



## LAS 45012 – Global Issues in the Liberal Arts

### **Course Description**

In this liberal arts capstone course, students reflect on experience, knowledge, and skills in each of four breadth areas and apply learning as they examine current issues and concerns in global contexts. Students use critical thinking skills to recognize different values systems, cultural interpretations, and social constructs. They demonstrate research and writing skills in exploring a global issue.

This is a fully online, eight-week course. We will not meet face-to-face at any time.

### **Course Prerequisites**

The Global Issues in the Liberal Arts course is generally taken the last semester prior to graduation or student teaching.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, learners will

- demonstrate an ability to do research and referenced writing.
- clarify values within the liberal arts breadth areas.
- apply critical thinking.
- summarize and complement learning in the liberal arts.
- communicate effectively in written form.
- document that the liberal arts learning outcomes have been met.

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- organizing facts, information and ideas.
- communicating and expressing ideas in various assignments.
- translating, interpreting and extrapolating ideas from diverse sources.
- applying theoretical knowledge to a range of liberal arts areas.
- relating and synthesizing ideas in new and personal ways.

### **Required Text**

Muller, G.H. (2011). *The new world reader* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Orlando, FL: Houghton Mifflin.

### **Writing Style:**

Ottawa University requires the use of APA style writing in all disciplines with the exception of most English courses. In this course, if you are an English major, you will be required to write in MLA style. If you are a non-English major, compose your papers in APA format (required). Please refer to the course materials for further guidelines and resources.

## ***Course Assignment Descriptions and Schedule At-A-Glance***

You will have several opportunities to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the principles taught in this course. The primary means of evaluating your work will be through practical application of the material. In the event that you have difficulty completing any of the assignments for this course, please contact your instructor immediately. Please refer to the **Weekly Materials** section of the cyberclassroom for complete details regarding the activities and assignments for this course. The following is merely a summary.

### **Discussion contributions (160 points)**

(six postings per week @ 20 points per week)

**Initial Substantive Posts:** Submit an initial response to each of the prompts provided each week by your instructor. Your initial post should be substantive (approximately ½ of a page in length) and must be posted by midnight, Central Time by Wednesday of each week. In your substantive post you are encouraged to use references (you may use your textbook); show evidence of critical thinking as it applies to the concepts or prompt and/or use examples of the application of the concepts to work and life. Proper punctuation, grammar and correct spelling are expected. Please use the **spell-check** function.

**Required Replies:** You must reply to at least two different peers per prompt. Your replies should build on the concept discussed, offer a question to consider, or add a differing perspective, etc. Rather than responding with, "Good post," explain why the post is "good" (why it is important, useful, insightful, etc.). Or, if you disagree, respectfully share your alternative perspective. Just saying "I agree" or "Good idea" is not sufficient for the posts you would like graded.

**Posting Guidelines:** Overall, postings must be submitted on at least two separate days of the week. It is strongly recommended you visit the discussion forum throughout the week to read and respond to your peers' postings. You are encouraged to post more than the required number of replies.

(Please review the **Policies** section of Blackboard for further details.)

### **Breadth Area Essays**

Learners will write four essays (one for each of the four liberal arts breadth areas -- Values/Meaning, Social/Civic, Science/Description, Art/Expression). The essays should be written from a global perspective. Learners have the choice of an observation or film/video critique for each breadth area, but are limited to 2 observations and 2 film critiques total. A possible example would be:

Values/Meaning: Observation essay

Social/Civic: Film Critique

Science/Description: Observation essay

Art/Expression: Film Critique

If a learner has special circumstances and cannot complete two observations, he/she must contact the instructor for accommodations. Please see the corresponding week for more details on the assignment.

## **Research Paper**

In completion of this course, you will write an 8-10 page research paper from a global perspective on a topic in the liberal arts. You may research some aspect of culture - music, film, art, theatre, literature, science, or religion - in a country other than the United States or you may focus on an aspect of American culture that has global implications. You will complete this assignment over several weeks. The outline is as follows:

- Week 4: Research Paper Proposal (25 points)
- Week 7: Final Research Paper (175 points)

Please review the assignment directions in those particular weeks for more details on expectations and grading criteria.

