**GRS 290/390/490:**

GLOBAL ISSUES IN CULTURAL CONTEXT

# Course objective

The objective of this course is to bring GRS students together, to get to know each other, share interests and experiences and form a community of learners. This course will connect you to your GRS colleagues throughout your degree programs and beyond.

Whether abroad or on campus, you will interact and share perspectives that will help new and continuing GRS students understand their place in a global world and build skills as global citizens.

# Learning Outcomes

▪ Interact and learn from student colleagues.

▪ Recognize cultural differences and value cultural diversity (academic, gender, ethnicity, nationality).

▪ Articulate important global issues that relate to agriculture, food, heath, and natural resource systems.

▪ Understand and communicate the importance of assessing global issues through local and culturally sensitive lens.

▪ Interpret your area of resource specialization within the context of the global community.

# Course information

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| **Class time** | **Class location** | **Session Term** |
| While there is some flexibility in this online course, you are expected to meet virtually on **Wednesdays @5:30 -6:50pm PT (Vancouver Time)** | **Zoom**  The link will be available on Canvas. | Term 1 |

# Facilitators

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Course coordinators** | **Email** | **Office location** |
| **Dr. Les Lavkulich** | [lml@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:lml@mail.ubc.ca) | MacMillan 127 |
| **Roxana Quinde** | [quinde@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:quinde@mail.ubc.ca) | MacMillan 344 |

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Role** | **Email** |
| **Fernanda Diaz-Osorio** | Teaching Assistant | [ferdiaz0@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:ferdiaz0@mail.ubc.ca) |
| **Allison Gacad** | Teaching Assistant | [gacada@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:gacada@mail.ubc.ca) |
| **Nicola Bornarchuk** | Program Assistant (Work-learn) | [nicola.bodnarchuk@ubc.ca](mailto:nicola.bodnarchuk@ubc.ca) |
| **Megan Bingham** | Program Assistant | **-** |
| **Njoki Mburu** | Alumni | **-** |

# Assessment for learning

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| # | Component |  |
| 1 | Attendance and participation | 70% |
| 2 | Assignments (Discussion groups, social media post, synopsis) | 30% |
|  | Total | **Pass/ D/ Fail** |

* You will be assessed on **your attendance and participation in class** (online), through asking questions, raising global issues, contributing responses, stimulating debate, and sharing cultural experiences.

**Attendance is mandatory. If you cannot attend a class for a valid reason, you must send an e-mail before the class to one of Roxana, Les or a TA.**

* Requirements for **assignments** can be met by completing two of the three options:
  + Discussion groups
  + Social Media post
  + Synopsis
* The grading system for the course is **Pass/D/ Fail.**

## Option A: Discussion Groups

Discussion topics that emerge from class discussion will be posted online on the canvas site.

Further details and instructions will be provided during our sessions.

You can approach the questions from any angle you choose; from that of your resource specialization, personal experience in your region, and/or information you gather in the news or the internet. Any perspective is welcome! Try to be as specific as you can in your contributions. If you can back up your opinion with examples or case studies from your region, great! Please remember to follow the ground rules discussed in class. The idea is to learn from each other and generate some thought-provoking conversations.

## Option B: Social media post

Submit a social media post (Instagram and/or GRS website post) about a GRS experience such as your global experience (if completed already), directed studies, research, volunteering or anything you would like to share with the GRS community.

* ***Instagram (@grs\_program)***

For the post you should submit to the TA’s the following:

* + A headshot (png or jpg) and your preferred name and preferred pronouns
  + One or two high-quality pictures of your experience(s)
  + One or two paragraphs explaining your experience(s) for the post caption (e.g. exchange, research, directed studies, etc.)
  + Optional
    - The place you call home
    - Your GRS resource/ region
* ***GRS website: Current student profile***
  + Fill the following questionnaire: <http://grs.landfood.ubc.ca/current-students-questionnaire/>

## Option C: Synopsis

Submit a up to 500 words page synopsis regarding the GRS classes or online discussions that had the greatest impact on your perception of global issues during Term 1. Please submit the synopsis to Les via e-mail ([lml@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:lml@mail.ubc.ca)) with a copy to Roxana ([quinde@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:quinde@mail.ubc.ca)) no later than Friday, December 18th at 11:59pm.

# Frequently Asked Questions

***Where do I post my contributions?***

The format and location for the discussion groups is on Canvas.

***How often do I post my contributions?***

There will be multiple discussion topics posted during each term. You need to post at least **three** discussion items during each term. Your response to a class member’s discussion post will count as a posting for you.

***When do I post?***

Each new discussion section will start every other Thursday. Please do your utmost to contribute to each topic in a timely manner. All discussion postings should be completed by Friday, December 18th at 11:59pm.

***How do I submit my social media post?***

Send your pictures and paragraphs to [ferdiaz0@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:ferdiaz0@mail.ubc.ca). Use your name and “Social Media Post” as the subject.

***When do I submit my social media post?***

You can submit your social media post anytime between September 8th, 2020 and December 18th, 2020. Please try to submit your experience as soon as possible, do not wait until the last day.

**What happens if I need to miss a GRS class?**

**Attendance is mandatory. If you cannot attend a class for a valid reason, you must send an e-mail before the class to one of Roxana, Les or a TA.**