**GLOBAL 2301:**

**INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL STUDIES**

**Spring 2016**

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**Department of Modern Languages**

**The University of Texas at Arlington**

**Instructor:** Dr. Neal Liang

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**Office hours:** Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:30 pm

**Section information:** GLOBAL 2301-001

**Time and place of class meetings:** T/TR 11:00 am -12:20 pm (Classroom: TBA)

**Description of Course Content**

In this course students will engage with essential topics on global civilization and culture such as Popular Culture, Language, Geography, Migration, Religion, Ethnicity, Environment, Population and Health, Economy, and others. Through close study and analysis of these topics, the major aim of the course is to deepen the understanding of individual role as a global citizen and find deeper personal meaning through the process of inquiry. Through readings, lecture, research, discussion, collaborative critics and reflections, students will gain the skills of critical thinking about global problems and issues, as well as the abilities to strategically develop practical and actionable solutions.

**Learning Objectives**

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills has identified the following core skills as necessary for successful engagement with the global economy: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity and Innovation. The study of global issues targets all four of these skills. Upon completion of the course, students will have gained essential knowledge about the major topics of global problems and confronted the issues and challenges of Equity, Peace and Sustainability in a globalized society. More specifically, students in this course will learn how to:

1. understand and familiarize area issues, history, or culture;
2. distinguish differences based on the axis of regions and timeline;
3. compare and contrast unfamiliar topics with familiar ones;
4. respond objectively to critics from peers;
5. collaborate with others
6. propose applicable and innovative solutions

**Descriptions of Major Assignments and Examinations**

* Students are expected to not only read the assigned texts but also find supplemental materials on their own prior to class in order to present their findings and interact with other students and the instructor.
* Each student is assigned TWO presentations in which they will lecture their findings and lead a discussion with provocative arguments/questions.
* Each student will prepare one 30-minute presentation on a topic of his/her choice (not only an aspect of global issues that the students are interested in but are also unfamiliar to him/her; also the topic needs to be approved by the instructor) at the first half of the semester.
* The first presentation is to be presented to the whole class before the mid-term exam.
* The presentation will include a quiz designed by the presenter.
* The task for the second presentation is to compare and/or contrast the topic(s) found in the first presentation with the topics the students are familiar with. This presentation is to be presented in the second half of the semester.
* Again, the presenter will design a quiz for that day.
* Weekly quizzes will be created by the students who are presenting on that week and the questions are based on the topic(s) covered in that week’s readings and presentations.
* A mid-term exam will be given before spring break and is to be completed during spring break.
* A final exam will be given in the class and will cover all topics discussed in the course readings, discussions, and materials presented.

**Grading**

Attendance and participation are mandatory and form a substantial part of the final grade. See the attendance policy below.

Grades are apportioned as follows:

Class Participation (attendance, preparation, active participation) 5%

Daily Quizzes 40%

2 Presentations (15% each) 30%

Mid term Exam 10%

Final Exam 15%

* **Two Presentations (30%):**

The first presentation will be presented before mid term exam and the 2nd one before final exam. Your presentations will be graded by the instructor AND the audience presence at your presentation. A rubric will be developed as a class in Week 1. Using this rubric, everyone in the class will give a score before the class ends. Each class meeting will have TWO presenters presenting the same or different topics. Each class has 90 minutes. Each presenter is given 40 minutes to present their talk AND administer a quiz. The presentation must be at least 30 minutes long. Video clips are allowed but cannot be longer than 5 minutes each. The total length of video time must be under 10 minutes. These clips can be those your found on the Internet. Or, you can interview and videotape some expert in the field and edit them into mini clips to be part of your presentations. The maximum score for each presentation is 100 and each weighs 15% of overall grade.

* **Daily Quizzes (40%):**

The questions in the daily quizzes are designed by the presenters and be approved by the instructor. So, you need to design your quiz and get my approval at least one day prior to your presentation so you have time to revise them if necessary. There will be a total of 52 quizzes: 26 quizzes in the first half of the class and another 26 quizzes in the second half of the class. The maximum score for each quiz is 100 and weighs 1% of overall grade. You are allowed to missed 12 quizzes or omit the lowest 12 quizzes.

* **Mid-term Exam (10%):**

This will be a take home exam and will consists of two essay questions. You will need to refer to the presentations presented in the first half of the semester to answer the essay questions with correct and substantial information. So, taking good notes for each presentation is essential.

-  **Final Exam (15%):**

In addition to essay questions, there will be multiple questions and fill in blanks questions. More details will be given 2 weeks before the final exam.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 5 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, journaling, completing assignments, preparing for presentations/exams, etc.

**Readings and Course Materials**

After you have decided a topic that you want to present, please come to my office to download the reading materials. In addition, you should find relevant materials in the library and on the Internet on your own to supplement your research and presentation.

**Regulations and Guidelines**

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I strongly encourage you to do your utmost to attend every class. Full attendance is imperative to achieve success. In the event of unavoidable circumstances, please inform me at least one day *prior* to the class you have to miss. In case of illness or emergency, please provide a doctor’s note or similar evidence of your mitigating circumstances. Unexcused repeated absences will result in a reduction of your course grade.

**Class Format and Student Participation:** Your participation is graded daily. It is vitally important that you play an active role in the learning process. As a result, your participation in all aspects of this class will be encouraged, expected, and rewarded (quality, not just quantity!).

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).