

# GS 200 Global Systems and Cultures

3 Credit Hours  
University of Alabama in Huntsville  
Fall 2015

## Instructor Information:

Dr. David Johnson  
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## Global Studies Program:

Website: globalstudies.uah.edu  
Facebook: UAH Global Studies

## Course Information:

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:20-3:40  
Location: Roberts 412  
Office Hours: W Th, 10:30 -12 MH 232A; M and Tue 1-2 CTC 116; or by appt

## Course Description:

Global Studies 200 is a multi- and interdisciplinary exploration of global issues and the processes associated with the mobility of people, cultures, capital, materials, and ideas. The course will provide you with analytical tools to examine the complexities of global issues and relationships from a variety of perspectives. In order to blend various disciplinary perspectives on particular topics, issues, and questions, the course will assign a variety of readings and feature guest lectures by other UAH faculty members.

## Required Texts:

Lahiri, Jhumpa. *The Interpreter of Maladies*, 1999.

Olopade, Dayo, *The Bright Continent*, 2014.

Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis. The Story of a Childhood*. Trans. Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris. New York: Pantheon, 2003.

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Additional required readings will come from "Globalization 101" ([www.globalization101.org](http://www.globalization101.org)) and other online sources. Please see Canvas course site for links to these readings (under the Module "Online Readings").

## Student Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of all semester course assignments, you will be able to:

- 1) explore the multifaceted connections between the global and local;
- 2) recognize and engage the key dimensions and challenges of globalization in terms of history, economics, and politics;
- 3) consider the varying ways globalizing trends and movements affect culture and the individual.
- 4) examine the narratives and assumptions inherent in studying the processes of globalization in terms of industry, economic development, and culture;
- 5) articulate your ideas and arguments more effectively by improving writing skills, enhancing critical thinking skills, and learning to build your argument on the foundation of logical reasoning and empirical evidence.

The readings, assignments, and class discussions likewise contribute to satisfying the learning outcomes of the Global Studies minor:

- 1) Students will learn cultural and physical geography.
- 2) Students will be able to utilize foreign language skills to engage in cross-cultural dialogues and investigate global issues from multiple perspectives.
- 3) Students will be able to evaluate and demonstrate interdisciplinary-informed perspectives on global issues.
- 4) Students will be able to reflect critically on the global contexts of local experiences, including their personal lives.
- 5) Students will learn to envision possible solutions for global conflicts as well as for global economic inequalities and power disparities.

## Invitation to Study Abroad:

Along with taking courses such as Global Studies 200 and courses in foreign languages, another way to acquire invaluable global competencies is to study abroad. I invite you to speak with me about the various study, internship, research, and service learning abroad opportunities available to you as a UAH student.

**Course Schedule:**

- *Readings: You should read all reading assignments and complete all required homework assignments by the start of the class period for which the readings and assignments are noted on the course schedule.*
- *I reserve the right to make changes to the course schedule as necessary. Any changes will be announced in advance.*

Date	Topic	Readings Due	Assignments Due
Thurs. 8/20	Course Introduction		
Tues. 8/25	Imagining Communities and Globalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benedict Anderson, <i>Imagined Communities</i> (excerpt)</li> <li>• “What is Globalization?” Globalization101.org</li> </ul>	

**Part I: History and Politics in Globalizing Context**

Thurs. 8/27	Earlier Eras of Globalization and Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selected Primary Source Documents</li> </ul>	
Tues. 9/1	Rise and Fall of (Western) Empires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selected Primary Source Documents</li> </ul>	
Thurs. 9/3	Decolonization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selected Primary Source Documents</li> <li>• “What is Post-Colonialism?”</li> </ul>	<b>MAP ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>
Tues. 9/8	Security and Asymmetrical Challenges: Sovereignty and the Future of the Nation-State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moses Naim, “Five Wars of Globalization”</li> </ul>	CANVAS Homework

