It is commonly observed that the world operates as a global system, stitched together by far-reaching trade protocols, governance covenants, and communication networks. Although this process of integration engenders dramatic opportunities for cooperation and development, it is also characterized by profound inequities and uncertainties that breed tensions and conflicts. From education to culture to economy to environment, the great issues of our time require close attention to the dynamic interactions among actors and stakeholders around the world. This course provides a small seminar setting for an interdisciplinary survey of major approaches to the study of international and global issues. It aims to familiarize students with key theories, themes, debates, and methodological tools. Topics include economy, environment, education policy, culture, media, human rights, citizenship, health, and migration.

Jan 25th: Introduction

Feb 1st: History


Feb 8th: International Political Economy and/or Global Capitalism?


Feb 15th: Global Governance: Civil Society and/or International Organizations?


Feb 22: Education [in preparation for guest speaker March 1]


March 1: Science and the Academy


[Guest speaker today: Philip Altbach, 336 Ingraham Hall]

March 8th: Law and Politics


March 15th: Human Rights


March 22nd: Culture


March 29th: Spring Break

April 5th: Health


April 12th: Food Security

[Guest speaker today: Neha Vora, 336 Ingraham Hall]


April 19th: Environment


April 26th: Media


May 3rd: AERA; course review and open office hours to discuss papers.

Papers due electronically to aestambach@wisc.edu May 5th.

Course Assignments and evaluation

Basis for final course grade:
Class participation: 20% (includes essay critique and bibliographic exercises)
Midterm Paper: 40%
Final Paper: 40%

Please inform me within the first three weeks of class if you have a disability and need accommodation to take part in or to complete the required work for this course. For more information, contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center, 905 University, 263-2741, TTY 263-6393.

Bibliographic Exercise

Taking into account the syllabus and the course objectives, recommend one or two readings that might be worth considering for future offerings of the course. It would be especially useful if you could make suggestions from your area of training and expertise, but please feel free to make a suggestion in any area. If the essay that you have in mind does not fit within the current configuration of the course, you are encouraged to suggest a new topic area that you think merits consideration.

Please submit the following no later than April 12

1) pdf or hard copy version of the suggested essay.

2) A brief description (no more than 300 words) of the essay and an explanation as to why it would make a useful contribution to the class. Submit your description in essay form as an attachment—not in the content of an email message.

IS 601 Facilitation Exercise, Spring 2019

Each student will be responsible for facilitating discussion during a portion of one class session this semester. Each facilitator will have the following responsibilities:

1) Select a reading from the assigned list

2) Post your notes on this reading to the classlist no later than 4PM Friday before class.

3) Deliver a 10 minute presentation that explains the key points of the reading, along with observations or critical commentary you have to share.