

Syllabus for GLB-301

GLOBAL ISSUES AND SOCIETY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of global issues is more critical than ever now that we have truly become a "global village." The decisions that we make in the next few years—whether those decisions are made in Beijing, Brussels, Brazil, or Buffalo—will determine the collective future of this village. Together we are confronted with many pressing and often competing global challenges that demand thoughtful responses and solutions. Population is growing at an alarming rate in some regions; environmental concerns are everywhere; global resources appear to be dwindling; national security eludes many countries, especially as terrorism has become an international phenomenon; and human rights are violated in a variety of ways. These crises certainly represent significant problems facing our world today; at the same time, they provide opportunities for us to bring about changes that will significantly increase the ongoing quality of life around the world.

The purpose of this course is **to educate and encourage the development of globally competent citizens and leaders**. The course is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to be engaged, responsible, and effective members of a globally interdependent society. Most important, students will be asked to think deeply about their world (including its future, current issues, its impact on their local area, and our personal responsibility as global citizens).

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In examining the crises cited above, and other global issues currently facing humanity, this course will attempt to achieve the following goals.

Knowledge

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe important global issues and their present and future impacts.
2. Describe the relationships between and among global issues.
3. Explain global issues in their geographic, historical, and cultural contexts.
4. Describe how one's own culture and history affect one's worldview and expectations.

Skills

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Employ information related to global issues.
2. Evaluate the integrity of information about global issues.

3. Think critically and ethically about global issues.

Attitudes

Upon completion of the course, students will be disposed to:

1. Be intellectually curious about global issues.
2. Value different cultural perspectives on global issues.
3. Take action based on ethical analysis and empathy.

In attempting to accomplish these objectives, we will incorporate a variety of learning activities, all of which will be organized online. The Internet provides an invaluable source of information regarding global issues, and you will be provided a rich repository of Web-based resources and guidance in searching for additional resources. Students will also be encouraged to participate in additional outside learning activities, such as attending presentations and using interactive technologies to understand global issues.

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need the following materials to complete your coursework. Some course materials may be free, open source, or available from other providers. You can access free or open-source materials by clicking the links provided below or in the module details documents. To purchase course materials, please visit the [University's textbook supplier](#).

Note: You will need *both* the e-book and digital access to articles in the *New York Times*.

E-book

Global Challenges by the American Democracy Project of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). (Washington, DC: AASCU Sourcebooks).

ISBN: 9781402284168

E-ISBN: 9781402284168

The required textbook is available via a link in the Course Essentials section of GLB-301 in Moodle. To access the PDF, click on "Course Textbook" located under the course Syllabus.

New York Times Digital Subscription

Global Issues and Society requires you to read a number of articles in the *New York Times*. The NYTimes.com site allows access to 10 free articles per month, but requires a subscription after that point. After you have reached your 10 article limit, you'll be prompted to sign up for access for the remainder of the course. Current pricing is 99 cents for the first four weeks and \$5 a week thereafter. Thus your access will cost you between \$35 and \$40 for the 12 weeks of the course.

If you are a home subscriber, you may link your account to NYTimes.com for digital access free of charge.

COURSE PARTICIPATION

Students are encouraged to participate actively in this class. Please engage in the online learning activities in a timely manner. If you have ideas on how a certain topic might be presented and applied, please express them; if you are aware of learning resources that are not being used, please suggest them as well. If we work together, this can be a very interesting and rewarding class for all of us.

COURSE FRAMEWORK AND STRUCTURE

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Global Engagement scholars have created the materials for this course as part of their effort to educate globally competent citizens. Although the text is of value to anyone interested in increasing his or her knowledge of global challenges facing the world today, it is designed for use in college settings. The goal of this book and of this course is that the student will gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes associated with become a globally competent citizen.

This course uses the framework of the seven global challenges, seven challenges that will shape our world by the year 2025:

1. world population growth
2. scarce global resources
3. advancing technology and its diffusion
4. the flow of information and knowledge
5. global economic integration
6. the nature and mode of conflict
7. the challenges of governance

Because of the diverse nature of the seven global challenges students will be exposed to multiple academic fields of study. The objective of this interdisciplinary course is that students will develop both a comprehensive understanding of some of the major global issues and a heightened appreciation for how diverse topics are interrelated.

