

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for GS 2

GLOBAL ISSUES

Effective: Fall 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

GS 2 — GLOBAL ISSUES — 3.00 units

This course introduces students to the origins, current status, and future trends of major transnational issues confronting the global community. Topics can include population trends, economic development and inequality, basic human needs (for food, water health care), human rights, international conflict and security concerns, and environmental problems. The course also focuses on global governance, including the study of collective global responsibilities.

3.00 Units Lecture

Strongly Recommended

ENG 104 - Integrated Reading and Writing II
with a minimum grade of P

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. ENG104

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Identify major recurring and emerging global issues
- Examine and analyze one or more specific global problems of international or regional nature, and discuss approaches to its/their solution (from an international perspective)
- Analyze the interconnections between and among global issues
- Compare and evaluate the efficacy of national, regional, and international efforts to solve the problems associated with global issues

V. CONTENT:

- Introduction: identification and definition of global issues/problems and related concepts such as interdependence.
- Study of a number of problems/issues, including, but not limited to, the suggested list below, organized by either themes or regions:
 - The study of global population, which includes the evolution of population growth and predictions of the future, and demographic trends, and/or migration, as well as the concept of carrying capacity.
 - The study of global governance, including, but not limited to, the study of global and regional IGOs (roles, background), the role of nation states, the role of NGOs, communities and individuals. The focus is on various political actors' policy powers and limits thereof and their role in addressing existing global problems/ issues.
 - The study of economic development/ underdevelopment, including, but not limited to, economic growth, the global economy, global inequality and global poverty.
 - Study of topic(s) related to human needs, including all or some of the following: a) food: including, but not limited to, the study of food shortages, and changes in food production over time; b) water: including, but not limited to, the study of water access and availability, questions related to sanitation, and safety and conflict; c) health: including, but not limited to, global health problems such as pandemics and their prevention; and/or health care, including, but not limited to, availability and problems with provision of health care; d) energy: including, but not limited to, energy needs, consumption and conservation, renewable and nonrenewable resources.
 - The study of environmental problems, including, but not limited to, problems related to deforestation, threats to biodiversity, climate change, the pollution of water, air and soil.
 - The study of human rights, focusing on existing international law and on violations of human rights. Topics addressed might include, but are not limited to, the study of the status of women, the use of child soldiers, the status of refugees, human trafficking, and modern-day slavery.
 - The study of current conflict and security related problems and global crime, including, but not limited to, current ethnic and

- sectarian conflicts, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the threat of terrorism, human- and drug-trafficking, and piracy.
- 8. The study of technology, including, but not limited to, the benefits and problems of new technologies, problems related to access/ inequality of access, and cybersecurity.
- C. For all global issues/ problems, the focus on is analysis of causes of the problem and on approaches to solving it.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** - Instructor will lecture for portions of the class, integrating visual aids when possible and interspersing lecture with other modes of instruction.
- B. **Discussion** - Students may engage in guided discussion for sections of the class period and report out as to the most valuable points they heard or questions their group still has.
- C. **Student Presentations** - Students may make short presentations, either developed individually or as a group, on a particular global issue.
- D. **Guest Lecturers** - Course may invite guest lecturers from other social science fields at LPC or outside the college to illuminate a particular global issue and explain various solutions to the issue that have been advanced.
- E. **Research** - After completing a short research paper on a topic of their choice or a topic chosen from a list of approved topics, students may present their research to the class.
- F. **Audio-visual Activity** - Students may watch short films or film excerpts on a particular global issue that's in the news.

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Short Paper
 - 1. Read Unit 2 Issue 5, "Should the World Continue to Rely on Oil as the Major Source of Energy?" in Harf and Lombardi's *Taking Sides*. Write a synthesis of the two articles presented, summarizing, comparing, and contrasting them.
- B. Research Paper
 - 1. Research the differences and similarities between prostitution and human trafficking and discuss the debate over whether they should be handled similarly or if sex workers should be seen as having a different status.
- C. Group Project and Presentation
 - 1. Research the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and describe the efforts to curb or eliminate it and the complexities of doing so. Prepare a presentation to the class that involves an audio-visual element.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Quizzes
- 3. Research Projects
- 4. Papers
- 5. Oral Presentation
- 6. Group Projects
- 7. Class Participation
- 8. Class Work
- 9. Home Work

B. **Frequency**

- 1. Exams
 - a. Students may have a midterm and a final.
- 2. Quizzes
 - a. Students may have weekly quizzes on the reading.
- 3. Research Projects
 - a. Students will have one research project
- 4. Papers
 - a. If the research project is a paper, there will be one at the end of the semester.
 - b. Students may have shorter summary/analysis papers of the readings.
- 5. Group Projects
 - a. Students may have one group project.
- 6. Class Participation
 - a. Students should participate daily in class, whether by taking notes, participating in group work, or participating in class discussion.
- 7. Class work
 - a. Students should participate daily in class work if assigned.
- 8. Homework
 - a. Students will have homework in between each class meeting, roughly equivalent to two hours per course unit.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Payne, Richard. *Global Issues: Politics, Economics, and Culture*. 5th ed., Pearson, 2016.
- 2. Hite, Kristen, and John Seitz. *Global Issues: An Introduction*. 5th ed., Wiley-Blackwell, 2016.
- 3. Sernau, Scott. *Global Problems: The Search for Equity, Peace, and Sustainability*. 3rd ed., Pearson, 2012.
- 4. Snarr, Michael, and D. Snarr. *Introducing Global Issues*. 6th ed., Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2016.
- 5. Weiner, Robert. *Annual Editions: Global Issues*. 32nd ed., McGraw-Hill Education, 2016.
- 6. Harf, James, and Mark Lombardi. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Global Issues*. 8th ed., McGraw-Hill Education, 2013.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: