

# International 5 – Contemporary Global Issues Spring 2023

## Course Information

### **Instructor: Miloni Gandhi**

Check out my intro on the canvas site! In the meantime, here is a little of what I do. I wear many hats! I teach Global Studies Courses and Internship courses in the Foothill and De Anza Community College District. In addition I run my own International Education Consultancy – Experience International.

**Office Hours:** By appointment and on Pronto/Zoom

Email is the best way to find me: [gandhimiloni@fhda.edu](mailto:gandhimiloni@fhda.edu)

OR

Canvas inbox messenger tool (though this has a bit of a delay)

OR

Pronto - Please make sure you have access to this as it's a fun way to communicate with classmates and myself.

## Description

This is an interdisciplinary introduction to contemporary global problems and issues, with emphasis on cultural events that impact all our lives. Students will learn to explore, analyze, and identify local solutions to global issues and problems, through the lens of intrapersonal, interpersonal, institutional, and cultural perspectives. The impact of race, ethnicity and inequality in world affairs, the processes of economic development and globalization, the environmental impacts of human activities, and people's experiences of war and peace will be analyzed. Consideration of various cultural points of view on processes of interdependent changes in our lives at global, regional, national, and local levels will be encouraged.

## Student Learning Outcomes

- Analyze cultural, political, social, and economic dimensions of global issues and problems.
- Critique the formal and informal structures which dominate global interactions, including the World Bank, IMF, WTO, as well as informal structures such as the

drug trade, human trafficking, and flows of people who are both immigrants and refugees.

## Course Objectives

- Explore global studies in historical context as an academic discipline by identifying the origins of contemporary global economic, social, and political systems, and the processes that perpetuate the current world order.
- Examine a variety of paradigms and hypotheses about how the world works/fails to work.
- Analyze major global issues in various critical perspectives, with special attention to contexts established by culture, religion, human rights, gender, and environmental studies.
- Research and evaluate global issues to understand public policy and decision-making.
- Analyze critically the roles of technology in framing and disseminating information, with attention to using the web and social media to find reliable information about world events.
- Evaluate the ways in which changes in many types of technology (communication, transportation, military, agricultural, medical, and genetic) have impacted human lives and the ways in which the world's people interact with each other and with the Earth.

## Core Resources

Most of our resources will be open sourced or widely available through social media as these resources are more current. There will also be several video resources available that should be available on Netflix or whatever streaming platform you prefer. I will suggest some literature to accompany each theme as this might be helpful for your research paper - but you certainly don't need to buy all the books. Always check the libraries first – both De Anza's and your local city! I found many of the books available through my city digital library using the Libby app. Also, many of the books are available used on Amazon for a lot less – or if you are into audio books, most are also available on apps like Audible. I also tend to offer many more resources for reflection than needed such that if you can't access one, you should definitely be able to access another.

## Grades

- 30 percent participation – please leave comments on the Discussion Section based on the questions asked by myself or your peers. I'll go over details before our first discussion. Leave at least one comment per week on your own, and then one comment on someone else's comment. Please remember to be respectful with your

comments. You may find yourself disagreeing with some opinions presented in the course by myself or other students but our community standard for the class is respect.

- 20 percent midterm v-log – your v-log is also a great way to get feedback on the topic you are considering for your final paper.
- 30 percent Weekly Reflections Submitted each week to demonstrate an understanding of the week's topics. (12 submissions – ½-1 page 3 points per week) I will ask a question each week.
- 20 percent final research paper.

## Weekly Lowdown

Each week I will upload a series of my thoughts on each of the subjects. Think of it like tuning in to a show on a weekly basis, there will be a mix of video and text episodes.

Assignments will be due through upload on canvas and may include a special notice such as filling out a survey or mentimeter. I will let you know about each. We will also go over specifics for the research paper before the midterm V-Log.

I also have special guests joining me - so be on the lookout for special videos that showcase real professionals working on the daily with global issues we are talking about in class later in the quarter.

