

University of Georgia
International Relations 1100, Fall 2005
Introduction to Global Issues

Prof. Maurits van der Veen

Class

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:45
Location: SLC 350
Office hours: Wed. 2-4pm & by appt.

Office

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Course description

A global issue is any issue that crosses national borders. As anyone who regularly reads or watches the news will know, there is an almost inexhaustible collection of issues that meet this definition. Any attempt to survey them is bound to fail and, perhaps worse, is likely to do little more than skim the surface. This course, therefore, takes a somewhat different approach.

We will read, in their entirety, seven books that each deal with a single issue area from a single author's point of view. Each of these books engages questions of domestic politics as well as international politics. Each also is *political* in itself, in that it has an argument to make, rather than simply presenting a dry summation of the facts. The books were chosen to cover a wide range of geographical areas, political approaches, specific issues, and relevant actors. They were also chosen because they are well-written and do not require any particular background knowledge.

The goal of the course is to get you interested in *thinking about* global issues. We want to try to understand *why* political actors make the choices they do, what is at *stake* in these choices, and what the *implications* of their choices are, in the short, the medium, and the long term. This means not just thinking about what goes on today, but also about how we got to this point, and about where we are likely to (or should!) go next. Furthermore, it means thinking about politics *within* countries (comparative politics) as well as politics *between* countries (international relations).

This course serves as the entry point for a major in the Department of International Affairs. However, it is set up so that even if you have no intention of choosing this major, you will still learn a lot about the world around us and, hopefully, also acquire an ongoing interest in (and ability to think critically about) how politics shapes that world.

Course policies & requirements

The books for this course have been especially selected for the quality and accessibility of the writing. This means that the reading ought to be a pleasant task rather than a chore. I will expect you to do the reading before class. Occasional pop quizzes will verify that you are doing so; more importantly, however, you will find that you will get much more out of the class

presentations and discussions if you come prepared to ask questions about and discuss the reading for that day.

Course requirements are two exams, worth 30% of your grade each, a response paper, worth 20%, and 5 multiple choice pop quizzes, worth 2% each. Class participation accounts for the remaining 10%. The exams will be given in class, on October 4th and November 17th. For response paper, you will write a critique of a recent article published in a foreign policy journal on a topic covered by one of the books we will read. You will have a choice of several articles to critique. More information will be provided later in the semester.

You need to let me know ahead of time if you cannot make a class. After-the-fact excuses for missing class on days that happened to feature a quiz are unlikely to be accepted. The same goes for the midterm exam: do not expect to e-mail me a day later with a flimsy excuse and expect to be able to take a make-up exam without penalty. Similarly, if you need an extension on your paper, and have a good reason, let me know in advance. Unapproved late submissions of the paper will be penalized one third of a grade per day (i.e from A to A-, from A- to B+, etc.).

Office hours &c

My office hours are Wednesdays, 2-4pm and by appointment. Please do come see me if you have any questions or comments about the reading or anything else about the course. If you need to reach me to make an appointment, I am most easily reached by e-mail.

Readings

All 7 books are available for purchase at the UGA Bookstore, but can also be ordered online, for example through Barnes and Noble or Amazon. The books are:

- Ash, Timothy Garton. 2004. *Free World: America, Europe, and the Surprising Future of the West*. New York: Random House.
- de Waal, Thomas. 2003. *Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through Peace and War*. New York: New York University Press.
- Gourevitch, Philip. 1998. *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*. New York: Picador.
- Kleveman, Lutz. 2003. *The New Great Game: Blood and Oil in Central Asia*. New York: Grove Press.
- McCormack, Gavan. 2004. *Target North Korea: Pushing North Korea to the Brink of Nuclear Catastrophe*. New York: Nation Books.
- Stiglitz, Joseph E. 2002. *Globalization and its Discontents*. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Zakaria, Fareed. 2003. *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Calendar

Introduction

Thu. Aug. 18 *Global Issues: History, Politics, Argument*

The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad

Tue. Aug. 23 *Democracy and Liberty*
Introduction & Chapter 1

Thu. Aug. 25 *The Evolution of Liberal Democracy & Illiberal Democracy*
Chapters 2 & 3

Tue. Aug. 30 *Islam and Democracy & The Limits of Liberal Democracy*
Chapters 4 & 5

Thu. Sep. 1 *The Future of Democracy*
Chapter 6 & Conclusion

Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through Peace and War

Tue. Sep. 6 *Background: A Brief History of the USSR & the Caucasus*
Introduction & Chapters 1-4 (pp. 1-72)

Thu. Sep. 8 *The Breakdown of the USSR / Crisis in the Caucasus*
Chapters 5-9 (pp. 73-144)

Tue. Sep. 13 *War in the Caucasus*
Chapters 10-13 (pp. 145-216)

Thu. Sep. 15 *Exhaustion, Stalemate, Future Outlook*
Chapters 14-17 & Conclusion (pp. 217-283)

The New Great Game

Tue. Sep. 20 *The Great Game & Oil Politics*
Chapters 1-5 (pp. 1-73)

Thu. Sep. 22 *Other Powers in Central Asia: China and Iran*
Chapters 6-8 (pp. 74-143)

Tue. Sep. 27 *The Central Asian former Soviet Republics*

Chapters 9-10 (pp. 144-198)

Thu. Sep. 29 ***The Targets of US Foreign Policy: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq***
Chapters 11-14 (pp. 199-272)

Optional movie: **Deadlock: Russia's forgotten War** (date and time TBA)

Tue. Oct. 4 **Exam 1**

**We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families:
Stories from Rwanda**

Thu. Oct. 6 ***Colonialism & Post-colonialism***
Prologue & Chapters 1-6 (pp. 5-84)

Tue. Oct. 11 ***The History and Politics of Genocide***
Chapters 6-11 (pp. 85-171)

Thu. Oct. 13 ***Frontline documentary: The Triumph of Evil*** **movie**
Chapters 12-17 (pp. 177-255)

Tue. Oct. 18 ***Refugee Politics & Criminal Tribunals***
Chapters 18-22 (pp. 256-353)

Optional movie: **Hotel Rwanda** (date and time TBA)

Target North Korea

Thu. Oct. 20 ***The Korean War***
Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-50)

Tue. Oct. 25 ***Communism in North Korea***
Chapters 3-4 (pp. 51-100)

(Fall Break, October 27)

Tue. Nov. 1 ***North Korea's international relations***
Chapters 5-8 (pp. 101-198)

Globalization and its discontents

Thu. Nov. 3 ***Global Institutions: Potential and Failures***

Chapters 1-3

Tue. Nov. 8 *Crises in Asia and Russia*
Chapters 4-5

Thu. Nov. 10 *Fair Trade and Development*
Chapters 6-7

Tue. Nov. 15 *Reforming International Governance*
Chapters 8-9

Thu. Nov. 17 **Exam 2**

Free World

Tue. Nov. 22 *Introduction & Europe Today*
Chapters 0-2 (pp. 3-83)

(Thanksgiving, November 24)

Tue. Nov. 29 *The United States and Europe / Global Issues*
Chapters 3-4 (pp. 84-169)

Thu. Dec. 1 *Crisis and Opportunity for the Western Alliance*
pp. 170-232

(University on Friday Schedule, December 6)

Wrap-up

Thu. Dec. 8 *The Importance of Thinking about Global Issues*
Chapters 2-3

Response paper due: Monday, Dec. 12