


IL 50A – People, Places, and Global Issues

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Course Description: This course introduces students to some of the fundamental concepts of International Studies through a detailed overview of the regions of the world. Major world regions and selected countries within them are discussed with respect to their physical, demographic, cultural, political, and economic characteristics. Several concepts and themes are explored, among them the physical environment, conflict, global interconnectedness, regional trade blocs, poverty, inequality, and the movement of goods and people across international borders. This course will emphasize contemporary events, particularly as they relate to the fundamental themes of the course. As such, students will be required to keep abreast of current world events. This course meets the *World Diversity Core Curriculum* requirement.

Course Goals:

The main goals of the course are for students to:

- Appreciate global diversity and diverse perspectives
- Improve their awareness of the politics, culture, and environments of different regions
- Improve their awareness of global inequality
- Develop an understanding of globalization and the relationships among states

Learning Objectives: *On completion of this course, you should be able to:*

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and theories of International Studies
- Apply the theoretical perspectives discussed in class to better understand the complexities of global issues
- Understand and explain global interconnections/interdependence, the connections between world events and the multiple contexts that inform them, as well as the interconnections between your life – as a global citizen – with those of people around the world.
- Have an understanding of major global events
- Identify the locations of countries around the world

Required Materials

Anderson, Peterson, Toops, and Hey, *International Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Global Issues*, Third Edition.

Optional but recommended:

Atlas of World Politics or other up to date atlas

Additional articles will periodically be made available on Blackboard.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

1. *Examinations (35% of final grade)*: There will be two exams. The mid-term is worth 15%, and the final exam worth 20%. These exams will test your knowledge of the readings, lectures, and class discussions. The exams will be comprised of a combination of short answer and essay questions. Maps will also be included on the exams. Details will be announced prior to exams. Your final exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 11th at 11:30a.m.**
2. *Writing assignment (35% of final grade)*: There will be one required essay. The topic will be announced in class, and the due date is noted on the schedule. Papers will be graded based on their content, argument, grammar, spelling, and organization. MLA or Chicago style references should be used for papers. The choice is yours, but be consistent. Both in-text citation and bibliographies should be used to cite references. The highest grade that can be earned on papers without correct citation of sources is a C. **Each paper must have at least five sources.** If you use only five sources, only one of the sources may be from an Internet site. The other four sources must be from scholarly journals or books. The textbook for this class may not be one of your required sources. **Papers are due in class on the due date. After the start of class, the paper will be considered late. All late papers will lose a partial letter grade for each day that it is late. Papers more than 3 days late will not be accepted.** Plagiarism of a paper will result in automatic failure in the course. The paper should be 6-8 pages in length.
3. *Group Presentations (15% of final grade)*: Groups of up to five students will present on one of the six contemporary global issues described in section three of the International Studies text. Presentations should involve the participation of all students, should take 30-35 minutes each, including discussion questions for the rest of the class. The format should be interactive.
4. *Attendance, participation, and in-class quizzes (15% of final grade)*: Students are expected to attend all classes and to be punctual. It is essential that students do the required readings and participate in class discussions. There will be frequent in-class map quizzes. Students are responsible for obtaining any information or materials distributed in class.

Absence policy:

Attendance is mandatory. There will be regular quizzes, but there are no make-up quizzes or exams. Students who miss more than two quizzes will receive a grade of F for attendance.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

The following is an excerpt from the 2008-2009 Course Catalog, stating Fairfield University's policy regarding academic honesty, academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. This policy will apply to this course:

Fairfield University's primary purpose is the pursuit of academic excellence. This is possible only in an atmosphere where discovery and communication of knowledge are marked by scrupulous, unqualified honesty. Therefore, it is expected that all students taking classes at the University adhere to the following Honor Code:

"I understand that any violation of academic integrity wounds the entire community and undermines the trust upon which the discovery and communication of knowledge depends. Therefore, as a member of the Fairfield University community, I hereby pledge to uphold and maintain these standards of academic honesty and integrity."

Academic Dishonesty

Students are sometimes unsure of what constitutes academic dishonesty. In all academic work, students are expected to submit materials that are their own and are to include attribution for any ideas or language that are not their own. Examples of dishonest conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Falsification of academic records or grades, including but not limited to any act of falsifying information on an official academic document, grade report, class registration document or transcript.
- Cheating, such as copying examination answers from materials such as crib notes or another student's paper.
- Collusion, such as working with another person or persons when independent work is prescribed.
- Inappropriate use of notes.
- Falsification or fabrication of an assigned project, data, results, or sources.
- Giving, receiving, offering, or soliciting information in examinations.
- Using previously prepared materials in examinations, tests, or quizzes.
- Destruction or alteration of another student's work.
- Submitting the same paper or report for assignments in more than one course without the prior written permission of each instructor.
- Appropriating information, ideas, or the language of other people or writers and submitting it as one's own to satisfy the requirements of a course – commonly known as plagiarism. Plagiarism constitutes theft and deceit. Assignments (compositions, term papers, computer programs, etc) acquired either in part or in whole from commercial sources, publications, students, or other sources and submitted as one's own original work will be considered plagiarism.
- Unauthorized recording, sale, or use of lectures and other instructional materials.
- In the event of such dishonesty, professors are to award a grade of zero for the project, paper, or examination in question, and may record an F for the course itself. When appropriate, expulsion may be recommended. A notation of the event is made in the student's file in the academic dean's office. The student will receive a copy.

(Fairfield University's Course Catalog 2008-2009, p. 29)

Students with Disabilities

Fairfield University is committed to providing qualified students with disabilities an equal opportunity to access the benefits, rights, and privileges of its services, programs, and activities in an accessible setting. Furthermore, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Connecticut laws, the University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified students to reduce the impact of disabilities on academic functioning or upon other major life activities. It is important to note that the University will not alter the essential elements of its courses or programs.

If a student with a disability would like to be considered for accommodations, he or she must make this request in writing and send the supporting documentation to the director of Academic and Disability Support Services. This should be done prior to the start of the academic semester and is strictly voluntary. However, if a student with a disability chooses not to self-identify and provide the necessary documentation, accommodations need not be provided. All information concerning disabilities is confidential and will be shared only with a student's permission. Fairfield University uses the guidelines suggested by CT AHEAD to determine disabilities and reasonable accommodations.

(Fairfield University's Student Handbook 2008-2009, p. 11)

Class Schedule (subject to change)

Thursday, January 21 – Introductions

Week of January 25 – The Disciplines of International Studies
- *International Studies*, chapters 1-5

Week of February 1 – population & demography

Week of February 8 – colonialism, poverty, and dependency
Read “The Modern World System: Explanations of Globalization and Conflict”
(Available on Blackboard)

Week of February 15 – *Life and Debt*

First exam Monday, February 22th

Week of February 22 & 29 –Latin America & the Caribbean
- *International Studies*, chapter 12

Week of March 7 – Spring Break

Week of March 14 & 21 – Sub-Saharan Africa
- *International Studies*, chapter 10

Paper due on Thursday, March 24

Week of March 28 – Middle East & North Africa
- *International Studies*, chapter 11
(No class on March 28 – Easter Break)

Week of April 4 & 11 – Asia
- *International Studies*, chapters 8 & 9

Week of April 18 – Contemporary Global Issue # 1 & 2

Week of April 25 – Contemporary Global Issue # 3, 4, 5 & 6

Monday, May 2 – Summary and review
- *International Studies*, chapters 6-7

Final Exam Wednesday, May 11th at 11:30a.m.