in our communities.

3. To enable students to be active participants in a local/global project, and collaterally to disseminate information and knowledge about the spaces they participated in by creating community awareness of their actions.

Required Text: Available at the College Bookstore

Sarah Anderson et al. 2005. Field Guide to the Global Economy. New York: New Press.

Rivoli, Piertra, 2005. The Travels of A T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Market, Power and Politics of World Trade. New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Richard Robbins, Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism, 3rd edition Allyn and Bacon, 2005.

Richard H. Robbins, Talking Points on: Global Issues -A Reader-, Allyn and Bacon, 2004.

(The above two Books come as a packet)

All other reading materials are available on ERes. Reading material on ERes will be designated by an *. The password for accessing this material is globallocal .

Course Requirements

I. Class Participation counts for 25% of your final grade: This is garnered from general class participation which takes into account Class Attendance, Synthesis Seminar and Homework Assignments:

II. A Mid-Term Exam counts for 20% of your final grade– It will consist of approximately 5- 6 essay question from which students will select to answer two questions. The Essay questions will be based on all reading, discussion and film material covered thus far.

III. Critical Reflections of All 12 Chapters from The Travel of A T-shirt in the Global Economy will count for 15% of your final grade.

Each student will turn into me a 2-3 page critical reflection of each of the 12 chapters. Chapters 1 and 2 are due on or before Friday September 14th , chapters 3 and 4 on or before Friday September 21st , chapters 5 and 6 on or before Tuesday October 2nd , chapters 7, 8 and 9 on or before Thursday October 25th , chapter 10, 11, and the conclusion on or before Tuesday October 30th. All papers must be presented in hard copy form. Further details on what is expected for each reflection can be found on ERes under the heading HANDOUT No.1.

IV.. Each student will take part in a Service-Learning Group Project which counts for 40 % of your final grade. The main purpose of the service group project is to encourage students to develop strategies and take action on an issue related to globalization at the local level. Each group is responsible for the following format of the service group project - **a)generating a proposal** which is **due on September 25th** (10%); **b) presenting a Project update report** before the class **on October 23rd** (5 %); **A written group report due no later than Dec. 11 by 11am** (15 %, 5 % of which will be assigned by each group member); **An individual written report (5%) due no later than Dec. 11th by 11am** ; A presentation of the service group project is scheduled for **Nov. 13, 15 and 27th. in class** (10 %). Further detailed information on what is expected at each step of this group project is available on ERes Handout 2.

**** As mentioned above, there is a service-learning component in this course, hence a requirement that students perform community service as part of this course. Normally, this requirement will not exceed 2 hours per week, for a total of 15 hours. Early in the course you will hear information about the four or five sites chosen for this course, and students will have an opportunity to exercise some choice in their site location and type of service. There will**

be site visits as early as possible in the semester, and community service should begin by the third week of classes.

**** Note: If you have a disability of any kind- learning, physical, psychological- which requires accommodation, please let me know early so that your learning needs can be appropriately met.**

****Note: Please ensure that all Cell phones and hand-held devices are turned off before entering the class room. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in you being reported to the Honor's Board and the possibility of suspension from the College**

****Note: Failure to show up to class on the assigned day for your in class exam, without a valid excuse (which is entirely at the discretion of the instructor), will automatically result in an F. Also failure to notify the instructor within 24 hours of your absence from the exam will also result in an F.**

**** Note: You are expected to keep abreast of “current events and issues”; reading the New York Times, USA Today and the Post and Courier (all available in your dorms) should help. I also recommend listening to All Things Considered (4- 6.30 pm), Market Place (6.30-7 pm) and The World (8-9pm) on National Public Radio (WJWJ -FM 89.9) These programs are also available on line at NPR.com**

****Note: Extra Credit; This semester there are a number of events promoting Global Awareness on campus. Extra credit will be offered for attending a maximum of 3 (three) events. For each event you are required to (1) summarize briefly what happened or what you did, what you heard or saw or experienced; (2) relate the ideas discussed or portrayed at the event to a class discussion and or articles read in class; (3) finally you are expected to react to the event by relating what your overall impressions, position, and or strengths and weaknesses of the ideas presented. No less than 2 pages no more than 3 pages typed double spaced (with 1 inch margins) will be accepted. For each extra credit assignment you can receive a maximum of 3 points (providing of course you meet all of the requirements). Hence you stand the chance of receiving 9 extra points which will be added on to your final grade at the end of the semester. You may submit extra credit assignment through-out the semester at anytime. However, all extra credit submissions must be made by the last day of class Thursday November 29th . (Events, times and locations will be announced later)**

Grading Scale : A: 100-93, A- : 92-90, B+: 89-88, B: 87- 83, B-: 82-80, C+: 79- 78, C: 77- 73, C-: 70-72, D+: 69-68, D: 67- 63, D-: 62-60, F: 59 + Below

Course Outline (I reserve the right to revise this outline when necessary)

August

Tues: 21 Introduction to the class, expectations, and housekeeping

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs: 23 Review of Syllabus (come prepared with questions, points of clarification, etc.)

Bring to class Handouts 1 and 2.

