

Georgia Gwinnett College Global Issues Toolkit

Dr. Steven Jones

Associate Professor of Political Science
Georgia Gwinnett College
sjones97@ggc.edu

Dr. Dovile Budryte

Professor of Political Science
Georgia Gwinnett College
dbudryte@ggc.edu

Students will learn about the global political, social, economic, and cultural forces shaping contemporary global issues such as climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic, international conflict, human rights, terrorism, cybersecurity, and other topics. This course will also discuss how countries cooperate to address those issues. This course features materials from the Council on Foreign Relations including World101, the CFR Daily News Brief Newsletter, and the World This Week Newsletter as well as *The World* by Richard Haass.

Description of Item 1: Course syllabus for the revised Global Issues course POLS 2401, Current Global Issues Spring 2022

Course Description

This course will explore the global dimensions of contemporary political and social issues, including terrorism, foreign aid, health and population concerns, environmental challenges, international trade, ethnic conflict and genocide.

Course Resources

Required Texts

Richard Haass, *The World*

Additional Resources

[World 101: Online Modules and Lessons](#)

Council for Foreign Relations CFR Daily News Brief: sign-up at

https://link.cfr.org/join/66n/signup&hash=2d4c5929e9e04cc42f5cd375fb8dcfb1?_ga=2.120582093.418600353.1642356250-499327704.1639327892

OR

Council for Foreign Relations The World This Week: sign-up at

https://link.cfr.org/join/66n/signup&hash=2d4c5929e9e04cc42f5cd375fb8dcfb1?_ga=2.120582093.418600353.1642356250-499327704.1639327892

Course Goals and Objectives

Students will learn about the global political, social, economic, and cultural forces shaping contemporary global issues such as climate change, the Covid 19 pandemic, international conflict, human rights, terrorism, cybersecurity, and other topics and how countries and peoples sometimes do and sometimes don't cooperate to address those issues.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify major countries and their capitals on a map.
2. Explain the historical forces contributing to current global issues.
3. Describe the history, cultures, and political systems of the major regions of the world.
4. Analyze the causes and effects of contemporary global issues.
5. Evaluate global responses to contemporary global issues.
6. Describe the tools available for countries and peoples to address contemporary global issues.
7. Research a specific global issue in greater detail.

Grading Percentages

| Grading Category | Percent Weight |
|--|----------------|
| Quizzes | 25% |
| Exams | 30% |
| Research Paper and In-class Presentation | 25% |
| Weekly Global News Update | 15% |
| Attendance and Class Participation | 5% |

Assessment Tools

1. Weekly Quizzes: There will be a multiple-choice quiz on the materials covered in each weekly module.
2. Exams: In addition to weekly quizzes, there will be three exams, including the final exam. Each exam will be comprehensive and will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer essay questions as well as fill-in-the map items for countries and cities.
3. Research Paper and In-Class Presentation: You will write a 5-7 page paper on one of the global issues covered in the course. You will be expected to explore the topic in greater detail than our in-class coverage and you will be expected to make use of additional resources related to your topic that are included in World 101. You will also make a 5 minute, in-class presentation on your topic.
4. Weekly news roundup: Using either the CFR Daily News Brief or CFR's World This Week, you will write a 1-2 page summary of at least one major international news story covered in one or the other newsletter. Your news roundup papers will be **due every Monday by 6PM** for events occurring during the previous week. I will randomly call on students at the beginning of each Wednesday class session to provide an oral summary of their roundup paper.
5. Attendance and class participation

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Jan.19-21: Historical Background 1. Review Haass, pp. 1-28 Review all lessons in World 101 Modules, Prelude to Global Era and World at War

Jan. 22-28: Historical Background 2. Review Haass, pp. 29-58, The Cold War and The Post-Cold War Era, Review all lessons in the Global Era module in World 101.

Jan. 29-Feb. 4: Regions of the World, Europe. Review pp. 59-81 in Haass, Review all of the lessons the module on Europe in World 101.

Feb. 6-Feb. 11: Regions of the World, East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia. Review Haass, pp. 82-110, Review all of the lessons in the World 101 East Asia and the Pacific and South and Central Asia modules.

Feb. 12-18: Regions of the World, The Middle East and Africa. Read Haass, pp. 111-145, The Middle East and Africa. Review all of the lessons in the Middle East and North Africa module and the Sub-Saharan Africa module in World 101.

Feb. 19-25: Regions of the World, The Americas. Read Haass, pp. 143-154. Review all of the lessons in the World 101 The Americas module.

