



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Course Syllabus

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North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University  
Fall 2009

**University Studies 120: *The Contemporary World***

**Section:**      **CRN:**              **Meets in:**  
**Instructor:**  
**Email:**              **Phone:**  
**Office location:**      **Office hours:**

**Course Description:**

This course examines the social, economic, political, and cultural roots of today's world. It focuses on the major developments, events, and ideas that have shaped the world since the beginning of the twentieth century. Students master concepts and categories that allow them to grasp the development of the contemporary world, thus providing them with a framework to understand our times. The course will help students develop an information base and critical thinking skills to be applied in their oral and written work at A&T, and requires them to use information technology effectively.

**Course Objectives:**

After working through our readings and completing our scheduled tasks, you will be able to:

- Effectively use information technology to find, interpret, evaluate, and use information discerningly.
- Effectively communicate in diverse settings and groups using written, oral, and visual means.
- Understand and appreciate the diversity and interrelationship of cultures locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally
- Understand the role of social, political, and economic institutions and processes in the development of societies and the factors that lead to dynamic change in societies over time.

**Course Texts:**

**Richard J. Payne, *Global Issues: Politics, Economics, and Culture*; and Robert J. Art, *Longman Atlas of World Issues*. Both available at Aggie Bookstore.**

It is imperative that you do the assigned readings prior to coming to class, so that we can conduct informed discussions, so that you may perform well on exams and quizzes, and so that you will meet the course and university objectives. Set **aside enough time to digest the material assigned**. For some students, this may require multiple close readings.

Additionally, students must use **New York Times through <http://www.nytimes.com>**

### **The University Studies Model of General Education:**

University Studies is a bold, new approach to general education. Until now, general education utilized distribution requirements, which asked students to choose fairly randomly among a list of introductory courses in the humanities, social and natural sciences. Exposing students to a wide variety of subject matter and critical approaches was the primary objective of this educational tradition. Thus, little attention was paid to the ways students might synthesize or profit from the learning objectives and outcomes of different disciplines. As a result, students proceeded into their major studies with few identifiable skills and abilities gleaned from their general education experience. University Studies was conceived to redress these problems.

The rationale for an interdisciplinary approach to general education stems from the acknowledged complexities of the contemporary world. The problems facing modern humanity are rarely if ever understood using the perspectives and tools of a single discipline. Given that, University Studies maintains that critical thinking, logic, writing, humanistic and artistic inquiry, as well as the social and natural sciences are best understood via interdisciplinary methods. Indeed many interdisciplinary fields, such as African American Studies, Science and Technology Studies, Cultural Studies, and Women's Studies developed due to either the unwillingness or the inability of the traditional disciplines to address the issues posed in these bodies of scholarship.

All University Studies [UNST] courses are interdisciplinary. This means that they combine the intellectual methods and subject matter from a variety of disciplines in order to help students learn critical thinking and problem solving. UNST courses are interconnected in such a manner that they can guarantee that a student will be exposed to specified learning objectives that address real-life concerns. During the first year, students will learn skills for critical engagement; during the second and third years, students will apply these newly honed skills in theme-based courses; in the senior year, students will exercise the skills and knowledge they have gained in a capstone experience and service-learning activity. If undertaken seriously and with intentionality, UNST students can expect to emerge with a set of useful intellectual tools that will allow them to engage effectively a dynamic and complex world.

### **Course Policies**

#### *Makeup Coursework and Exams*

The administration, faculty and staff recognize that there are circumstances and events that require students to miss classes and required course work due on the day of the absence. Also, they recognize that required course work is needed to give each student an adequate performance evaluation. Therefore, whenever reasonable (and more specifically described below), students should be allowed to make up required work. Instructors should schedule make-up work at a time that is convenient to both the instructor and the student.

#### *Policy Regarding Makeup of Required Coursework*

- Student may petition an instructor to make up required coursework whenever the student has a permissible reason for requesting make up of required coursework.
- Student will be required to present documentation, which verifies absence constituting permissible reason.
- Whenever possible, a student should consult with the instructor prior to an absence that will involve the failure of submission of coursework. Arrangements for makeup should be discussed and agreed upon at this time.
- A student must petition for makeup of required coursework on the first day that he/she

returns to class.

- If permission is granted to make up required coursework, the instructor and the student should agree on an acceptable date for accomplishing the makeup of missed required coursework.

Failure to comply with item above may result in the denial to make up of required coursework.

#### *Required Documentation*

- Verification of Illness: Requires signed statement of a physician or a duly authorized staff member of the Sebastian Health Center.
- Verification of Death: Requires signed statement from the Minister or Funeral Director.
- Verification of Participation in University-Related Activities: Requires signed statement/letter from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs.
- Verification of Other reasonable Circumstance (e.g., court appearance, family emergency, etc.): Requires a signed statement from an appropriate official (e.g., Court Official, parent or guardian, etc.).