**Part II: Economics and Global Narratives and Challenges**

Thurs. 9/10	Western Narratives of Modernity and Economic Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Rostow’s Stages of Development”</li> <li>• “Development,” Globalization101</li> </ul>	
Tues. 9/15	Challenges of Economic Development Guest Lecture: Dr. Wafa Orman, College of Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readings TBA</li> </ul>	CANVAS Homework
Thurs. 9/17	<i>The Bright Continent</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entire Class: Read Chapters 1-4 and 10</li> <li>• Last names A – D: ch. 5; Last names E – H: ch. 6</li> <li>• Last names I – P: ch. 7; Last names Q – S: ch. 8</li> <li>• Last names T – Z: ch. 9</li> </ul>		CANVAS Homework
<b>Mon. 9/21</b>			<b>FIRST ONLINE QUIZ (by midnight)</b>
Tues. 9/22	China and the “Rise of the Rest (BRICs)?” Alternative Narratives of Power and Economic Development?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Why China’s Political Model is Superior,” <i>NY Times</i></li> <li>• “If the Yuan Competes with the Dollar,” <i>The Economist</i></li> <li>• “Power Shifts, Economic Change and the Decline of the West?” Michael Cox</li> </ul>	
Thurs. 9/24	Technology, Globalization, and the “Locations” of Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “How the US Lost Out on iPhone Work,” <i>NY Times</i></li> <li>• “Bash Brothers,” <i>The Atlantic</i></li> </ul>	<b>NGO Assignment Due</b>

Tues. 9/29	The US South and Globalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raymond Mohl, "Globalization, Latinization, and the Nuevo New South"</li> <li>• "Another Blow to Fort Payne's Sock Industry," <i>Gadsden Times</i></li> <li>• "In Pursuit of Nissan, A Lesson for the Tech Industry?" <i>NY Times</i></li> </ul>	
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Thurs. 10/1	<b>International Interview Assignment Due and Class Discussion of Interviews.</b>		
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<b>Part III: Natural Resources and Health in Global Context</b>			
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Tues. 10/6	Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Energy," globalization101.org</li> </ul>	<b>Semester Paper Topic Proposal and Initial Bibliography</b>
Thurs. 10/8	<b>Fall Break</b>		
Tues. 10/13	Environment and Global Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Environment" and "Health," globalization101.org</li> </ul>	
Thurs. 10/15 <b>NOW 10/22</b>	Food Guest Lecturer: Dr. Nicole Pacino, Department of History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readings TBA</li> </ul>	CANVAS Homework

<b>Part IV: Language, Culture, and Identity in Global Contexts</b>			
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<b>Mon. 10/19</b>			<b>SECOND ONLINE QUIZ (by midnight)</b>
Tues. 10/20	Languages of Culture and Discourses of Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Language," Kimberly Brown and Shawn Smallman</li> <li>• "Instructive Cross-Cultural Episode"</li> </ul>	
Thurs. 10/22 <b>NOW 10/15</b>	Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Human Rights," Globalization101.org</li> </ul>	
Tues. 10/27	China and Confucianism Guest Lecturer: Dr. Nick Jones, Associate Professor of Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confucius, <i>The Analects</i> (excerpt)</li> </ul>	CANVAS Homework
Thurs. 10/29	Culture and Globalization: Dialectics, Frictions, and Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Tomlinson, "Globalization and Cultural Identity"</li> </ul>	
Tues. 11/3	Globalization and Gender Guest Lecturer: Dr. Molly Johnson, Department of History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readings TBA</li> </ul>	CANVAS Homework
Thurs. 11/5	Religion, Secularism, "Civilization," and Cultural Modernity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Battle for God</i>, Karen Armstrong (excerpt)</li> <li>• "Do We Need Stories?" Tim Parks, <i>NYRB</i></li> <li>• Samuel Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations," <i>Foreign Affairs</i></li> <li>• "The Clash of Ignorance," <i>The Nation</i></li> </ul>	<b>ROUGH DRAFT OF SEMESTER PAPER (Optional)</b>

Tues. 11/10	Race and Ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Werner Sollors, "Ethnicity"</li> <li>• David S. Johnson, "Informal Musings on the <i>Germanness</i> (or <i>Polishness</i>) of the German National Football Team"</li> <li>• "French Players and Migration"</li> </ul>	CANVAS Homework
Thurs. 11/12	Diasporas and Immigrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Migration and Globalization," <a href="http://www.globalization101.org">www.globalization101.org</a></li> <li>• "How Blunt Can One Be about Integration," <i>Der Spiegel</i></li> <li>• "Talk Therapy," <i>The Atlantic</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Mon. 11/16</b>			<b>SEMESTER PAPER</b> (due by midnight)
Tues. 11/17	Jhumpa Lahiri, <i>The Interpreter of Maladies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read: "When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine;" "Mrs. Sen's;" "This Blessed House;" "The Third and Final Continent"</li> </ul>	CANVAS Homework
Thurs. 11/19	<i>Persepolis I</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read entire <i>Persepolis I</i></li> </ul>	CANVAS Homework
Tues. 11/24	<i>Persepolis II</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read entire <i>Persepolis I</i></li> </ul>	CANVAS Homework
Thurs. 11/26	<b>Thanksgiving</b>		

