INTL 101: Introduction to International Issues
Fall 2012
UH 2:00-3:20 Lillis 282
Instructor: Galen Martin                           gmartin@uoregon.edu
Office: 304 PLC W/F 10:00-11:30 or by appointment              Tel. 346-
1363

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Overview:
Hunger, intellectual property, global warming, arms trade, water rights, resource depletion, civil war, genocide, biodiversity loss, terrorism, education, global financial inequities, and immigration: These are just a few examples of the sometimes overwhelming list of challenges we face in a highly globalized world. Some are new but most have been with us for thousands of years. What **have** changed significantly and rapidly are our mobility and our access to information and images. Issues which a few decades ago may have seemed distant and disconnected are now thrust upon us or at least accessible through various media. Among the wide range of problems and issues faced by people throughout the world, who decides which issues get priority and attention? What informs your own sense of compassion and focus? Does our heightened sense of connection move us more quickly to resolution or to greater cynicism?

The goal of the course is three-fold: (1) to develop a fundamental knowledge and literacy about several major international issues as listed in the course schedule, (2) to critically examine how these issues are presented and processed by various stakeholders, and (3) to consider creative and successful attempts to solve the problems we have investigated. We will pay special attention to how the issues are perceived and addressed differently within affluent and poor nations. We will achieve these goals through lectures, guest speakers, video clips (typically 10-20 minutes) and occasional discussion. (Topics for the class were chosen with consideration of the content of other International Studies introductory courses in an attempt to minimize redundancies.) I will do my best to create an enjoyable atmosphere of respect and intellectual integrity. In turn it is essential that you be committed to taking an active role in your learning process.

Communication:
The syllabus, course announcements, assignments, project instructions, some notes and images, additional readings, website links, scores and contact information will be posted on Blackboard. Check the site on a regular basis. If you do not have reliable access to
Blackboard, please notify the instructor. You may contact the instructor by email or during office hours. I will try to respond within 24 hours with the exception of weekends.

Ethics of our learning environment:
Everyone should respect this as a place for learning for everyone in class. Respect includes arriving on time and refraining from the disruptions of early departures. **Laptops may only be used for taking notes.** Do your best to contribute to a respectful, supportive learning process while we work through challenging ideas and different viewpoints. Even though this is a large lecture class, we will take time for discussion on a regular basis.

**GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS**
Course grades will be determined by quality of work in the following:
- **Exams:** 60%. (3x 20%)
  Three exams will determine the majority of your grade. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and identification of major terms and concepts. Make-up exams will be allowed only for documented medical reasons. There will be no comprehensive final exam for the class.
- **Research Project:** 30%
  With subject matter approval by the instructor and GTF, each student will research a topic related to the class and prepare an annotated bibliography and summary or a standard term paper using at least three different types of sources. (Detailed instructions to follow.)
- **Video Critiques or Outside Event:** 10%
  Students will choose videos or attend an approved event and write two reviews. We will provide suggestions for appropriate material. The responses will include lecture and reading material pertaining to the video. A specific format and grading criteria will be provided.

**REQUIRED READINGS**
Readings will be accessed through postings on the course Blackboard (BB) site.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**
*September 25, 27*

I. Course Introduction: Owning and Distancing International Issues

**Readings:**

**Video:** Control Room

*October 2, 4*

II. 7 Billion Mouths: Hunger and the World Food System

**Readings:**

**Video:** The Perfect Famine

**October 9, 11**

**III. Migrants and Refugees: Human Trans-boundary Movement**

**Readings:**
- TBA

**Video:** “Seoul Train” or “Letters from the Other Side”

**October 16**

**EXAM ONE**

**October 18, 23**

**IV. Global Health**

**Readings:**
- TBA

**Guest speaker: Prof. Janis Weeks**

**October 25, 30**

**V. Global Status of Women**

**Readings:**
- TBA

**Guest speaker:**

**November 1, 6**

**VI. International Disaster Relief**

**Readings:**

**Video:** Trouble the Waters

**November 8**

**EXAM TWO**

**November 13, 15**

**VII. Confronting Genocide--Past and Present**

**Readings:**
- Power, Samantha (2001). “Bystanders to Genocide”, *Atlantic Magazine*, September:
Abromowitz, Michael (2011). “Coming Home to Rwanda”, *Atlantic Magazine*, January 9: https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_tab_group_id=_2_1&url=%2Fwebapps%2Fblackboard%2Fexecute%2Flauncher%3Ftype%3DCourse%26id%3D_29715_2%26url%3D


Web Genocide Documentation Centre: https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_tab_group_id=_2_1&url=%2Fwebapps%2Fblackboard%2Fexecute%2Flauncher%3Ftype%3DCourse%26id%3D_29715_2%26url%3D

**Video: Shake Hands with the Devil**
**Guest Speaker: Prof. Paul Slovic**

November 20, 27

**VII. International Travel and Tourism**

**Readings:**
TBA

**Video clip: Cannibal Tours**

November 29

**Course Overview**

December 3 (Monday) 1:00
EXAM THREE