



## IDS 3315 Gaining Global Perspectives

Section: U01

Hybrid/Certified

Fall Term 2024

### Course Meeting Information

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In person meeting: Fridays, 9:30 to 10:45 AM, Green Library 132



Online content: Via Canvas

### Professor Information

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Benjamin Smith

**Contact:** [Canvas Inbox](#) or [bsmith@fiu.edu](mailto:bsmith@fiu.edu)

**Office:** SIPA 305

**Office Hours:**

Fridays, 11:00-12:00, or by appointment

### Course Description and Purpose

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Gaining Global Perspectives is course that fulfills many roles in the curriculum here at Global and Sociocultural Studies (GSS) and FIU:

1. For current and potential GSS students, it serves an introduction to Global Studies, which is the field that shares the name of the degree we offer (under which we also have disciplinary majors in Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology).
2. Additionally, for GSS faculty, it is a forum to introduce students in and outside of the department to the ways that social scientists working for (and trained by) GSS gain perspective through research on global problems, while building careers attempting to make a difference in those problems.
3. For all FIU students, it is a course meant to do exactly what the title says, by helping them learn to understand the multiple perspectives exist on most major global issues and to try to understand those perspectives on their own terms.

Thus, this is a course that is both an Introduction to Global Studies and chance to understand (and ultimately participate in) Global Studies in action. Also, I hope it is fun.

## **Course Goals**

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This course satisfies the following University Core Curriculum requirement for Social Science Group Two (university-required):

Students will demonstrate the ability to examine behavioral, social, and cultural issues from a variety of points of view. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavioral, social, and cultural issues, past and present, local and global.

## **UCC Category Description**

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## **Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

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Student learning outcomes allow faculty to assess the level of proficiency in content knowledge and skills that their students acquire in a course.

If the objective meets a special designation, you will see the code after the objective:

University Core Curriculum: UCC

Gordon Rule Writing: GRW

Global Learning: GL

Civic Literacy: CL

- Explain the importance of applying multiple perspectives for understanding local and global connections, including those that most directly involve themselves and those around them. UCC
- Analyze the social, cultural, ecological and economic basis for global issues. UCC.
- Identify similarities and differences among communities within global processes. UCC
- Articulate how those who pursue Global Studies contribute to research, applications, and education. UCC
- Demonstrate Global Studies research methods, interpretations, and ethical implications. UCC.

- Appraise various Global Studies careers.

## **Expectations of the Course**

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This is a hybrid course, which means much of the course work will be conducted online. All lecture PowerPoints and videos will be on Canvas; you will take your exam through Canvas; you will submit all of your individual work through Canvas; and in-class team assignments will be submitted through Canvas as well. You must visit and engage with the Canvas page every week of the course.

Our weekly, in-person class sessions are for reviewing concepts from the modules and building the skills you will rely on as professionals for whom research will inevitably be a part of your future work duties. Just like you must keep up with your work on Canvas, you must also attend and actively participate our in-person sessions if you want to get the most out of this course (and earn a satisfactory grade). Although we have had no issues with this in previous semesters, if you are disrupting class to the point other students cannot complete their assigned tasks, you will be asked to leave for that day and possibly be given a zero for that day's assignment.

For my part, I will respond to messages within a week (almost always much sooner, but I recheck my inbox every weekend to make sure I didn't miss anything); grade individual assignments within two weeks of the deadline (much sooner for the exam, final project, and any individual assignment that is part of chain of linked assignments).

## **Assignments**

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There will be four types of assignments in this course: Weekly Participation, Global Studies Exam, Proposal for the Final Project and Final Project. They will be discussed in detail in the following sections.

### **Intro to Global Studies Exam**

Primarily, this is a discussion and practice driven course, more like a “laboratory” course than most others in social science. However, while being able to do and apply Global

Studies is the goal, there is still a core of knowledge we want majors to retain and be able to articulate about their chosen field of study. That is why, just before the midway point of the course, there will be an exam about the basic ideas of the field of Global Studies.