Tues. 12/1	<i>Study Day / instructor available for questions</i>
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<b>Thurs. 12/3</b>	<b>Final Essay Due AND Third Quiz (due by midnight)</b>
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<b>Course Assignments and Means of Assessment</b>	
The following means of assessment will enable you to achieve the stated learning outcomes for the course.	
<i>I. Class Attendance and Participation</i>	<b>50 points</b>
Regular class attendance and participation in class discussions will enhance your abilities to analyze a variety of topics related to global studies and contribute to your class performance. You will earn one point for each class you attend. The remaining points will be based on your participation in class discussions. Evaluation of participation will be based on your level of engagement in class discussions, including asking the instructor questions, responding to questions from instructor and fellow students, and listening to the instructor and fellow students attentively and respectfully.	
<i>II. Homework Responses (10 x 150 points)</i>	<b>150 points</b>
You will submit ten homework assignments to CANVAS. These are based on the readings assigned for those days. The grade for each homework assignment will be based on the following factors: 1) did you complete the entire assignment; and 2) the level of thought and effort you demonstrated in the homework response. In order to receive credit, you must post your responses to the homework questions to CANVAS by <u>the start of the class day</u> for which the reading is assigned.	
<i>III. Map Assignment</i>	<b>40 points</b>
The map assignment is available in CANVAS in the "Larger Assignments" Module. Print it out, complete it, and turn it in at the beginning of class on Thursday, September 3.	
<i>IV. NGO assignment</i>	<b>30 points</b>
You will examine the websites of two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and complete a worksheet found in the Larger Assignments Module in CANVAS. Due Thursday, September 24 at the start of class.	

<i>V. Three online quizzes (20, 30, and 50 points)</i>					<i>100 points</i>
There will be three online quizzes based on daily reading assignments and lectures on CANVAS. These quizzes will be “open-book,” but the time restrictions for each quiz necessitate that you be prepared in advance to answer the questions. The quizzes will increase in length over the course of the semester.					
<i>VI. Interview Project</i>					<i>150 points</i>
You will interview a person not from your country and write a 1000-word essay in which you reflect on what you learned in the interview. You will receive a separate handout explaining this assignment. This assignment will be due October 1, and we will devote this class day to discussing your reactions to your interviews. Please consult Project Description Handout in CANVAS for more details.					
<i>VI. Semester Paper Project</i>					<i>200 points</i>
You will write a 1500-word essay that explores a course topic in greater depth. The topic should come from one of the “Issues in Depth” from the website <a href="http://www.globalization101.org">www.globalization101.org</a> .					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper Topic Proposal and Initial Bibliography (20 points): Due Tuesday, October 6.</li> <li>• Optional Rough Draft: Due, Thursday, November 5</li> <li>• Final Paper (180 points): Due Monday, November 16 (by midnight) to turnitin.com dropbox on CANVAS.</li> </ul>					
Please consult the semester paper assignment handout in CANVAS for more detailed information.					
<i>V. Final Essay</i>					<i>180 points</i>
Essay based primarily on readings from Olopade, Lahiri, and Satrapi with primary objective of taking a comprehensive view of entire semester. Due at the end of our scheduled final exam period.					
<i>Semester Total</i>					<i>900 points</i>
Grading System	A = 810 - 900	B = 720 - 809	C = 630 - 719	D = 540 - 629	F = 540 – 0

**Extra Credit Opportunities:** You can earn up to 20 extra credit points for the semester from a combination of the following opportunities:

Attendance and Summary of Public Lectures (5 points each): Attend a lecture below, write a half-page summary of the lecture, and submit it to instructor within two weeks of the event.

