

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOCI 4813 Global Studies

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): SOCI 2753 Introduction to Sociology, POLS 3103 Comparative Political Institutions, POLS 3153 International Relations, OR consent of department head AND Junior Standing

Effective Catalog: 2021-2022

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

An examination of the global trends in governance, economies, demographics, resources, security, information, and technologies. A specific focus will be put on how and why these trends are forming, and on why these trends are likely to affect the geopolitical interactions between nation-states in the years to come. Course is equivalent to POLS 4813 and may only be taken once for credit.

B. Additional Information

This course is an elective for the Sociology and Diversity Studies minors.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Evaluate factors leading to demographic changes and migration patterns.
2. Analyze the impact new technologies have on the environment.
3. Analyze how contemporary political policies shape the global economic behavior and patterns.
4. Assess the geopolitical and security ramifications of armed conflicts.
5. Evaluate the benefits and challenges associated with governance, the evolution of information means, and the management of resources.
6. Evaluate the main challenges that policymakers, business leaders, and other stakeholders would likely have to face in the next few decades.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking: Students will analyze the interrelationship of economic behavior, political policies, environmental impacts, resources management, demographic changes, security issues, and new technologies. This outcome will be accessed via written and oral assignments.

Communication Skills (written and oral): Students will be required to read, write, and speak about the subject matter of this course.

Ethical Decision Making: Students will discuss the ethical implications posed by changes in economic and political policies, use of new technologies, and impacts on the environment.

Global and Cultural Perspectives: Students will examine economic, political, security, technological, environmental, resources management, and demographic challenges from a global perspective.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Global political patterns
- B. Global economic patterns
- C. Global conflict trends
- D. Global demographic trends
- E. Global environmental and resources management trends
- F. Global impacts of new technologies
- G. Global trends in access to information