The Introduction to International Studies course is meant to introduce students to the variety of approaches to International Studies in the social sciences and the humanities. In this course, students will become familiar with the various “ways of knowing” in different disciplines and will apply these perspectives to the study of global connections in the social, cultural, economic and political spheres. The course is both interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary, as students will understand how different disciplines approach problems and questions, as well as how different disciplines connect with one another, or contradict one another when it comes to methods and goals.

A. International Studies and Course-Specific Learning Outcomes:

- to demonstrate an ability to think globally from the perspective of multiple disciplines
- to be able to critically examine, contextualize and historicize the relevant concepts such as progress, modernity or development
- to employ different approaches to study and analyze the global forces (e.g. neo-liberalism, capitalism) and its specific agents
- to be aware of the various forms of inequality that structure our global system as well as the different social formations studied

B. General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

This course meets the following General Education requirements for Humanities:

- Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted, or valued in various expressions of human culture.
- Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments.

These outcomes will be demonstrated and assessed in a 1500- to 2500-word paper.
Course Requirements

Attendance: Attendance in class is required. Your grade will be lowered if you have more than 3 unexcused absences, and excessive absences will result in further grade penalties and may include removal from the course roll. You are responsible for obtaining/studying all material, including readings, films, and lectures, whether you are present or absent from class.

Preparation and participation: I expect you to put in about two hours of reading/assignment time for an average class session. For most classes, you will get reading guide questions in advance which will help you to structure what you should be “getting out of” each reading assignment. Make your own notes of the readings, write down your thoughts in relation to the reading questions. Constructive, productive, respectful class discussion is something I take very seriously. I expect that you will be able to speak about the reading questions if prompted, even if it is about how you had issues or grappled unsuccessfully with the question and why. Critical thinking is an ongoing process of continuous assessment and reassessment of the dominant views in a field of study. My goal is to engage everybody in a continuing dialogue with the readings and with each other. I value the quality of your comments. Please do not simply repeat what has been said in class. Attempt to provide an analysis of the material covered. As noted above, part of your final grade will depend upon your class participation. The grade assigned for your class participation will be based on the quality rather than the frequency of your participation during class meetings. If you do not feel confident about expressing your opinion(s) on a particular issue that is taken up for discussion, then ask a relevant question. Often, a thoughtful question that is well formulated will earn you more points than an unsubstantiated and irrelevant statement. Think critically and analytically, and please do not hesitate to ask for explanation of terms used in class.

All the readings will be available on the class web page on OAKS (no books are required to be purchased for this class). Other readings may be assigned, and handouts and supplements may be distributed later in the semester.

Important Note: This syllabus, including the lecture schedule, readings, and assigned work and exams, is subject to change as necessary. Changes will be announced in class, by email and on the course website on OAKS. It is your responsibility to keep up with all readings and assignments. Check your College email inbox regularly!

Assignments: There will be short quizzes on the readings on a weekly basis in class (most likely on Fridays, comprising of 5-10 multiple choice questions). These assignments help you to assess your own understanding of the readings. Each student will participate in a group presentation project which will elaborate on a film watched in class, in combination with the readings of the related weekly theme (I will discuss the specifics of this assignment with each group beforehand). The in-class mid-term exam will consist of a number of essay questions. The questions will require you to demonstrate your knowledge and comprehension of the readings and issues discussed in class. The 1500-2500 word final research paper (which replaces the final exam) evaluates the General Education and the Course-specific learning outcomes (see A. and B. above). Guidelines for the research paper will be posted before Fall
break. It must be submitted on the date stated on the syllabus.

**Courtesy in Class and Etiquette**
Class sessions only last 50 minutes. Please, arrive on time and do not leave class early, except in cases of emergency, so as to not disrupt lectures or class discussions. I have a strict **no open phones, no open laptops** policy in the classroom, as it is highly distracting for the student, other classmates and the instructor.

**Special Circumstances**
If you have any kind of special circumstances which I should be aware of, please do let me know early on so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. If you have Special Needs accommodations of any kind, please make the appropriate notifications and arrangements with the Center for Students with Disabilities within the very first week of class. Alternatively, if you have any sort of undiagnosed learning disability, a physical impairment of any kind that will require special arrangements for taking class notes, papers, or exams, if you are an athlete or a member of any club or organization which will cause you to travel during our course, please let me know so that the appropriate steps may be taken.