<p><b>Thursday, October 1</b> 7:30 PM Wilson Hall Theatre Dr. Mireille M. Lee, History of Art and Classical Studies, Vanderbilt University “Mirror, Mirror: Reflections of Femininity in Ancient Greece”</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, October 28</b> 2:20 PM Wilson Hall 168 Dr. Karen Sonik, Dept. of Art &amp; Art History, Auburn University “Medusa and Lamashtu: Feminine Alterity in Greece and the Ancient Near East” AND 7:30 PM Shelby Center 107 “Monsters and Demons at the Dawn of Civilization”</p>
<p><b>Thursday, October. 15</b> 7:00 PM Shelby 107 "Girl Rising" Documentary (Sponsored by Women's and Gender Studies Program and Office of Diversity)</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, November 10</b> 12:45 PM Wilson Hall 168 Dr. Lorenzo Nigro, Sapienza University, Rome, Italy “The Phoenician Deity Astarte on Sicily” AND 7:30 PM Shelby Center 107 “Ancient Jericho: New Insights into Biblical Archaeology”</p>
Other public lectures may also be eligible for extra credit.	

Viewing and Analysis of Film “Young and Restless in China” (10 points):

(<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/youngchina/>) and complete this assignment: 1) Name the nine individuals featured in the film and what they do professionally; and 2) Select three of them and discuss how their personal situations help shed light on the complexities of today’s China. Due Dec. 3.

### **Additional Course and University Policies:**

**Contacting Instructor:** Please contact me via email or by phone. Please be advised that I will answer emails and respond to voice mails only during business hours (9:00am to 5:00pm, Mon. – Fri).

**Students with Disabilities:** The University of Alabama in Huntsville will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you need support or assistance because of a disability, you may be eligible for academic accommodations. Students should identify themselves to the Disability Support Services Office (256-824-1997) and their instructor as soon as possible to coordinate accommodations.

**CANVAS:** Course syllabus, assignments, readings, handouts, and most PowerPoint presentations will be posted to CANVAS (<http://canvas.uah.edu>). Please note that handouts and readings will not be distributed in class. You must acquaint yourself with how to use CANVAS early in the semester, or you will not have access to these materials.

**Use of Prior Work:** All work must be newly prepared for GS 200. Assignments previously or simultaneously submitted for other classes will not be accepted.

**Late Work/Make-Up Work:** In order to preserve fairness to those students who complete their work on time, late homework postings to CANVAS will not be accepted. In addition, you will lose 10 points for every day that your international interview essay assignment and semester paper are late. You must also complete your online quizzes by the due date and time. Make-up quizzes and exams will only be allowed under extraordinary circumstances and will require appropriate documentation. There will be no make-up final exam. The instructor will not make written comments on late work.

**Respectful Course Atmosphere:** Every student must treat every other student with respect. This includes listening when other students speak, and making contributions to class discussion that respect the race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, etc. of your fellow students.

**Laptop, Tablet, and Cell Phone Use:** Laptops, tablets, and cell phones may be used only during regular class for note-taking. Cell phones must be set to “meeting” or “vibrate” during class.

### **Plagiarism on Course Assignments:**

All of your assignments must adhere to standards of academic honesty (see sections 7.2.1 in the UAH Student Handbook). Under no circumstances will any form of plagiarism be tolerated. In other words, the work you submit must be your own work, not the work of a friend, published scholar, website creator, or internet paper mill. Furthermore, you must provide proper citations in all of your assignments for every idea or example you use that comes from another scholar’s work, whether quoted or paraphrased.

If you are caught plagiarizing, you will automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Depending on the degree of the plagiarism, you might fail the course and the incident may be reported to Student Affairs.

### **Turnitin.com**

All exams and your semester essay must be submitted to turnitin.com. Failure to submit exams and the paper to turnitin.com will result in a ZERO for the assignment. Please consult the Turnitin handout posted to CANVAS for tips about avoiding trouble using Turnitin. Please also note that the instructor cannot submit assignments for you to the Turnitin dropbox. If you are having trouble, you can contact and/or visit the Help Desk for assistance ([helpdesk@uah.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uah.edu)).

### **University Statement on Turnitin.com**

*UAH is committed to the fundamental values of preserving academic honesty as defined in the Student Handbook (7.2.1). The instructor reserves the right to utilize electronic means to help prevent plagiarism. Students agree that by taking this course all assignments are subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will be included as source documents in Turnitin.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service, as well as additional information about the company, are described at <http://www.uah.edu/library/services/turnitin>.*