#### *Late Work*

All assignments are due on the dates indicated in your syllabus. **No late work will be accepted in any UNST course.** Exceptions will be made only in cases of documented medical or family emergency or religious observance. Please notify your instructor by e-mail before the assignment is due should an acceptable absence occur. Employment, child care, or other academic pressures do not constitute a valid excuse for late work. There is no provision for additional assignments or extra credit to substitute for missed course requirements.

#### *Class Attendance*

University Studies strives to professionalize its students; therefore, regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in all UNST courses. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Tardiness will not be tolerated. Absent or tardy students are responsible for any missed class work, including any changes to the syllabus or assignments announced in class. In short, absences and tardiness can/will diminish your grade. If you suffer prolonged illness or misfortune, you should consider dropping the course. Persistent tardiness and failure to observe established classroom etiquette will lead to failure of the course. Student athletes must submit a schedule of days they will be absent within the first week of classes.

Students will automatically receive an “F” for missing beyond the equivalent of two weeks of class:

- M, W, F Schedule: Six (6) unexcused absences
- T, R Schedule: Four (4) unexcused absences
- 1-Class Per Week Schedule: Two (2) unexcused absences

At half the allotted absences (three (3) absences for M, W, F schedule; two (2) for T, R schedule; and one (1) for 1-class per week schedule), students are required to meet with their instructor(s) for a mandatory one-on-one conference concerning his/her performance in class.

Absence or tardiness is only excused for emergency situations. Students are responsible for submitting acceptable documentation for the excused absence within one week of the absence. Examples of acceptable documentation include:

#### *Required Documentation*

- Verification of Illness: Requires signed statement of a physician or a duly authorized staff member of the Sebastian Health Center.
- Verification of Death: Requires signed statement from the Minister or Funeral Director.
- Verification of Participation in University-Related Activities: Requires signed statement/letter from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs.
- Verification of Other reasonable Circumstance (e.g., court appearance, family emergency, etc.): Requires a signed statement from an appropriate official (e.g., Court Official, parent or guardian, etc.).

*Student Athletes (and other school group participants)*

Students participating in school athletics are held to the same attendance and performance expectation as non-athletes. Hence, they should coordinate their course schedules so that team practices and games do not conflict with class meetings and group work. Student-athletes should identify themselves to their instructors, submit a schedule of days you will miss class as well as the name and contact information for their coach within the first week of classes.

### *Classroom Citizenship*

All cell phones, pagers, and personal communication devices must be **turned off** for the duration of the class period. Students who fail to comply with this rule will be asked to leave the class and will be marked absent. Campus security will be asked to escort from the classroom those students who fail to leave as requested.

There will be no eating or drinking in class (other than bottled water). Students will be respectful of their professor and colleagues. Any behavior that distracts (i.e., eating, talking while others are talking, etc.) or is disrespectful (i.e., personal attacks, studying for other courses during class, etc.) is unacceptable. Differences of opinion should be met with intellectual curiosity and rigor rather than insult, contumely, or discord.

Student success in this course depends upon the development of scholarly habits. Participation in class discussion and group work is mandatory. Collegial responsibility and respect are also compulsory.

### **Technical Support**

If you experience any problems with your A&T account you may call Aggie Tech Support (formerly Help Desk) at 336.334.7195.

### **Field Trip Policies/Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities**

- Student Affairs Website: [www.ncat.edu/~staffair/](http://www.ncat.edu/~staffair/)
- Student Handbook: [www.ncat.edu/~deanofst/Handbook.htm](http://www.ncat.edu/~deanofst/Handbook.htm);
- Student Travel Procedures and Student Travel Activity Waiver: [businessfinance.ncat.edu/policies%20and%20procedures%20index.htm](http://businessfinance.ncat.edu/policies%20and%20procedures%20index.htm)

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at [businessfinance.ncat.edu/policies%20and%20procedures%20index.htm](http://businessfinance.ncat.edu/policies%20and%20procedures%20index.htm).

Additional information is available from the office of Student Affairs: [www.ncat.edu/~staffair/](http://www.ncat.edu/~staffair/)

### **Other Policies (e.g., copyright guidelines, confidentiality, etc.)**

- Student Handbook: <http://www.ncat.edu/~deanofst/Handbook.htm>
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act: [www.ncat.edu/~registra/ferpa\\_info/index.htm](http://www.ncat.edu/~registra/ferpa_info/index.htm)

### **Student Conduct & Discipline**

- North Carolina A&T State University has rules and regulations that govern student conduct and discipline meant to ensure the orderly and efficient conduct of the educational enterprise. It is the responsibility of each student to be knowledgeable about these rules and regulations.
  - Undergraduate bulletin:  
[www.ncat.edu/~acdaffrs/Bulletin\\_2008-2010/2008-2010\\_Undergraduate\\_Bulletin.pdf](http://www.ncat.edu/~acdaffrs/Bulletin_2008-2010/2008-2010_Undergraduate_Bulletin.pdf)
- For detailed information about specific policies such as academic dishonesty, cell phones, change of grade, disability services, disruptive behavior, general class attendance, grade appeal, incomplete grades, make up work, student grievance procedures, withdrawal, etc.
  - Student Handbook: [www.ncat.edu/~deanofst/Handbook.htm](http://www.ncat.edu/~deanofst/Handbook.htm)

### **E-mail Policy**

Instructors will reply to student e-mail within 48 hours, **Monday-Friday only**. In order to ensure a reply, students **must** only use NCAT e-mail accounts (no hotmail, gmail, AOL, etc.). Each e-mail message must include the course number and section (if sent through Bb, it will be added automatically) as well as a concise and clear statement of purpose in the subject line (i.e., UNST 100:17 – Death in Family). You must include your name, as it appears on the course roster, at the end of your message. All messages must be conveyed using standard English.