<b>Week 1</b>	
<b>Readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From <i>The new world reader</i>:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <i>Cultural Baggage</i> (p. 233-237)</li><li>◦ <i>Whose Culture Is It Anyway?</i> (p. 243-246)</li><li>◦ Article: Cultural competency: What it is and why it matters</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday</li><li>• At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday</li></ul>

<b>Week 2</b>	
<b>Readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From <i>The new world reader</i>:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <i>How Do Others Perceive Us?</i> (p. 69-71)</li><li>◦ <i>Fashionable Anti-Americanism</i> (p. 87-97)</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday</li><li>• At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday</li></ul>
<b>Assignment(s)</b>	<p><b>Values -Meaning Essay</b></p> <p>The <b>Values-Meaning</b> essay must take the form of an observation or a video critique. The essay should be written from a global perspective. You may choose whether you would like to complete an observation or video critique, as described below, however, keep in mind that you must complete 2 observations and 2 video critiques total. You may not use either option more than twice. A <b>video critique</b> should be of a film that addresses one of the breadth areas from a global perspective. For example, <i>Hotel Rwanda</i> for the social/civic essay or <i>Ghandi</i> for the values/meaning essay. An <b>observation</b> might include visiting a science museum exhibition on global warming (science/description) or visiting a Buddhist temple and viewing a chanted prayer service (value/meaning description).</p> <p>Essays must be a minimum of 2 pages in length and must adhere to APA format guidelines for non English majors, MLA for English majors.</p> <p>Due: Sunday at Midnight, CT Points Possible: 50</p>

Week 3	
<b>Readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article: Body ritual among the Nacirema</li> <li>Article: The concept of cultural relativism in a multicultural world</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday</li> <li>At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday</li> </ul>
<b>Assignment(s)</b>	<p><b>Social-Civic Essay</b></p> <p>The <b>Social-Civic</b> essay must take the form of an observation or a video critique. The essay should be written from a global perspective. You may choose whether you would like to complete an observation or video critique, as described below, however keep in mind that you must complete 2 observations and 2 video critiques total. You may not use either option more than twice. A <b>video critique</b> should be of a film that addresses one of the breadth areas from a global perspective. For example, <i>Hotel Rwanda</i> for the social/civic essay or <i>Ghandi</i> for the values/meaning essay. An <b>observation</b> might include visiting a science museum exhibition on global warming (science/description) or visiting a Buddhist temple and viewing a chanted prayer service (value/meaning description).</p> <p>Essays must be a minimum of 2 pages in length and must adhere to APA format guidelines for non English majors, MLA for English majors.</p> <p>Due: Sunday at Midnight, CT Points Possible: 50</p>

Week 4	
<b>Readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From <i>The new world reader</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Fear Not Globalization</i> (p. 208-211)</li> <li><i>The Educated Student: Global Citizen or Global Consumer</i> (p. 220-230)</li> <li><i>The Global Village Finally Arrives</i> (p. 192-197)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday</li> <li>At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday</li> </ul>
<b>Assignment(s)</b>	<p><b>Research Paper Proposal</b></p> <p>Define the topic specifically to increase your chances of finding relevant literature. Also, describe what experience(s) led you to choose the topic. Submit your topic and 1-2 paragraphs explaining your interest in the topic and why you believe it is worthy investigation as part of this course. Research proposal should include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Title to your research project.</li> <li>2. A brief description (overview) of what your research is about.</li> <li>3. Purpose, questions you want to answer.</li> <li>4. 3 References (APA format)</li> </ol>

	<p>This should be a minimum of 3+ paragraphs.</p> <p>Due: Sunday at Midnight, CT Points Possible: 25</p> <p><b>Proficiency Profile Exam (not part of course grade)</b> Global Issues in the Liberal Arts has been designated by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness/Assessment to participate in the ETS Proficiency Profile examination. This examination is administered by colleges and universities across the United States as a means of assessing their students' college level reading, writing, critical thinking, and mathematics skills that are generally covered in the "general education" portion of coursework. Your score on this exam will not impact your grades in any way.</p> <p>You will receive an email containing detailed instructions for completing the online version of the exam during the fourth week of the term via your Ottawa student email address. Once you receive this email, you may complete the 40 minute timed test any time that is convenient to you.</p> <p>The results of this examination will afford you the opportunity to see where you score in relation to other college students across the nation. The results will also provide Ottawa University invaluable information about the effectiveness of its liberal arts program as well as benchmark comparisons to other institutions.</p> <p>To receive your test score once the results are available, just email a request to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness/Assessment at <a href="mailto:ou.assessment@ottawa.edu">ou.assessment@ottawa.edu</a>.</p>
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<b>Week 5</b>	
<b>Readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In <i>The new world reader</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Talking Trash</i> (p. 413-415)</li> <li><i>Lessons from Lost Worlds</i> (p. 416-420)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday</li> <li>At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday</li> </ul>
<b>Assignment(s)</b>	<p><b>Science-Description Essay</b></p> <p>The <b>Science-Description</b> essay must take the form of an observation or a video critique. The essay should be written from a global perspective. You may choose whether you would like to complete an observation or video critique, as described below, however keep in mind that you must complete 2 observations and 2 video critiques total. You may not use either option more than twice. A <b>video critique</b> should be of a film that addresses one of the breadth areas from a global perspective. For example, <i>Hotel Rwanda</i> for the social/civic essay or <i>Ghandi</i> for the values/meaning essay. An <b>observation</b> might include visiting a science museum exhibition on global warming</p>

