

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

IS1000G – Introduction to Global Challenges

Winter 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Director: Hélène M. Lawler
E-Mail:* hlawler2@uwo.ca

** The best way to reach me is via email. I will attempt to reply to all emails within 48 hours during the week (9am Monday through 5pm Friday). I do not check my email after 5pm or on weekends. If you do not hear from me within 7 days, please send me a reminder. **Due to privacy rules, you must use your UWO email account for contacting me.***

Lectures	Room 204	Tuesdays	4:30pm – 5:30pm
	Room 204	Thursdays	3:30pm – 5:30pm
Office Hours	Room 301E	Thursdays	5: 30pm – 6:30pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION & PHILOSOPHY

Course Description: This course introduces students to major challenges posed today by neoliberal globalization. The course begins by providing an overview of the dynamics of capitalism, as well as the rise of corporate power. From here we will investigate the political, social, economic and environmental impact this system is having through an examination of global industries such as the military industrial complex, the petroleum industry, the pharmaceutical industry, the high tech industry, global agriculture, water and sanitation, higher education, and the knowledge industry.

This course comprises a one-hour class on Tuesday afternoons, and a 2-hour class on Thursday afternoons. While the format involves some lecture time (by me), there will be considerable time allotted to group discussion, in addition to occasional video or other multi-media presentations. Classes are intended to give you an opportunity to ask questions, raise issues and interact directly with the course concepts, as well as with myself and your colleagues. You are expected to be prepared to discuss the course material and participate in every class.

A Note on the Use of Electronic Devices: I come to this course with the confidence that you, and the other students in the class, are mature and capable of self-discipline around the use of technology. Electronic devices, including (but not limited to) laptops, netbooks, iPads, cell phones and iPods, are therefore allowed in the classroom. However, these are to be **used exclusively for academic purposes**. Sending and receiving text messages or telephone calls, browsing the internet, writing emails, listening to music, playing video games and other non-academic or distracting uses of such devices **is not permitted** during class time. While I do not anticipate any abuse of this policy, **students who violate these terms will lose the privilege of bringing such devices to class**. Your registration in this class is considered to be acceptance of this policy, and a willingness to abide by it. Thank you.

COURSE READINGS

There is one required books for this course, which will be available for purchase at the UWO Bookstore. A copy of this book will also be placed on 2-hour reserve at the Brescia library:

- ❑ Leonard, Annie. *The Story of Stuff*. Free Press, 2010.

All other readings will be accessible as electronic sources or placed as a hardcopy on reserve at the library. Assigned readings will be posted on WebCT.

Note: Lectures will be presented under the assumption that you have completed the readings for that class, and that you have critically engaged with the material.

COURSE EVALUATION

I) Participation & (Pop) Quizzes	20%	Ongoing
II) Critical Research Paper	40%	
Thesis, outline & bibliography (10%)		February 07
Final draft: 1500 words (30%)		March 20
III) Final Exam	40%	TBA (During Exam Period)

COURSE CALENDAR

PART I – UNDERSTANDING CAPITALISM

Week 1 (Jan 10, 12)	Course Introduction & A Brief History of Capitalism
Week 2 (Jan 17, 19)	The Rise of the Corporation
Week 3 (Jan 24, 26)	The Financial Crisis (2008-?)

PART II – GLOBAL CAPITALISM TODAY

Week 4 (Jan 31, Feb 02)	Extraction – Case: Water
Week 5 (Feb 07, 09)	Extraction – Case: The Tar Sands ○ <i>Essay Outline Due (Feb 07 - 10%)</i>
Week 6 (Feb 14, 16)	Production – Case: Manufacturing Landscapes
Week 7 (Feb 20 - 26)	**** Reading Week ****
Week 8 (Feb 28, Mar 01)	Distribution – Case: The Military – Industrial Complex
Week 9 (Mar 06, 08)	Consumption – Case: Food
Week 10 (Mar 13, 15)	Consumption – Case: Health & ‘Dis’- ease
Week 11 (Mar 20, 22)	Disposal – Case: Plastic ○ <i>Essay final draft due (Mar 20 - 30%)</i>

PART III – THE FUTURE(S) OF CAPITALISM

Week 12 (Mar 27, 29)	The Next Dimension? Knowledge Capitalism
Week 13 (Apr 03, 05)	Visions of the Future
Week 14 (Apr 10)	Course review

I) PARTICIPATION & IN-CLASS QUIZZES - 20%

ON-GOING

*** Regular attendance and participation in class is expected. Attendance will be taken in addition to short in-class writing exercises and quizzes ***

Participation: I am looking for thoughtful, topical comments and constructive, critical questions. Quality is sought over quantity. Respect for your colleagues and an openness to, and curiosity about alternative perspectives is essential. Participation will be evaluated on your willingness to engage in an informed discussion intended to enhance the class' understanding of the materials presented. Evaluation will be on an on-going basis through oral and written feedback.