Both handouts can be found on Eres. Also read over the requirements of the course, along with those of the handouts and come prepared with specific questions for clarification.

Tues: 28 **What is “Service” in a global economy?**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Field Guide*, Intro

*Peter Singer “The Drowning Child and the Expanding Circle”

*Ivan Illich “To Hell with Good intentions”

Check ERes for Homework Questions (designated Homework 1) All questions must be typed and handed in at the end of class.

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs: 30 **What is “Service” in a global economy cont/d**
The creation and role of the social individual

Reading

Assignment Due: *Parks and Daloz et al, Chapter 1 (ERes)

Check ERes for Homework Questions (designated Homework 2) All questions must be typed and handed in at the end of class.

September

Tues: 4 **Explaining globalization: What is it?**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Field Guide*; Section 1Pg 5-39

*.Mark Kesselman : Chapter 1 : Globalization as Contested Terrain (ERes Article)

Check ERes for Homework Questions (designated Homework 3) All questions must be typed and handed in at the end of class.

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs: 6 **Explaining globalization: What is it? Cont/d**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Field Guide*: Section 2 and 3

Check ERes for Homework Questions (designated Homework 4) All questions must be typed and handed in at the end of class

Tues:11 **What Drives Globalization : The Culture of Capitalism**
Constructing the Global Consumer and its Consequences

Reading

Assignment Due: Robbins Chapter 1

The following are on ERes

* Consuming Kids

* Waste a lot, Want a lot: Our All Consuming Quest for Style

*. Emulation and Global Consumerism

* Affluenza Diagnosis (Take the Quiz and share the results with the class)

Check ERes for Homework Questions (designated Homework 5) All questions must be typed and handed in at the end of class

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs:13 Video Presentation : Affluenza

Note:

(Critical Reflection of chapters 1 and 2 from The Travel of A T-shirt in the Global Economy Due this Friday Sept: 14th by 4 PM)

Tues: 18 Role of Labor and Women in the Global Economy

Reading

Assignment Due: Robbins Chapter 2
Robbins Reader pp 32-58
Just Buy It! (Available on ERes)

Check ERes for Homework Questions (designated Homework 6) All questions must be typed and handed in at the end of class

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs: 20 Video Presentation: The Global Assembly Line

Note:

(Critical Reflection of chapters 3 and 4 from The Travel of A T-shirt in the Global Economy Due this Friday Sept: 21st by 4 PM)

Tues: 25 Open Session (Service Group Project Proposal Due)

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs: 27 Role of the Capitalist – Growth of Corporations and the implications for Globalization

Reading

Assignment Due: Field Guide Section 4 A
Robbins Chapter 3
Robbins Reader pp 33-46

Check ERes for Homework Questions (designated Homework 7) All questions must be typed and handed in at the end of class

October

Tues: 2 Film: The Corporation

Note:

(Critical Reflection of chapters from 5 and 6 from The Travel of A T-shirt in the Global Economy Due Today in class)

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs:4 Role and Future of the Nation State in the era of Globalization

Reading

Assignment Due : Filed Guide Section 4 B
 Robbins Chapter 4

Check ERes for Homework Questions (designated Homework 8) All questions must be typed and handed in at the end of class

Tues: 9 Global Hunger, Poverty and Economic Development

Reading

Assignment Due : Robbins Chapter 6
 Robbins Reader pp 71-79.

Global Poverty Quiz (take it and share results with the class) **Available on ERes**

Check ERes for Homework Questions (designated Homework 9) All questions must be typed and handed in at the end of class

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs:11 Mid-Term Exam

Tues: 16 Fall Break No Class

Thurs: 18 Student Campus Involvement/ Study Abroad Presentation

Tues: 23 Oral presentation of group project update

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs: 25 Discussion of Chapters 1 to 9 of The Travels of A T-Shirt in the Global Economy

(Critical Reflection of chapters from 7, 8, and 9 from The Travel of A T-shirt in the Global Economy Due Today in class)

Tues: 30 Discussion of Chapters 10, 11, Conclusion and Epilogue of The Travels of A T-Shirt in the Global Economy

(Critical Reflection of chapters from 10, 11, and Conclusion from The Travel of A T-shirt in the Global Economy Due Today in class)

November

Thurs: 1 Visit to Speaking Lab in Preparation for in class Presentations

Tues: 6 Personal Response To Globalization: ethical action

Reading

Assignment Due: Field Guide Section Five

Robbins Chapter 13

Check ERes for Homework Questions (designated Homework 10) All questions must be typed and handed in at the end of class

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs: 8 Open Session (Prep for final presentation, group service reports, & tying up loose end on service project)

Tues: 13 Presentation and discussion of service project begin (Groups 1 & 2)

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs: 15 Presentation and discussion of service project cont/d (Group 3 &4)

Tues: 20 Open Session (Prep for final presentation, group service reports, & tying up loose end on service project)

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs: 22 Thanksgiving Break – No Class

Tues: 27 Presentation and discussion of service project cont/d (Group 5)

Note: 3pm Synthesis Seminar

Thurs: 29 Housekeeping Wrap-up Last day of Class