The format of the exam will be all essays, based on the lectures and any supplemental material presented in the first part of the course. Each lecture will contain within it a slide titled "Questions to be able to answer at the end of this module", which will serve as your study guide for what in the module will be on the exam. These will be fairly big picture type questions and limited in number. You will need to be prepared to present essay style answers to those questions – imagine half a page hand-written, but most importantly, one that contains sufficient detail to answer all parts of the question. On the test, some of the essay questions will be chosen for you; others you will get to choose from a list. The wording of the actual test questions may vary from what was on the lecture slide; some exam questions may combine multiple questions from the lecture slide. However, if you are able to answer the questions presented in the lecture, you will be able to answer the exam questions.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS EXAM IS BEING ABLE TO ARTICULATE ANSWERS IN YOUR OWN WORDS.** It is perfectly fine if you study together and/or come up with bullet points together to focus your answers. But if you have word for word answers that are: a) the same as another student b) the same as my lecture slides or c) the same as any other course material provided – you will get a zero for that answer. You simply have to be able to articulate, in your own words, what the core ideas behind the field that shares the name of your degree are. If for no other reason, because I can virtually guarantee, in a job interview, someone will ask "Global Studies? What is that all about?" There will be time for teamwork in this course, in future courses, and in your future career – but being a good team player requires being solid in the basic fundamentals of what you are going to be doing. This exam forces you to acquire that basic knowledge.

The exam will be taken on Canvas and will be open for just over 3 days. You will have 120 minutes once it is open. Grades for individual questions will be based on how completely all parts of the question have been answered; points will be lost if it is the same answer given by another student or if the answer does not address all parts of the questions clearly. Your grade and feedback will become visible once I have graded your

individual exam (again, within one week of the deadline); however, your answers will not be visible to you.

## **Weekly Participation and Pre-Class Assignments**

Not counting 1) the first week, 2) the day before the Exam opens, 3) the Friday after Thanksgiving 4) the week before finals, and 5) Finals Week, there are eleven in-class meetings that will count toward your participation score. Each week will be worth 20 points. You can miss one week (thus participating 10 weeks), and still get the perfect participation score of 200. (If you participate fully all 11 weeks, you will get 20 bonus points, because your participation score will be 220/200).

Many (but not all) weeks will have a “pre-class assignment” that you need to submit via Canvas. In weeks where there is a “pre-class assignment”, that assignment will be worth 10 of the 20 points, with participation during class making up the other 10 of the 20 points. In weeks where there is no “pre-class assignment” or where the entire class period is devoted to students giving brief pre-prepared presentations, all 20 points will be given for in class participation. Unless you get permission from me to turn in a late pre-class assignment (which must be granted no later than 2 days after the assignment was due, but ideally before), once the class session starts, if it is not turned in, you get a zero for that assignment.

Generally, pre-class assignments will be short (perhaps look up some information, perhaps answer some questions, perhaps read and annotate one article) and will not take you that long. The idea behind them is to help you be prepared for the day’s activity. If I have you do a short in-class presentation, these may take you a little longer to complete, but not that long.

As for grading, if you put forth sincere effort on the pre-class assignment, in class presentation, or in class activity, you can expect to get all of the points. If I see (or get a report from other students) you are not pulling your weight in a group or present/turn in very low effort work (meaning not following directions or not editing your work for clarity), you will lose points accordingly. On some assignments, I will ask you to resubmit instead of taking away points; if this is asked of you, you will still have a chance to score full points on that assignment, provided you make the adjustments requested in my feedback.

Please note, one pre-class assignment and all in-class team assignments will be submitted in a way that will make them visible to all of the other class members. Your individual feedback will be delivered privately through the Grades tab, but what you submit will be visible. Please keep this in mind.

## **Final Project and Final Project Proposal**

Your final project will be to use lessons gained from the readings and lectures given by GSS faculty, students and alumni in the second half of the course to prepare a preliminary research proposal on a global problem you care about to an entity (be it a government agency, non-governmental organization, or private firm) which deals with that issue. Furthermore, this entity must be located in a place you can realistically see yourself living after graduating from FIU. To help make sure you are picking a realistic project, that you understand your issue, and have identified suitable entity, I will have you submit a proposal (and do several individual and team assignments prior to the proposal). The idea behind this is to have you do the first steps in what you will ultimately, hopefully, be doing in your career – proposing research that makes a difference in global issues. To be clear, you will not be carrying out this research project, just proposing it.

Many more details will be provided after the first exam, once you have a better idea of what Global Studies is about. But as with the exams, grades will be based on completely all parts of the directions are followed; with points lost for lack of editing, lack of following directions, and/or lack of detail. Your grade will be visible to you once your individual final project has been graded. Also, it is important to note that while there is no exam on the lectures/readings presented in modules in the second half of the course, a major component of the Final Project will ask you to demonstrate your mastery of and ability to apply concepts from those modules in relation to your chosen topic. If you do not keep up with the lectures and readings in the second half of the course, you will not get a good grade on the final project.