As the semester progresses, you will be exposed to a wide range of perspectives, approaches, practices, and opinions. These you will encounter in your assigned readings, and in the views expressed by your instructor and fellow classmates. You may disagree with these on a personal, religious, or scholarly level. However, you are expected at all times to demonstrate respect for the views of your classmates, your Instructor, and the published scholars whose work you will read. If you wish to discuss perspectives, approaches, practices, and opinions with which you may not agree, you must do so in an informed fashion which demonstrates that you have engaged with the relevant course material, and in a manner which does not belittle or intimidate. By us all adopting such a posture, it is hoped that you will find our course to be a challenging, inspiring and enlightening experience in which you have the opportunity to revisit and, perhaps, revise, what you believe to be “truth” in the context of International Studies.

**Academic Honesty**
When you enrolled in the College of Charleston, you signed an Honor Code. I expect that you will abide by that Code. I have zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. I reserve the right to prosecute to the fullest any act of academic dishonesty, that is, plagiarism and/or cheating, etc., by reporting same to the Honor Board. Students should be aware of the College’s policies on plagiarism as published in the *Student Handbook*. If you are unfamiliar with the College’s plagiarism policy please consult your student handbook.

**Please Note...**
...my office hours and contact information as set out at the start of this syllabus. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions, concerns, special circumstances, or problems. If a crisis arises which will impact your ability to fully participate in our class, please contact me ASAP so that we can work towards a resolution. Last, but not least, please know that if you attend classes, complete your preparations, and attempt to participate in class, but still have some difficulty, I will do my utmost to help you understand and engage the material – that said, you must be sure to attend fully to your own responsibilities as part of our class.
**Grading Policy**

Your grade will be based on the following criteria:
- Mid-term -- 20%
- Group project presentation -- 15%
- Class participation -- 25%
- Topical quizzes -- 10%
- 1500-2500 Research Paper -- 30%

Final grades will be calculated using the following table:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>60-62</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Assignment grades (insofar as they use a percentage scale) will also follow this grading scheme. Please, be a responsible student and take charge of your grade. If you want to know your current standing in class, inquire with me about this.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**PART 1: INTRODUCING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

**Week 1**
- 01/12 Introductions and Organization
- 01/14 Discussion about Globalization

**Week 2: Concepts and Contexts**
- 01/19 MLK Day

**Week 3: Historical Perspectives**
**Week 4: Knowledge Construction and Representation**


**PART 2 APPLYING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES TO GLOBAL ISSUES**

**Week 5: Political Globalization**

02/09 Smallman, Shawn and Kimberly Brown. *Introduction to Global Studies*. Chapter: Political Globalization


02/13 Manfred B. Steger. From Market Globalism to Imperial Globalism: Ideology and American Power after 9/11.

**Week 6: Economic Globalization: Capitalism and Free Market Economy**


McMichael, pp.58-60


In-class Film: Maquilapolis

**Week 7: Mid-term Summaries**

02/23 Mid-term Discussion

02/25 Mid-term Exam
02/27 In Class Film: Life and Debt

Spring Break 😊

Week 8: Economic Globalization: Neoliberalism and Inequality in the Global Market
03/09 McMichael, Chapter 5 pp. 113-127
Peet, Hartwick. Pp.78-84;

03/11 McMichael, Chapter 5 pp. 113-127; 127-138
Peet, Hartwick. 98-102


Week 9: Environment and Exploitation

03/18 McMichael, Chapter 8-9 (extracts), Ecological Crisis, 249-261.

03/20 In-class Film: Crude

Week 10: Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict
03/23 tba

03/25 Kassem, Lina. Nationalism, 37-44
McMichael, Philip, Nation-State 47-48


Week 11: Voluntary and Involuntary Migration
03/30 Koser, Khalid. Migration Matters.


04/03 In-class film: Arlit - Second Paris

Week 12: Global Humanitarianism

04/10 Discussions: humanitarianism, charity and the depiction of 3.World poverty

**Week 13: Anti-Globalization Movements**


04/15 tba

04/17 Class discussion

**Week 14: Responses and Alternatives**


04/22 tba

04/24 Wrapping up: Discussion of key points discussed throughout the course.

**Week 15:**

04/27 Q&A about research papers

04/29 Deadline Research Paper due by noon