GLOBAL ISSUES  
CORE 3004  
University Core Curriculum

Scholars who study the phenomenon “globalization” often define it as a dramatic compression of space and time. You can make a call to Bangalore, India for a computer which was designed in California, manufactured in China, and now sits in a warehouse in Parsippany. The computer will be delivered to you the morning after your call. (adaptation of the example given in Global Studies , p.5- see below ) In this capstone course in the University Core program, you will study some of the essential aspects of critical thinking and moral reasoning, and then apply those skills in evaluating economic systems, environmental issues, human rights and international organizations with special attention to The United Nations.

In your earlier CORE courses you have focused on the individual, The United States of America, and aspects of other cultures. In this capstone course you will be asked to examine issues from a global perspective. One day we may get our electricity from solar panels on the Sahara Desert, and from waterfalls in Scandinavia. The compression of space and time we sensed in buying the computer will apply to our electric bills. Twitter and Skype make distances disappear.

As you move through the course, note how tightly connected each of following is to the others: trade, money, the environment and human rights. In Brazil for example, indigenous peoples have had their livelihood taken away in order that citizens of the country could make a fortune clearing forests for raising cattle.

Learning Outcomes for Global Issues
Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Define “globalization” in economic terms and explain how it will affect their future.

2. Explain the difference between a valid and an invalid argument and describe some informal fallacies.

3. Describe in detail disputes over global issues such as planetary warming, species extinction, deforestation, water shortage, pollution of the seas, human rights.

4. Draw conclusions from graphs and charts detailing items such as HDI, GNP, GINI, currency exchange rates, et.al.

DVDs and books for this course:

All DVDs are either available to be streamed or will be shown in class. Go to the Florham Library page and select NJVid to stream the videos at home. Portions will be shown in class.  
Texts:
Kuehl, James, Ed. *Global Issues*, XanEdu
Lynas, Mark, “The God Species,” The Fourth Estate, (an imprint of HarperCollins Publisher)
London, UK

Grading class participation: Class participation requires that you be present and prepared for face-to-face sessions, and that you participate energetically. Both the quality and the quantity of participation are important. Your instructor will provide details on how class participation will be evaluated and how points will be allocated.

Written Work: Students are expected to demonstrate capacities for critical thinking and information literacy in their written work. Your instructor will give you more specific information about each assignment and project, including topics, due dates, instructions, and how points will be allocated.

Weights for grading.

- Midterm – 20%
- Homework & Participation – 25%
- Project/Written – 25%
- Presentation – 10%
- Last test – 20%

Academic Integrity: Please refer to your student handbook:

Getting help: There are many ways to get help with this course. Visit the Student Centered Online Resources for Education or the student support services on campus.

Unit One-Methods

**Week 1**

Introduction
Read the first chapter of the text *Global Studies*
What is an argument? Discussion of validity.
Formal arguments—testing for validity
*Global Issues*(*GI*), pp xi-xiv.
Induction, *GI*, xiv-xv
Week 2

Ad Hominem
Ignoratio Elenchi
Petitio Principii
Ad Populum
Complex Questions
Equivocation
Probability, *Gl*, pp. 19-37
“Argument and Persuasion,” *Gl*, pp. 2-18
Discussion of the paper assignment for the course and the presentation of the research to the class

Week 3

Moral Values
“Thinking Critically about Moral Issues,” *Gl*, pp. 38-72
“Open Secrets,” *Gl*, pp. 73-88

Unit Two: Economics

Week 4

Part 1 of “The Commanding Heights,” Video (part in class, remainder homework – All 3 parts for the honors class)
“Introduction to Globalization and Business,” *Gl*, pp. 223-54

Week 5

“International Trade in Services,” *Gl*, pp. 139-145
“An End of National Currency,” *Gl*, pp. 146-158

Week 6

Gladwell “Blowing Up,” *Gl*, pp. 159-174
“More or Less,” *Gl*, pp. 175-186
“Kidney Prospecting,” *Gl*, pp. 199-217
“Black Gold,” *Gl*, pp. 218-225
(The von Hayek text for an honors section only)

Week 7

First Exam
Read Chapter 5, *Global Studies*

Unit Three: The Environment

Week 8

Streaming video: “The Botany of Desire”
(All as homework for the honors class)
“Introduction,” “The Ascent of Man,” and “The Biodiversity Boundary,” pp. 3-51 in *The God Species*

Week 9


Week 10

“The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas,” *Gl*, pp 226-231
Selections from *The Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, *Gl*, pp. 232-241
Unit Four: Human Rights, Justice and Peace

Week 11  
Chapter 3 of Global Studies  
Includes: Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
In class: Part of the Biography of Eleanor Roosevelt (1:50-58)  
(Entire Biography: All as homework for the honors class)

Week 12  
Human Rights – Read Chapter 4 of Global Studies  
Streaming video: "A Force More Powerful"  
(3 parts – 77 minutes – one part in class, the remaining 2 as homework)  
Study pp. 242-285 in Gl. These pages show the spread between the “haves”  
and the “have-nots.”  Note the surprises you hadn’t expected!

Week 13  
“Distributive Justice,” Gl, pp. 286-301  
“A Department of Peace,” Gl, p302  
“The Censors,” Gl, p. 304

Unit Five  
Weeks 14-15 Student Presentations

The last exam will be scheduled by the professor. In a class meeting only once a week the exam will probably be on the first half of the double period in the 14th week; Classes meeting twice a week will have it on the first period of the 14th week.