**Please note as this is an asynchronous online class, your participation in discussions and weekly reflections will be used to document your attendance on a weekly basis. If you do not have active participation, I will have to drop you at the end of week 2. So, make sure to be active if you wish to keep the class!**

## Week 1

*Theme:* Introduction – this course will cover 11 thematically grouped global issues relevant to today's international climate. Through exploration of the following themes, I hope to share with you the some of the underlying issues that are both in and out of the spotlight. Just because it's not in the news anymore doesn't mean it's not happening. While we focus on the world as a whole, I will also be highlighting Asia throughout this quarter as it is a part of the world that often gets homogenized, yet the regional grouping of Asia actually includes several distinct breakouts, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Eurasia.

South Asia: Bangladesh Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Southeast Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam.

East Asia: China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan, Tibet,

Central Asia: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

I will also be highlighting key events and opportunities for those that have an interest in global studies and international education so be on the lookout for messages from me. Some might even be opportunities for extra credit! I use the Canvas Announcements most frequently to share information so make sure you have your settings correct to receive those notifications.

*Activity:* Survey – What do you already know? In an effort to get to know you and your global studies background a little better, please answer the following survey in the week one assignments. I will also use these answers to help create content that will be more relevant to your interests in the class as time permits.

*Read:* United Nations Sustainable Development

Goals <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> (Make sure you click through each of the 17 goals and read about each. This will serve as a foundation on how we frame our conversations in weeks to come).

[How Covid 19 Outbreak affected South African Fisherman](#) By Barry Christiansen

*Watch:*

American Factory <https://www.netflix.com/title/81090071>

Down to Earth <https://www.netflix.com/title/80230601>

\*Bonus plug – Networking is important! Your classmates and I are a great addition to your network. If you don't have a LinkedIn account, create one and add us all. LinkedIn is a great way to grow your network. In addition, make sure you activate your De Anza Handshake account a brand new jobs and internship platform we just launched. You can activate your Handshake account through My Portal. Look for the orange H.

## **Week 2**

*Theme:* Global Rules and Global Citizenship – real life impact in the modern world

*Watch:* Rania Hadra - Why Global Rules Matter [Why Global Rules Matter](#)

*Read:* UN Chronicle issue on Global Citizenship

<https://unchronicle.un.org/issue/global-citizenship>

The end of the Golden Arches Doctrine \* If this link doesn't work, watch the video below

<https://www.ft.com/content/1413fc26-f4c6-11e4-9a58-00144feab7de> (you have to take a short survey to get free access)

\* Video with similar content as The end of the Golden Arches Doctrine <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2015-05-11/the-end-of-the-golden-arches-doctrine-edward-luce>

ASEAN - Regional Global Rule Blocks <https://asean.org/member-states/>

Food for thought – Airbnb, Uber, Netflix, and getting your favorite food wherever you are. Everything is connected. #Globalization

World Nomad Games <https://www.worldnomadgames2022.com/> After a covid hiatus, the world nomad games were back in 2022 and will be held in Kazakhstan in 2024 <https://orient.tm/en/old/post/46011/government-kazakhstan-begin-preparations-world-nomad-games> Global rules make international events like this and the Olympics possible. These games highlight the cultural heritage of Central Asia by showcasing traditional sports not in the Olympics as well as a global platform for crafts. Sports have been used as a soft diplomacy tool for years.

A More Integrated future? Mapping Central Asian Optimism <https://thediplomat.com/2022/03/a-more-integrated-future-mapping-central-asian-optimism/>

*Listen*

The Poetry of Nepal's Bridges <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-poetry-of-nepals-bridges/id1514010062?i=1000568221583>

## **Week 3**

*Theme:* Climate Change, conservation, the environment, and the natural world.

Watch:

The Island President <http://theislandpresident.com/>

Rise <https://350.org/rise-from-one-island-to-another/>

Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj - Brazil, Corruption and the Rainforest (Netflix)

Meru <http://www.merufilm.com/>

Free Solo <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/films/free-solo/>

Occupied <https://www.netflix.com/title/80092654>

We will make them hear us - Greta Thunberg

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/video/2019/sep/21/we-will-make-them-hear-us-greta-thunbergs-speech-to-new-york-climate-strike-video>

The Elephant Whisperers – View it on Netflix – link to trailer (India)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0J0b\\_OVa9w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0J0b_OVa9w)