	<p>(science/description) or visiting a Buddhist temple and viewing a chanted prayer service (value/meaning description).</p> <p>Essays must be a minimum of 2 pages in length and must adhere to APA format guidelines for non-English majors, MLA for English majors.</p> <p>Due: Sunday at Midnight, CT</p> <p>Points Possible: 50</p>
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<b>Week 6</b>	
<b>Readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article: Anatomy of an icon</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday</li> <li>At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday</li> </ul>
<b>Assignment(s)</b>	<p><b>Art-Expression Essay</b></p> <p>The <b>Art-Expression</b> essay must take the form of an observation or a video critique. The essay should be written from a global perspective. You may choose whether you would like to complete an observation or video critique, as described below, however keep in mind that you must complete 2 observations and 2 video critiques total. You may not use either option more than twice. A <b>video critique</b> should be of a film that addresses one of the breadth areas from a global perspective. For example, <i>Hotel Rwanda</i> for the social/civic essay or <i>Ghandi</i> for the values/meaning essay. An <b>observation</b> might include visiting a science museum exhibition on global warming (science/description) or visiting a Buddhist temple and viewing a chanted prayer service (value/meaning description). Essays must be a minimum of 2 pages in length and must adhere to APA format guidelines for non-English majors, MLA for English majors.</p> <p>Due: Sunday at Midnight, CT</p> <p>Points Possible: 50</p> <p><b>Program Completion Survey (not part of course grade)</b></p> <p>Global Issues in the Liberal Arts provides you the opportunity to complete the Program Completion Survey to evaluate your entire Ottawa University experience – the academic program, advisement, student services, and learning environment. While your participation is voluntary, you are encouraged to take a few minutes to complete the survey. Your responses provide the university invaluable information which guide the university in making changes to improve the student experience.</p> <p>At the beginning of the sixth week of this course, you will receive an email from the Ottawa University Office of Institutional Effectiveness (ou.assessment@ottawa.edu) via your Ottawa University student email address. This email will include a link for you to complete the Program Completion Survey online.</p>

	<p>Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Your responses to the survey will remain confidential and your individual responses will not be tracked in any way. You are requested to complete the survey before the end of week 6 of the course. If you do not respond within the allotted time frame, you will receive a reminder prior to the closure of the course. The grade book in Blackboard will be updated with a green checkmark for this item once your completed survey has been received by the survey software. Thank you for helping us validate and strengthen the student experience at Ottawa University.</p>
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<b>Week 7</b>	
<b>Readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No assigned readings this week</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday</li> <li>At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday</li> </ul>
<b>Assignment(s)</b>	<p><b>Research Paper</b></p> <p>You will write a 8-10 page research paper from a global perspective on a topic in the liberal arts. You may research some aspect of culture - music, film, art, theatre, literature, science, or religion - in a country other than the United States or you may focus on an aspect of American culture that has global implications. Please be aware that the title page, abstract, table of contents, and reference pages do not count towards length requirement and your paper must adhere to APA format guidelines for non-English majors, MLA for English majors. Please see the scoring rubric for more specific grading criteria.</p> <p>Due: Sunday at Midnight, CT Points Possible: 175</p>

<b>Week 8</b>	
<b>Readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article: From hope to hopelessness</li> <li>Article: The optimism of uncertainty</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday</li> <li>At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on <b>Saturday</b></li> </ul>
<b>Assignment(s)</b>	<p><b>Self-Assessment Essay</b></p> <p>The self-assessment will address the knowledge, skills and values achieved including what the you know about the liberal arts and what you plan on learning in the future. You will reflect on your knowledge in each breadth area and how you will enhance that knowledge in the future. You should also discuss the contribution and importance of the arts to our culture and to the understanding of other cultures. Essays must be a minimum of 4 pages in length and must adhere to APA format guidelines for non English majors, MLA for English majors. Due: Sunday at Midnight, CT</p>

	Points Possible: 100
	Due: <b>Saturday</b> at Midnight, CT
	Points Possible: 100

\* All online weeks run from Monday to Sunday, except the last week, which ends on Saturday.

