

**PS 360**  
**Spring 2015**  
**"Global Problems" research paper**

**SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

**4/2--Topic statement due**

No more than 3 sentences: 1) The first sentence must be a question identifying an important problem in global political economy; 2) followed by a statement of one or two sentences describing how the question will be addressed.

Example: Have IGOs had any notable successes in reducing global poverty? This question will be addressed by looking at achievements related to Millennium Development Goal #1 and trying to identify the successes or failures attributable to policies of the UN Development Programme.

**4/9--Abstract due**

Abstracts are summaries of your papers. They must not be longer than 200 words and must include the following:

- Title (not included in word count)
- Topic statement (corrected and expanded as needed)
- Short description of how the research will be conducted, including an indication of what kinds of sources will be used and why
- Expected conclusions or lessons learned

**4/10-17--Conference?**

Dr. Rosenberg may require a consultation to improve the abstract before it can be approved and posted on Blackboard. Students may request a conference to discuss their papers at any time.

**4/19--All abstracts will be posted on Blackboard**

All students are required to read all abstracts before the beginning of class on 4/21.

**4/21, 23, 28, 30--Student presentations**

Presentations will be no more than 5 minutes each. Presenters will respond to questions #1 and #2 below to the best of their ability. It is understood that your research will be at an early stage. Therefore, students will be expected to provide each other with constructive criticism and suggestions.

**5/5, 5PM--Papers due**

Exceptions will be allowed ONLY for verified emergencies.

**Drafts may be submitted for comment any time up to and including Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PAPER:

**Length:** 8-12 pages, typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point type

**Quality:** clearly written, free of spelling and grammatical errors, well organized

### Sources (No Wikipedia):

**Textbooks:** If your textbook or other assigned readings cover the topic you choose, then you may include them in your sources. However, assigned texts alone are far from sufficient; they are merely a starting point.

**Scholarly works:** These include articles in professional journals, books, or chapters in edited volumes. A scholarly source is written by academic experts based on their own research.

**Journalistic works:** You should be able to find several recent articles reporting on the latest developments related to most of the topics listed below. The list of news sources for this course (on Blackboard) contains some suggestions. Use these sources to supplement, update, and test the information and conclusions presented in the scholarly works and documents you reference.

**Agency and organization publications:** All of the topics relate to issues of direct concern to multiple government agencies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Their websites and published documents provide a wealth of data documenting the problem, and information on their own policies and programs for addressing the problem.

**Citations:** All works used must be cited using a standard form. Use University of Chicago, MLA, APA or another method with which you are familiar; but use it consistently and accurately. If you are unfamiliar with the formal requirements of academic citation, this website should help. Purdue Writing Lab: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>

**Academic dishonesty:** Any plagiarism, even one sentence, will be punished with a grade of 0 for the paper and if serious enough a grade of F for the class and further disciplinary action. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism find out before it is too late.

### Structure and organization:

Your paper should **answer the following questions**. It is not necessary to reproduce these questions in your paper. You may combine responses to more than one question in your paper, and you may change the order to suit your topic and style. But, one way or another, your research and analysis should address each one.

1. What is the problem you are addressing, and why is it a problem of Global Political Economy (as opposed to a domestic social problem or local issue)?
2. How great a problem is it? (Provide data that illustrate the magnitude of the problem globally.) It may be that the particular problem you are researching is of limited scope but is an example of a type of problem that is widespread in the global political economy.
3. Why has the problem occurred? (What are the main causes/factors that have made this a pressing issue in the international political economy?)
4. Who is impacted by it? Why? (Is it a problem that affects some kinds of people, states, regions, businesses or organizations more than others?)
5. What approaches/solutions have been attempted? (Identify and describe the most important or most representative approaches you have found. Be sure to identify the organizations or agencies involved, their interests, orientations and goals.)
6. How successful have the various approaches been? (Present data and/or cases that illustrate how particular approaches have affected the problem – whether they have made things better, worse or had no measurable effect.)
7. Why have the approaches/solutions you describe been effective or not?

## **TOPICS:**

### **I. Food, poverty, health**

- A.** Healthy, safety and the global trade in food and medicines
- B.** NGOs, hunger, poverty and inequality (e.g., OXFAM, the Heifer Project, Grameen Bank)
- C.** IGOs, hunger, poverty and inequality (e.g. World Bank, UNDP, UNCTAD)
- D.** MNCs and the global food supply—including such controversies as genetically modified crops
- E.** Infectious diseases, pandemics, e.g., HIV/AIDS, Ebola, malaria, dengue fever
- F.** Fighting global poverty: does/can anything work?

### **II. The environment and natural resources**

- A.** Transboundary pollution
- B.** Hazardous wastes trading
- C.** Regional Trade Arrangements and the environment (the EU, NAFTA, etc.)
- D.** Natural resources extraction, economic development and the environment
- E.** The international political economy of energy (oil, gas, coal; alternative energy; global energy markets and energy MNCs)

### **III. Trade disputes, disagreements and settlements**

- A.** Landmark cases before the WTO
- B.** Winners and losers in recent trade agreements
- C.** Agricultural policy and the WTO
- D.** Intellectual property and global political economy
- E.** Challenges of the current, floating exchange rate system—e.g., US-China disputes over currency valuation; domestic monetary policy and the global political economy; stresses on the euro

### **IV. The dark side of international trade**

- A.** The illegal arms trade
- B.** Nuclear insecurity: rogue states, nuclear proliferation
- C.** The illegal drug trade: the politics of controlling supply and demand
- D.** Money laundering, offshore banking, Internet gambling, etc.
- E.** Illegal immigration and/or human trafficking

### **V. International Financial Institutions**

- A.** World Bank and/or IMF – causing or curing global poverty?
- B.** Is it time to reform the World Bank and/or IMF?
- C.** The legacies of Structural Adjustments Programs – positive or negative?
- D.** The financial meltdown: global causes, global effects, global solutions?

### **VI. Other—make a proposal and we can discuss it**