\*Banff Mountain Film Festival Movie Screenings for Northern California Take place mostly in February and March. If these themes strike you, be sure to check out the schedule at <https://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainfestival/worldtour/usa>

*Read:*

Save us, Save the World by Kate Lyons

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/sep/21/save-us-save-the-world-pacific-climate-warriors-taking-the-fight-to-the-un>

Planet SOS Amazon fires fears rainforest desert by Lucia Newman

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/09/planet-sos-amazon-fires-fears-rainforest-desert-190920153336750.html>

Hōkūle‘a and the Polynesian Voyaging Society <http://www.hokulea.com/>

The Geography of Risk

<https://www.npr.org/2019/09/05/758043834/book-the-geography-of-risk>

Scroll through Instagram and take a look at the following accounts – read the captions @franslanting @paulnicklen @renan\_ozturk @taylorfreesolo @natgeo @naturalparkservice

*Listen:* Puerto Rico is decolonizing – with food

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/puerto-rico-is-decolonizing-with-food/id1514010062?i=1000568355526>

## **Week 4**

*Theme:* Democracy, Peace, and Justice.

Special Event UN Film Fest <http://www.unaff.org/2020/films.html>

*Watch:*

Nicholas Opiyo: Using Courts to Protect Rights [Using the Courts to Protect Rights](#)

Ujwal Thapa: Building 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tribes [Building 21st Century-Relevant Tribes](#)

Atexi Seta Caxon: Civil Society: State Relations in Africa, How can they improve?

Civil Society: State Relations in Africa, How can they improve?

Janaina Camelo Homerin: Brazil's Democracy is at Stake Brazil's Democracy is at Stake

Kofi Annan Keynote address at the IDEA 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary speech on Electoral Integrity (starts at 28 minutes in) International IDEA 20th Anniversary

Taliban in Afghanistan – <https://www.cfr.org/background/taliban-afghanistan>

A Whisper to a Roar - <https://awhispertoar.com/>

Russia – Navalny <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt17041964/>

*Read*

East Timor - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/30/east-timor-indonesias-invasion-and-the-long-road-to-independence>

## **Week 5**

*Theme:* Technology, Infrastructure, and Human Rights

*Read:*

The Age of Surveillance Capitalism – Shoshana Zuboff - Introduction

Global Digital Project Incubator

[https://fsi-live.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/gdpart\\_19\\_smc\\_conference\\_report\\_wip\\_2019-05-12\\_final\\_1.pdf](https://fsi-live.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/gdpart_19_smc_conference_report_wip_2019-05-12_final_1.pdf) and the organization's website it is housed in <https://fsi.stanford.edu/front-global-digital-policy-incubator>

Six Facts We Know About Fake News in the 2016 Election by Danielle Kurtzleben

<https://www.npr.org/2018/04/11/601323233/6-facts-we-know-about-fake-news-in-the-2016-election>

Is artificial Intelligence a Human Rights Issue? by Mihalis Kritikos

<https://epthinktank.eu/2019/03/19/is-artificial-intelligence-a-human-rights-issue/>

AI and Human Rights - Access Now with major contributions by Lindsay Anderson

<https://www.accessnow.org/cms/assets/uploads/2018/11/AI-and-Human-Rights.pdf>

Chinese Facial Recognition Software in Central Asia: <https://www.rferl.org/a/central-asia-2019-challenges-security-china-facial-recognition/30356077.html>

*Watch:* NS Nappinai Liberty, Democracy, and Responsible Social Media - [Liberty, Democracy, and Responsible Social Media](#)

Patriot Act with Hasan Minaj – Content Moderation

Social Dilemma - <https://www.netflix.com/title/81254224>

Borgen Season 4 - Available on Netflix <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1526318/>  
Showcases China's soft power diplomacy efforts in the few last frontiers on earth such as the arctic circle

Occupied – Available on Netflix

## **Week 6**

*Theme:* Food, Nutrition, Health

*Read:*

Globalization and Japanese Curry

<https://www.diasporaco.com/blogs/journal/japanese-curry-the-curious-journey-of-colonization-and-globalization-that-led-to-japan-s-favorite-dish>

The World is Headed for a Global Food Security Crisis. Here's how we can avert it. By Joseph Hinicks