\*\* All assignments are due at midnight Central Time. (All submissions to the Blackboard system are date/time stamped in Central Time).

### Assignments At-A-Glance

Assignment/Activity	Qty.	Points	Total Points
Weeks 1-8: Discussion*	-	20 per week	160
Week 2, 3, 5, and 6: Breadth Area Essays	4	50	200
Week 4: Research Paper Proposal	1	25	25
Week 7: Research Paper	1	175	175
Week 8: Self-Assessment Essay	1	100	100
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>			<b>660</b>

\*Please refer to the **Policies** menu for more information about requirements for Discussions.

### Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage	Points
A	90 to 100%	594 - 660
B	80 to 89%	528 - 593
C	70 to 79%	462 - 527
D	60 to 69%	396 - 461
F	< 60%	< 395

To access your scores, click on Grades in the Student Tools area in Blackboard.

### Important Policies

All course-specific policies for this course are spelled out here in this syllabus. However, additional university policies are located in the Policies section of Blackboard. You are responsible for reading and understanding all of these policies. All of them are important. Failure to understand or abide by them could have negative consequences for your experience in this course.

### Editorial Format for Written Papers

All written assignments are to follow the APA writing style guidelines for grammar, spelling, and punctuation. This online course includes information regarding the APA style under "Writing and Research Resources" in the **Resource Room** on the course menu in Blackboard.

### Ottawa Online Late Policy

With instructor approval, assignments may be accepted for up to one week after the due date, but a minimum automatic deduction of 10% of the points will be assessed. The instructor also has the option of increasing this deduction percentage up to a maximum of 20%. Extenuating circumstances may be determined on rare occasions and an extension allowed without a deduction, but only at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Discussion board postings will not be accepted for credit when posted after the close of



the discussion week. There are no exceptions to this rule; however, solely at the discretion of the instructor, the student may be allowed to submit an alternative assignment to make up for the points under extenuating circumstances. If granted, this should be an exception to the rule.

No assignments will be accepted after the last day of the course (end of term) unless arrangements have been made and “approved” by the instructor at least one week in advance.

### **Saving Work**

It is recommended that you save all of your work from this course on your own computer or flash drive. The capstone course you take at the end of your program may require you to have access to this work for culminating assignments and/or reflections.

### **Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated at any level on any assignment. The reality of cyberspace has made academic dishonesty even more tempting for some, but be advised that technology can and will be used to help uncover those engaging in deception. If you ever have a question about the legitimacy of a source or a procedure you are considering using, ask your instructor. As the University Academic Council approved on May 29, 2003, *“The penalty for plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will be failure in the course in which the academic dishonesty occurred. Students who commit academic dishonesty can be dismissed from the university by the provost/director.”*

Please refer to **Academic Honesty** in the **Policies** section of the online course menu for important information about Ottawa University’s policies regarding plagiarism and cheating, including examples and explanations of these issues.

### **Student Handbook**

Please refer to your student handbook for all university regulations. The **Resource Room** on the course menu in Blackboard contains information about where to find the student handbook online for your campus.

Please see **Policies** in Blackboard for additional university policies.

### **Blackboard Technical Support**

The Resource Room in Blackboard contains links to student tutorials for learning to use Blackboard as well as information about whom to contact for technical support. Ottawa University offers technical support from 8 a.m. to midnight Central Time for all students, staff, and faculty at no cost. See [www.ottawa.edu/ouhelp](http://www.ottawa.edu/ouhelp) for contact information.

### **Ottawa University Mission Statement**

The mission of Ottawa University is to provide the highest quality liberal arts and professional education in a caring, Christ-centered community of grace which integrates faith, learning and life. The University serves students of traditional age, adult learners and organizations through undergraduate and graduate programs.