

**IS 336: Global Problems & Human Survival
Summer 2010**

Instructors & Contact Information:

Dr. Gillian Acheson Department of Geography Office: 1412 Alumni Hall Phone: 650-5281 E-mail: gacheso@siue.edu Office hours: TR 12:30-1:30, & by appointment Questions: Students with last names from A - K*	Dr. Richard Bush Public Administration & Policy Analysis Office: 3129 Alumni Hall (Closed due to roof repairs) Phone: 650-3692 E-mail: rbush@siue.edu Facebook @ http://www.facebook.com/rdbushphd?ref=profile MySpace 2: http://www.myspace.com/npfandngodrd Office hours: By appointment only. Questions: Students with last names from L - Z*
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*If you have general questions about the course or your grade, please direct your questions to either Dr. Acheson or Dr. Bush based on your last name; questions about specific assignments should be directed to the professor who graded that assignment.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to assist students in understanding a number of today's global problems, anticipating what may happen in the future with regard to these problems, and evaluating proposals for solving these problems.

The course is intended to assist students in developing their appreciation of the complexity of the problems covered, and in cultivating an informed point of view. An interdisciplinary course on complex and controversial issues inevitably involves multiple and alternative viewpoints. It is not assumed that the student will concur with any of the viewpoints presented. Rather it is intended that the student will critically analyze the information and commentary presented in the course in order to develop sound arguments in support of his/her own position.

Selected Course Materials: Available via Blackboard (<http://bb.siue.edu>)

Course Textbook:

Seitz, J. L. 2008. Global Issues: An Introduction (3rd edition). Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Course Mechanics: Your final grade is a weighted average, comprised of the following:

	Weight:
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Poster project	25%
Homework 1: Ecological footprint (Acheson)	10%
Homework 2: Policy exercise (Bush)	10%
Class exercises	5%
Total:	<hr/> 100%

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, definitions and short essay questions based primarily on lecture material and on assigned readings. Please note: you must bring a #2 pencil to class on exam days. (Grading: Acheson/Bush)

Make-up exams will only be granted if you (1) contact us within 24 hours of missing the exam, and (2) have a valid, University-sanctioned excuse.

Poster project: Each student will create a display (e.g. a poster) about a global problem. Your final poster grade is comprised of the poster itself (75%), a paragraph description of the poster project (5%), peer review (5%), and an annotated bibliography (15%). Further details will be provided in class & a handout. (Grading: Acheson/Bush)

Class exercises: Quizzes and small group work will be used to monitor (1) your understanding of course material and (2) attendance from time to time. Please note that exercises cannot be made up. *You are responsible for all course material regardless of attendance.* (Grading: Acheson/Bush)

Homework assignment: Two homework assignments will be completed during the semester, an ecological footprint exercise (Acheson) and a policy assignment (Bush). Due dates are noted on the schedule below as HW1 (Ecological Footprint/Acheson) and HW2 (Policy/Bush).

About Grading: Please make note of the following information.

- Because there are two instructors for this course, grading is divided between us.
 - Homework assignment 1 should be turned in to Dr. Acheson;
 - Homework assignment 2 should be turned in to Dr. Bush;
 - Poster project assignments (topic, peer review & annotated bibliography) should be turned in based on your last name: assignments from students with last names beginning with A - K should go to Dr. Acheson; last names with L - Z should turn assignments in to Dr. Bush.
- Late assignments will incur a 5 point/day deduction for each day late. Assignments are late if not turned in at the beginning of the class on the date due (see the schedule below).
- A hard copy of assignments must be turned in; assignments cannot be submitted via e-mail, digital dropbox, or faxed.

Grade distribution: Letter grades will be assigned based on the following distribution: A (90% and above); B (80-89.9%); C (70-79.9%); D (60-69.9%); and, F (59.9% and below). Please note that your final grade is a weighted average; if you do not know how to calculate a weighted average then you can use the grade calculator posted to Blackboard to determine your final grade.

Please note: We plan to have a question and answer period from 8:00-8:30 am. If you would like to discuss anything in class, please come visit. Class lecture will begin at 8:30 am.

Class Courtesy: It is important for each person enrolled in this course to be treated with, and treat others, with respect and courtesy. To that end:

- (1) come to class on time. The class is 4 hours - no more, no less - we will not keep you late but you must come prepared to spend the entire class period engaged in the class;
- (2) turn your cell phone off and put it away so that it is out of sight (no calls, no text messaging);
- (3) come to class prepared to listen and participate (in other words do not do other work, read the newspaper, sleep, or have private conversations while in this class - if you must do these things, then do not come to class);
- (4) listen to each other's comments and opinions with an open mind; and,
- (5) avoid using offensive speech. Inflammatory comments which provoke or insult anyone in this class will not be tolerated.

Schedule:

Date	Topic	Instructor	Notes*
T 5/25	1. Introduction 2. Wealth & Poverty (MDG's, Policy) 3. Geography of Wealth & Poverty	1. Both 2. Bush 3. Acheson	2. (R) Chapter 1; Thomas Dye reading on BB 2. (A) Visit www.undp.org/mdg/basics.shtml 3. (R) Chapter 1
R 5/27	1. Population basics 2. Population policies	1. Acheson 2. Bush	1. (R) Chapter 2 (37-60) 2. (R) Chapter 2 (60-77) (A) HW1: Ecological Footprint due
T 6/1	1. Food: Production, Distribution 2. The energy crisis	1. Acheson 2. Acheson	1. (R) Chapter 3 (78-99) 2. (R) Chapter 4 (A) Poster topic & sources due
R 6/3	1. Greenspace: Why public gardens matter 2. Food & energy policy (?)	1. Guest 2. Bush	1. Greenspace = 8:30-9:30 2. (R) Chapter 3 (99-114) 2. (A) Visit www.farmland.org/actioncenter/No-Farms/local-food.asp
T 6/8	1. Midterm Exam (8:30-10:00) 2. Ethnic separatism (10:15-11:15)	1. You 2. Guest	1. Midterm = 8:30-10:00 2. Ethnic separatism = 10:15-11:15
R 6/10	1. The environment: Pollution 2. Biodiversity	1. Acheson 2. Guest	1. (R) Chapter 5 2. Biodiversity = 10:30-12:00
T 6/15	1. Human health 2. Policy (Env., Culture, Human Rights)	1. Bush 2. Bush	1. Visit www3.niaid.nih.gov/topics/emerging & www.avert.org 2. Video
R 6/17	1. Technology (Benefits, costs, nucl. weapons)	1. Bush	1. (R) Chapter 6; Robert Putnam reading on BB 1. Video (A) HW2: Policy Exercise due
T 6/22	1. Future scenarios 2. Poster session	1. Acheson 2. You	1. Chapter 7 2. Poster session = 10:00-12:00 (A) Posters, annotated bibliographies due
R 6/24	1. Course evaluations 2. Final exam	1. You 2. You	1. Course evaluations = 8:30-8:55 2. Final exam = 9:00-10:45

*Readings are designated by 'R' and should be done prior to the scheduled class; assignments are designated by 'A' and are due at the beginning of class; 'BB' = Blackboard.

First Day Attendance Policy: We reserve the right to drop any student not in attendance on the first day of classes.

Scholastic Honesty: Each student enrolled is expected to earn her/his grade honestly, without cheating. Cheating of any kind will be dealt with according to the *Student Code of Conduct*.

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Disability Support Services at 650-3726.