<https://time.com/5216532/global-food-security-richard-deverell/>

2018 Global Report on Food Crises by the World Food Program

<https://www.wfp.org/publications/global-report-food-crises-2018>

Can Vegetarians Save the Planet? Why Campaigns to Ban Meat Send the Wrong Idea by Erin Biba

<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/can-vegetarians-save-planet-why-campaigns-ban-meat-send-wrong-ncna896811>



Scientists Push Mostly Vegetarian Diet to Save the Planet by Gaby Galvin

<https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2019-01-17/scientists-push-mostly-vegetarian-diet-to-save-the-planet-reduce-deaths>

Food Sharing Homepage - this is in German - hit the auto translate button to get the English version

<https://foodsharing.de/#wilkommen>

The Environmental Concerns of Food Ecopreneurs <https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1558895/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

*Watch:*

German Food Sharing Website Helps Feed The Hungry - reporting by Nick Spicer

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2015/02/german-food-sharing-website-helps-feed-hungry-150219165759261.html>

Broken Bread - <https://www.kcet.org/shows/broken-bread>

Blue Zones – focus on Okinawa but look at the whole site

<https://www.bluezones.com/explorations/okinawa-japan/>

*Listen:*

Gastropod – Does the Western Megadrought Mean the End of Cheap Cheese and Ice Cream <https://gastropod.com/does-the-western-megadrought-mean-the-end-of-cheap-cheese-and-ice-cream/>

## **Week 7**

*Theme:* What about Women?

*Watch:*

Sandstorm <https://www.netflix.com/title/80098810>

Period. End of Sentence. <https://www.netflix.com/title/81074663>

Motherland <http://www.motherland-film.com/>

Daughters of Destiny <https://www.netflix.com/title/80092926>

Shaili Chopra: The Voice of Half a Billion [The Voice of Half a Billion](https://www.netflix.com/title/80092926)

Shirin Ebadi Until We are Free <https://tv.apple.com/us/movie/shirin-ebadi-until-we-are-free/umc.cmc.3ocu6j8qo96yug14rni6rekim>

Documentary: Women. Life. Freedom. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BacwpaeSZoM>

Read:

Facts and Figures - Economic Empowerment - by UNWOMEN

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>

The Global Gender Gap Report 2018 (scroll down the page and you'll see it) <https://www.weforum.org/projects/closing-the-gender-gap-gender-parity-task-forces>

I am Malala <https://www.amazon.com/Am-Malala-Stood-Education-Taliban/dp/0316322407>

3 Cups of Tea <https://www.amazon.com/Three-Cups-Tea-Mission-Promote/dp/0143038257>

The Women of Iran are Not Backing Down  
<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2023/01/22/women-rights-iran-protests-00069245>

\*Mid Term V log is due – please upload a 3-5 minute video about the topic you are thinking of writing about for your final paper. The whole class will view these and give feedback.

## **Week 8**

*Theme:* Mobility - Movement of people across borders Labor, Asylum, Trafficking - International Education / Education Abroad

*Read:*

International Labor Organization <https://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm>

Association of International Educators <https://www.nafsa.org/>

Blue Dragon <https://www.bluedragon.org/>

Global Flow of Tertiary Level Students <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow>

2019 International Migration and Displacement Trends and Policies Report to the G20  
<https://www.oecd.org/migration/mig/G20-migration-and-displacement-trends-and-policies-report-2019.pdf>

Global Migration Factsheet <https://gmdac.iom.int/global-migration-trends-factsheet>

*Watch:*

Adu <https://www.netflix.com/title/80993647?source=35>

Red Sea Diving Resort <https://www.netflix.com/title/80240537>

The Uyghur boxers of Istanbul <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-uyghur-boxers-of-istanbul/id1514010062?i=1000575665371>

My Small Land – showcases the struggles of refugees both from places we don't often talk about and settling in a country we don't think about as a home for refugees  
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt16410620/>

## **Week 9**

*Theme:* Hotspots that we hear about and Hotspots we don't ( Ukraine, Hong Kong, Venezuela, Syria, Taiwan, Georgia, Kashmir, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Tibet)