Feb. 6-Mar. 4: Global Order and Disorder: Read Haass, pp. 251-279, Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Balance of Power/Alliances and Coalitions/International Society. Review all of the lessons in the Building Blocks Module in World 101.

Mar. 5-Mar. 11: War and Civil War. Read Haass, pp. 251-279, Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Balance of Power/Alliances and Coalitions/International Society. Review all of the lessons in the Building Blocks Module in World 101.

Mar 12-Mar. 18: Globalization. Haass, pp. 155-165. Review all of the lessons in the World 101-Globalization module.

Spring Break

Mar. 27-Apr. 1: Terrorism and Nuclear Proliferation. Read Haass, pages 166-182, chapters on Terrorism/Counterterrorism and Nuclear Proliferation. Review all of the lessons in the World 101 modules on Terrorism and Nuclear Proliferation in the Global Era Issues section.

Apr. 2-Apr. 8: Migration. Read Haass, pp. 193-200, chapter on Migration. Review all of the lessons in the World 101 module on Migration in the Global Era Issues section.

Apr. 9-Apr. 15: The Global Economy and Development. Read Haass, pp. 215-250: Trade and Investment, Currency and Monetary Policy, and Development. Review all of the lessons in the World 101 modules on Trade, Monetary Policy and Currency, and Development.

Apr. 16-27: Climate Change. Read Haass, pp. 183-192. Review all of the lessons in the World 101 Climate Change module.

Description of Item 2: Guidelines for students' Weekly News Updates

Guidelines for Weekly News Update: Your weekly updates should include the following sections. Please number the sections of your updates using the following format.

1. Identify the headline. For example, CFR Daily News Brief, January 6, 2022: "Russia-Led Security Alliance Deploys Troops to Kazakhstan Amid Unrest."
2. Click on one of the articles hyperlinked under the headline.
3. Identify the source of the article: Author's Name, Date, Title of Article, Name of publication or website, URL. Example, (No Author), January 6, 2022, "Renewed Clashes Reported As Troops Open Fire On Kazakh Protesters." Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty, https://www.rferl.org/a/kazakhstan-protests-csto-unrest-toqaev/31641861.html?utm_source=dailybrief&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DailyBrief2022Jan6&utm_term=DailyNewsBrief
4. Write a brief (5-7 sentences) summary of the article. What was the main incident or event? What led to the incident? What do experts/analysts think about the incident/event/issue?
5. Review the list of regions and issues covered in the Haas text and in World 101. In which region did the incident/event occur? Which issue is associated with the incident or event? Explain why you think the event is associated with that issue.
6. Personal analysis: Why did you select this article? Why is this incident/event/issue important? How do you think the rest of the world should respond to this incident/event/issue? What do you think the best response should be? Why?

Description of Item 3: Instructions for the research paper assignment based on the identification and use of relevant World 101 resources.

POLS 2401 – Research Paper Instructions

The assignment: Write a 5–7 page paper which presents an argument based on evidence you gathered during your research. *You must take a position in a current debate on a contemporary global issue and argue for that position.*

Your research: The sources you choose must be from the following as found in World101 Resources:

- 1) A peer-reviewed scholarly journal
- 2) A book
- 3) A report published from a reputable organization (such as well-established non-profits or non-governmental organizations such as FreedomHouse.org, Pew Research, or The United Nations) or an official government-issued report
- 4) A reputable current events journal such as *The Atlantic*, *The Economist*, *The National Review*, or *The New Republic*
- 5) A mainstream newspaper such as *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post*

The following are **UNACCEPTABLE**:

- 1) Websites or blogs, podcasts, or any other work not originally published in print (online-only journals are okay as long as they are peer-reviewed)
- 2) Encyclopedic or dictionary entries of ANY kind.

Remember, this is only an 5-7 page paper, so you do not need dozens of resources, but you should have more than five.

Your paper should be in the form of a memo you will present to the president: you will include the most relevant facts and data in a concise manner and use that evidence to support your position/argument. You want to convince the reader of your position in a way that is brief, compelling, and well-researched.

Your paper will be graded on the following:

- Proper selection of sources (a minimum of five from a mix of sources)
- A thorough and insightful analysis and clear articulation of your argument
- Proper grammar, style, readability, formatting, and citations

Please use the APA Style Guide “author-date” format for your citations. You can see examples here:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/in_text_citations_the_basics.html

Your paper/memo to the president should address one of the current global issues we are studying in the course and should argue for a position that you want the president to support with respect to that issue.

Keep in mind, you will be taking a definite POSITION on this issue. You will be arguing on behalf of one position over another based on the evidence you provide. In addition to supporting your own position, you also need to consider and counter opposing positions.