

Global 202: Introduction to Globalization and Information Technology

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Introduction

This course introduces the study of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as part of the BA degree in Global Studies. We will focus on contemporary world cultural impacts of ICTs, including the globalization of media and access issues surrounding digital information and media.

We will study general concepts of globalization, including the economics of multinational and transnational corporations, global media, culture, the Internet, and governance and sovereignty in the age of digital information and borderless states.

In addition to studying ICTs, the course makes heavy use of them. Global 202 is a hybrid, which means that it meets partly online and partly in a traditional classroom. Your time out of class is devoted to extensive reading in the field, as well as extensive writing of summaries, syntheses and analyses on a class discussion board on Desire2Learn (D2L). Substantive engagement with texts comes from frequent writing and reflection about the reading; ours will range from short informal responses to one longer, more formal essay that incorporates outside research.

Hybrid courses are intensive and require significant time and information management. Time ordinarily spent in the classroom is distributed throughout the week. The standard expectation in an undergraduate class is that you will spend 2-4 hours working outside the classroom for every 1 hour in class. The course is designed to take up time equivalent to that of a classroom-based course. Because the course meets partly online, you will be expected to be online several times a week, reading and writing about assigned texts.

About half your grade comes from your online, written responses, so come online prepared to discuss both what you've read and what you've written.

Course Goals

- Study ICTs and their relation to globalization.
- Learn terminology for basic economic, social, and humanistic analyses of ICTs and globalization.
- Apply concepts to demonstrate understanding in writing.

Required Materials

UWM Bookstore:

Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein, They Say, I Say: the Moves that Matter in Academic Writing. NY: WW Norton, 2006.

McPhail, Thomas L. Global Communication: Theories, Stakeholders, and Trends. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2006.

Clark Graphics:

Friedman, Thomas L. "The Ten Forces that Flattened the World. In The World Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century. NY: Picador. 51-199.

The rest of the readings are online as E-Reserve at the Golda Meir Library and on the course D2L Site.

Also required:

A good attitude and reliable Internet connection. A dictionary. A good style manual, such as the MLA Handbook or the Publications Manual of the APA. You are responsible for using correct MLA or APA style citations in your writing.

Course Procedures

Each day and week will look like this:

Read/Write Alone	→→	Discuss Together	→→	Reflect on Learning
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I highly value collaboration, sharing, and creative interplay, while maintaining focus on the task at hand. In the absence of lectures, we will have self-guided readings, followed by student-led discussion and question-and-answer. This means that it is incumbent upon each of you to engage the readings critically and to make significant contributions to discussions. You are expected to puzzle over, worry at, think upon, write about, and otherwise actively engage the material rather than simply imbibe it. Specifically, you must:

- Complete all reading and writing assignments by their due dates.
- Complete online tasks on time.

- Participate vigorously and with respect for the ideas of others, the newness of the material to *everyone* in the class, and the need for patience, patience, patience.

Online Courses

Because this course meets partly online, you must be able to:

- Open, edit, save, and store files in MS-Word or Rich Text format. No other format will be accepted, no exceptions given.
- Move data between applications through cut-and-paste or other techniques.
- Create, send, receive and read email, including attachments, using UWM email. You must use your UWM email account to contact me.
- Use Desire to Learn (D2L) to read assignments and post your work.

Help files are available at <http://d2l.uwm.edu>. See me for further assistance.

Hybrid courses release participants from some ties to times and places. Your responsibilities are distributed evenly throughout the week, at times and places mostly of your choosing. You don't have to wait for a deadline to post—you choose when you contribute within the time-frame. But you still need to be at a physical computer, and you still need to involve yourself regularly with the course. In this course, that means several times a week.

Think of the “week,” rather than just the “day” or “class.” A week looks like:

- Monday – read/write/post online work
- Tuesday – class meeting
- Wednesday – read/write/post online work
- Thursday – read/write/post online work
- Friday – read/write/post online work
- Sat/Sun – read/think

And the course looks like:

- Week 1: read/write/discuss
- Week 2: read/write/discuss
- Week 3: read/write/discuss—and reflect
- (Repeat for rest of term)

University Policies

A complete statement of University policies on absence, disabilities, incompletes, and other issues is at <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf>.

Writing Assignments

The difference between informal and formal writing assignments is the difference between trying ideas out with friends versus presenting them for evaluation.

Please take the informal writing as a serious obligation from which you can reap great rewards by thinking your way into and through problems. This writing should generate class discussion, testing your ideas before making full arguments in essays. Imagine, think implications through, throw ideas out for discussion, but worry more about content than form.

This course's informal and formal writing assignments should:

- Increase fluency in producing, revising and editing writing.
- Distribute as much as possible responsibility for generating discussion.
- Prepare you for writing longer projects and for writing in other courses.

If you find yourself taking more than my suggested times, please contact me.

Informal Writing:

1. Reading responses (30-40 minutes each time):
See the handout "Commentaries and Responses."
2. Reflections (30-60 minutes each time):
See the handout "Reflective Letters Assignment."

Formal Writing:

Everyone will complete one paper of 7-10 pages, excluding a list of works cited in MLA or APA format. A written proposal and first draft of the paper is required, as is a written peer response to members of your reflection and response group's drafts. You can find your group memberships on D2L under "Classlist."

Each reflection and response group will have at least four members. Your group will be your support system as well as the first line of response to your writing. Dr. Sands will also be a member of each group.

Complete descriptions of the formal assignment and reflections will be available on D2L.

Grades

Your grade will be calculated by averaging together two separate grades:

1. Informal writing contract: includes Commentary/Response and Reflections.
2. Formal writing: your major essay.

Informal-Writing Contract:

A grading contract is an advantage to students: because you don't stand or fall on a single assessment, your grade more accurately reflects the quality of your work over time, rather than how you do on a particular day or at a particular task. What's more, this contract emphasizes the quality of your understanding and interaction with the texts and each other over less-relevant measures.

Informal writing will be assessed as Acceptable or Unacceptable. You will be notified if your work is Unacceptable; otherwise assume that completion = Acceptable.

Acceptable	Unacceptable
On-task	Sloppy, careless, rushed, mechanical errors
Actively engaged/cites reading/reflective	Factually/logically inaccurate
Around 250-500 words	Too short/non-substantive
On time	Late

90-100 % Acceptables = A; 80-89 % = B; 70-79 % = C; 60-69 % = D; 0- 59 % = F

Major Project:

The essay will be graded on an A-F scale, focusing on quality of writing and research, the writer's demonstrated understanding of terminology and concepts from the course, but not time and effort expended. I cannot measure that. A rubric explaining grade ranges will be available on D2L.

A late paper will be reduced in grade, and may result in a failing grade for the assignment.