Please make sure you consult the course syllabus, other handouts, and the course website **BEFORE** submitting inquiries by e-mail. When a question cannot be easily or briefly answered by e-mail, please visit your instructor during their office hours.

### **Disabilities**

Students with documented learning disabilities should identify themselves to their instructor and present appropriate documentation during the first week of classes. The Office of Veterans and Disability Support Services is located in Murphy Hall, Suite 01, and the contact number is (336) 334-7765.

**Reservation Statement: The instructor reserves the right to make syllabus changes at any time.**

## Grading/ Assessment Plan

### Assessment                      Points

Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Exam 4	100
Final Exam	200
Quizzes, Papers, Homework	<u>200</u>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>800</b>

Grade	Points	Percentage (%)
A	720-800	90-100
B	640-719	80-89
C	560-639	70-79
D	480-559	60-69
F	Below 480	Below 60

### Grade Scale

The grading scale is A, B, C, D, F

(Note: There may be more than 800 total points, but the percentage is still the same.)

### Lists of Key Terms

While reading each assignment and at the end of each unit, students are encouraged to create and use lists of key terms to review and prepare for the quizzes. Make sure you can identify each term and its relationship to the major themes of the course. The lists should also help students stay focused on the main points when they take notes on the readings.

### Supplemental Instruction Policy

Any student can earn up to 10 percent extra credit towards their final grade in the course.

**Week 1 (beginning 8/17): Introduction to the Raise the Wage campaign, community activism, our international connection, and Democratic Thinking;** Read Handout and Payne, pp. 88-92; 109-111 for Thursday's class + Learning Styles Inventory at NCSU (at <http://www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/ilsweb.html> )

**Required textbooks: *Global Issues: Politics, Economics, and Culture* (Richard J. Payne); and *Longman Atlas of World Issues***

**Week 2 (8/25-27): Ch. 1: Global Issues and Ch. 2: Struggle for Primacy**

Read all of Chapter + Chap 2 pp. 30-33; 46-51; 55-56

**Week 3 (9/1-3): Ch. 3: Human Rights**

Chap 3: pp. 60-65; 68-69 to the beginning of Universalism vs. Cultural Relativism; 73-78 to the beginning of Sexual Violence: Rape as a Weapon of War; 84.

**Week 4 (9/8-10): Unit Exam No SI**

***Global Issues: Politics, Economics, and Culture* (Payne), Chs. 5, 6, 7; and *Longman Atlas of World Issues*, TBA**

**Week 5 (9/15-17): Ch. 5: Global Terrorism and Ch 6: Weapons Proliferation**

Read pp. 116-122; 124-129; 131-137; 142-147; 152-155; 159.

**Week 6 (9/22-24): Ch. 7: Global Trade**

pp.163-170 (just the top 3 lines); 171-176 (just the top 3 lines); 181 (beginning with "Global Trade Disputes")-185 (stop before GM Foods—however, if you are going to use the PBL exercise on GM foods, I would include this part of the reading); 186 (bottom 4 lines)-189

**Week 7 (9/29 & 10/1): Unit Exam No SI**

**Global Issues: Politics, Economics, and Culture (Payne), Chs.8, 9, 10; and Longman Atlas of World Issues, TBA**

**Week 8 (10/6-8): Ch. 8: Global Inequality**

193-201 (end at "Inequality Between Developed and Developing Countries"); 202 (Middle of page with "Causes of Inequality...")-204 (mid page with "Inequality within Rich Nations").

**Week 9 (10/13-15): Ch. 9: Environmental Issues**

Read: 221-mid 232, bottom 234-mid 240, 243

**Week 10 (10/22): Ch. 10: Population and Migration**

Read pp. 247-252; 256-262; 269

**Week 11 (10/27-29): Unit Exam No SI**

Global Issues: Politics, Economics, and Culture (Payne), Chs. 11, 12, 13, and Longman Atlas of World Issues, TBA

**Week 12 (11/3-5): Ch. 11: Global Crime and Ch. 12: The Globalization of Disease**

Read from Ch. 11 pp. 273-74, 280-82, 292 and from ch. 12 pp 296-310

**Week 13 (11/10-12): Ch. 13: Cultural Clashes and Resolution**

Read all of ch. 13

**Week 14 (11/17-19): Open + Exam Review No SI**

**Check final exam schedule for day and time**