Quizzes: A series of short assignments and in-class quizzes will be administered, based on the readings and topic of the week. No prior notice will be given (think 'pop-quiz').

NOTE: There will be no make-up quizzes. Students who are absent for quizzes & in-class assignments (without medical or other formal documentation) will receive a grade of zero.

II) CRITICAL RESEARCH PAPER – 40%

You are to select a commodity that interests you and investigating its social, political, economic, and environmental impact. Detailed parameters for this assignment will be posted on WebCT and presented in class.

Step I: Thesis statement, outline & bibliography (10%)

DUE FEBRUARY 07

This assignment is the first step in preparing your research paper. You are to have selected a general topic, performed research on this topic, and identified a specific research question to explore. From here you are to have developed a thesis statement and a short outline explaining how you will be presenting and supporting your argument. Attached to this is to be a very briefly annotated bibliography.

Step II: Final draft (30%)

DUE MARCH 20

The final draft of your paper is to be in essay format. Formal citations are expected. Additional details will be provided in class and posted on WebCT.

VII) FINAL EXAM – 40%

TBA (DURING EXAM PERIOD)

The final exam will cover material from the lectures, readings, multi-media presentations and class discussions. The exam will be held on a date to be determined by the Registrar during the April exam. Details on the exam format and expectations will be provided near the end of term.

GENERAL ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

- Unless otherwise specified, all work must be submitted as a printed hardcopy AND by email by the beginning of class on the due date. **Formal citations are expected for the research paper** (MLA, APA or Chicago Style – each is accepted but *select and use only one*).
- While paper submissions are requested for most assignments as it is easier to provide effective feedback on a hard-copy, in an effort to be environmentally conscious I ask that you **reduce the amount of paper you would normally use by at least 50%**. That is, if you would normally print single-sided, please print double-sided. If you would normally print double-spaced, use single-spaced instead. You may also print two pages per page, or use a combination of any or all of the above.
- In keeping with the above, title pages are discouraged (i.e. not necessary).
- All submissions must include each of the following. Papers missing any these elements will not be accepted:
 - **Word Count** at the top of the first page
 - Your name (or student #) on every page
 - **Page numbers on every page**
 - Submissions of more than one page must be mechanically fastened (i.e. staple, paperclip, binder etc.)

Further details on specific format expectations for each assignment will be provided in class.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are due at the beginning of class, ie. **date stamped on email before class starts** on the due date, and **handed in as a hardcopy at the start of class** the same day. Papers submitted after this time will be considered one (1) day late. Late papers will lose 2% per day of the total possible grade. No late assignments will be accepted more than two weeks (14 days) after the due date. **Late ‘in-the-news-today’ weekly assignments will not be accepted.**

Please note that no provisions will be made for students whose computers malfunction, whose printers run out of ink, who have to go to Aruba on vacation with their families and so on. However, extensions may be granted with proof of severe medical or other emergency in the form of an official, signed medical note (etc.) that explains why you are unable to complete the assignment on-time.

Important Note: If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, please contact both myself and the Academic Counselling Office *as soon as possible*. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed in advance rather than on a retroactive basis. i.e. If you let me know in advance that you are struggling, it will be much easier to consider potential solutions than after the fact.

POLICY ON RETURNED ASSIGNMENTS & APPEALS

Frequently students wish to discuss the results of their assignments immediately upon receiving their grade and feedback. Every effort will be made to provide substantial feedback on

assignments with the intention of making the grading clear, and also to help you improve regardless if the paper is a 'C' or an 'A.'

If you still have questions or concerns about the results of your assignment, please make an appointment to see me and discuss further.

Appeals:

You may appeal your overall grade, or the grade of any specific assignment. The first step is to approach your instructor, as follows:

- 1) Step one is to have an informal discussion with me.
- 2) If you find the explanation of your grade unsatisfactory, Step 2 is to appeal your grade in writing. You are to write a formal letter to me, indicating the ways in which you believe your assignment met the requirements – with evidence cited – as well as the grade you believe you deserve for your work. Please keep in mind that the onus is on you to demonstrate that your work meets the requirement set out for the assignment, and not for me to defend the mark allocated.

No grade change will be considered without the submission of a formal appeal in writing. Please be aware that **the appeal process may result in your grade going up or down.**

If you are still not satisfied with the outcome of this process, your next step is to contact the Department Chair, as outlined in Policy 5, below.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations document-ation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html>.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html.

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.