## **Assessments**

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Again, since the exam and all work will be submitted on Canvas, you need to be aware of the following:

- In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements.
- All assessments will auto-submit when (1) the timer runs out OR (2) the closing date/time is reached, whichever happens first. For example, if a quiz has a closing time of 5:00 pm but the student begins the exam at 4:55 pm, the student will only have 5 minutes to complete the quiz.
- Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact FIU Canvas Help Team.

## Grading

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There are 500 points available in this course. They are distributed as follows:

Weekly Participation:

- 200 points (11 weeks (plus one skip) x 20 points each (including any pre-meeting preparation assignments and in-class participation)).

Intro to Global Studies Exam:

- 100 points

Proposal for Final Project:

- 50 points



Final Project:

- 150 points

The grading scale is A = 100-93%, A- = 92.9-90%, B+ = 89.9-87%, B = 86.9-83%, B- = 82.9%-80%, C+ = 79.9-77%, C = 76.9-70%, D = 69.9-60%, F = 59-0%, which translates to, in points:

A : 500 thru 465 points

A-: 464 thru 450 points

B+: 449 thru 435 points

B: 434 thru 415 points

B-: 414 thru 400 points

C+: 399 thru 385 points

C: 384 thru 350 points

D: 349 thru 300 points

F: 299 thru 0 points

## **Textbook and Course Materials**

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**No Textbook Required for Purchase**

**Required/Recommended:** NA

**Authors:** NA

**Publisher:** NA

**Publication Date:** NA

**Copyright Date:** NA

**ISBN 10:** NA

**ISBN 13:** NA

### **Panther Book Pack**

FIU has implemented the Panther Book Pack rental program, which provides your required print and digital course materials at a flat rate of \$20 per undergraduate credit hour. When you registered for your classes this session, you were notified via email of the required course materials that are included in the Panther Book Pack. The Panther Book Pack program applies to all undergraduate credit hours per academic session. I recommend that you review the pricing for all materials across your classes this session compared to the Panther Book Pack flat rate. If the Panther Book Pack is not your best option, you may opt-out up to three days after the add/drop deadline. You may opt back into the Panther Book Pack up to three days after the add/drop deadline. If you do not opt out of the Panther Book Pack rental program, you will be charged \$20 per credit hour and the course materials will be reserved for you for the undergraduate courses for which you are registered. For more details, visit [onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack](https://onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack).

## **Other Course Materials and Open Educational Resources (OER)**

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While there are no required textbooks to buy, some modules may have readings (usually book chapters or academic articles) to review along with the lecture videos.

## **Course Communication**

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Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within one week at the absolute latest, but usually within 48 hours.

## Contacting Me and Asking for Assistance with the Course

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If you are having trouble at all, I strongly encourage you to message me with questions; make an appointment for a quick Zoom conversation; come to office hours; or talk to me before or after class. My job is to make sure you learn the material, not just to assign grades. If you have quick questions that aren't specific to you, I'll take a few minutes at the start of every weekly meeting to address them.

Outside of class, it is best if you use Canvas messages to get ahold of me. But, if you e-mail me, please put “IDS 3315” or “Global Perspectives” in the subject line – so I know what class you are in. Also, pretty please put your name in the email, so I know who I am replying to. It helps a lot.

## Policies

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Please review the [FIU's Policies webpage](#). The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses. For additional information, please visit [FIU's Policy and Procedure Library](#).

As a member of the FIU community, you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the [FIU Student Conduct and Honor Code](#).

## Accessibility and Accommodation

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The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.

For additional assistance please contact [FIU's Disability Resource Center](#).

## Web Accessibility Statements for Partners and Vendors

- [Canvas](#)
- [Microsoft](#)
- [Adobe](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [ProctorU](#)
- [HonorLock](#)
- [Turnitin](#)
- [OpenStax](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- [Respondus LockDown Browser](#)

Please visit [accessibility.fiu.edu](https://accessibility.fiu.edu) for additional information about accessibility at FIU.

## **Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**

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If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you have, for the classmate's well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with [FIU's Panthers Care website](#).

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don't wait to call (305) 348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.