*Watch:*

Syria - The White Helmets <https://www.netflix.com/title/80101827>

Sudan – Patriot Act Episode on Sudan <https://www.netflix.com/title/80239931>

Venezuela – David Smolansky – Facing Venezuela's Criminal Regime [Facing Venezuela's Criminal Regime](#)

*Read:*

Hong Kong: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-48607723>

Kashmir: <https://www.vox.com/2019/8/8/20791518/india-pakistan-kashmir-article-370-explained>

Colonial legacy impacting South Asia - <https://thegeopolitics.com/colonial-legacy-and-majoritarianism-in-south-asia/>

Georgia: <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/01/22/russia-is-still-occupying-20percent-of-our-country-georgias-leader-says.html>

Japan and Korea: <https://www.fpri.org/article/2019/07/tensions-between-south-korea-and-japan-benefit-no-one/>

Lebanon: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-53390108>

Ethiopia: <https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/thestream/2020/07/ethiopia-spiralling-political-crisis-200705132544285.html>

Tibet: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/echoes-from-the-himalayas/70-years-of-colonization-of-tibet-by-china-tibetans-are-a-minority-on-their-own-land/>

## Week 10

*Theme:* Impact of Social Media on Tourism / Dark Tourism – who is actually benefiting?

Read:

Chernobyl's Tourism Industry is Booming - reporting by Audie Cornish All things Considered

<https://www.npr.org/2019/06/18/733809345/chernobyls-tourism-industry-is-booming-following-hbo-miniseries-on-nuclear-disas>

Is Geotagging on Instagram Ruining Natural Wonders? By Laura M. Holsen

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/29/travel/instagram-geotagging-environment.html>

Is "Dark Tourism" OK? By Robert Reid

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/features/is-dark-tourism-ok-chernobyl-pripyat-disaster-sites/>

*Watch:* Chernobyl Dairies available on HBO

The Last Tourist Film <https://thelasttouristfilm.com/>

## Week 11

*Theme:* Philanthropy and the White Savior Complex – Does the world need saving?! And if so by who?

Read:

Winners Take All - The Elite Charade of the Changing World by Anand Giriharadas

<https://www.amazon.com/Winners-Take-All-Charade-Changing/dp/0451493249>

Just Giving - How Philanthropy is Failing Democracy and How it Can do Better By Rob Reich

<https://www.amazon.com/Just-Giving-Philanthropy-Failing-Democracy/dp/069118349X>

U.S. Citizen went to Uganda to help kids, now her charity is accused of killing them. By Sarah Harman

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/u-s-citizen-went-uganda-help-kids-now-her-charity-n1035211>

Also re-consider 3 Cups of Tea. Under the context of this week, how does that book fit this narrative?

## Week 12

*Theme:* Globalization of Food, Fashion, and Music – Cultural Appropriation, exploration, or a force of Good? – Wrap Up

*Read:* Fashionopolis <https://www.npr.org/2019/09/04/757455029/fashionopolis-tells-us-why-we-should-care-about-clothes>

How K-Pop conquered the West by Amy Wang

<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/bts-kpop-albums-bands-global-takeover-707139/>

BTS Black Lives Matter: Fans match band's \$1m donation

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-52960617>

Should White Chefs Sell Burritos? A Portland Food Carts Revealing Controversy. By Time Carman

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/food/wp/2017/05/26/should-white-chefs-sell-burritos-a-portland-restaurants-revealing-controversy/?noredirect=on>

Asian Food does not have to be cheap. <https://omsom.com/blogs/second-menu/asian-food-does-not-have-to-be-cheap>

Cheap Eats, Cheap Labor:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2017/02/12/512905725/cheap-eats-cheap-labor-the-hidden-human-costs-of-those-lists>

What is 'Ethnic' Food: <https://www.tastingtable.com/694306/ethnic-cuisine-food-media/>

\*\*Reminder final paper is due!

Final paper due: 10 page research paper (double spaced size 12 Times New Roman) on a global issue that matters the most to you. You must have a reference page with a minimum of 20 sources. Please write it on Microsoft Word or Google Docs. Make sure to use professional English. No text or chat English – use complete sentences, punctuation, grammar and no emoticons/emojis.