Global Issues and Society is a three-credit online course, consisting of **nine** modules. Modules include topics, learning objectives, a study outline, and activities (forums, written assignments, and blogs). Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: Introduction**
- **Module 2: Population**
- **Module 3: Resources**

- **Module 4: Technology**
- **Module 5: Information**
- **Module 6: Economic Integration**
- **Module 7: Security**
- **Module 8: Governance**
- **Module 9: Global Citizenship**

ASSESSMENT METHODS

For your formal work in the course, you are required to participate in online discussion forums, complete written assignments, participate in the Global Village blog activity, and complete a final project. See below for details.

Consult the Course Calendar for assignment due dates.

Promoting Originality

One or more of your course activities may utilize a tool designed to promote original work and evaluate your submissions for plagiarism. More information about this tool is available in [this document](#).

Discussion Forums

You are required to participate in **nine** graded discussion forums as well as an ungraded Introductions Forum. The online discussions are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.

For posting guidelines and help with discussion forums, please see the Student Handbook located within the General Information page of the course Web site.

Written Assignments

You are required to complete **nine** written assignments. The written assignments are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.

For help regarding preparing and submitting assignment activities, see the Student Handbook located within the General Information page of the course Web site.

Global Village Activity

One way to gain a valuable perspective on the world is to examine how people in different countries are affected by global issues and trends. Within your class, you will act as a particular member of a global village that is representative of the seven billion people who live on Earth. Your mentor will assign you a villager role, and you will use various Internet resources to investigate the characteristics of that villager as well as how various issues affect your villager. Your findings will be posted within the Global Village blog forum in each module. You will be able to read and comment on the postings of your classmates as well.

Consult the course Calendar for the due dates for these assignments, which have two parts: an original posting and responses to your classmates. Except for the first posting, responses are due at the end of the week when you made your original posting. For the first global village activity, you have until the end of the following week (Week 2) to post.

Final Project

There is no midterm or final exam in this course. Instead, you will write a 2000- to 2500-word paper (with a typical font and spacing this will be a paper of 8 to 10 pages) integrating your learning from this course in four areas: your perspective as a global villager, your analysis of global issues, your views of global citizenship, and some thoughts about what you have gained from this course.

Detailed information about this assignment is found in the final project area of the course site.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **Online discussions (9)**—18 percent
- **Written assignments (9)**—36 percent
- **Global village blog forums (9)**—22 percent
- **Final project**—24 percent

All activities will receive a numerical grade of 0–100. You will receive a score of 0 for any work not submitted. Your final grade in the course will be a letter grade. Letter grade equivalents for numerical grades are as follows:

A	=	93–100	C+	=	78–79
A–	=	90–92	C	=	73–77
B+	=	88–89	C–	=	70–72

B	=	83–87	D	=	60–69
B–	=	80–82	F	=	Below 60

To receive credit for the course, you must earn a letter grade of C or better (for an area of study course) or D or better (for a non-area of study course), based on the weighted average of all assigned course work (e.g., exams, assignments, discussion postings, etc.).

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

First Steps to Success

To succeed in this course, take the following first steps:

- Read carefully the entire Syllabus, making sure that all aspects of the course are clear to you and that you have all the materials required for the course.
- Take time to read the entire Online Student Handbook. The Handbook answers many questions about how to proceed through the course and how to get the most from your educational experience at Thomas Edison State University.
- Familiarize yourself with the learning management systems environment—how to navigate it and what the various course areas contain. If you know what to expect as you navigate the course, you can better pace yourself and complete the work on time.
- If you are not familiar with Web-based learning be sure to review the processes for posting responses online and submitting assignments before class begins.

Study Tips

Consider the following study tips for success:

- To stay on track throughout the course, begin each week by consulting the Course Calendar. The Calendar provides an overview of the course and indicates due dates for submitting assignments and posting discussions.
- Check Announcements regularly for new course information.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

To ensure success in all your academic endeavors and coursework at Thomas Edison State University, familiarize yourself with all administrative and academic policies including those related to academic integrity, course late submissions, course extensions, and grading policies.

For more, see:

- [University-wide policies](#)
- [Undergraduate course policies and regulations](#)
- [Graduate academic policies](#)
- [Nursing student policies](#)
- [Academic code of conduct](#)