

GLOBAL ISSUES 621 - COURSE OUTLINE 2008-09

Global Issues is a study of world issues such as global conflict, over-population, depletion of natural resources, climate change, poverty, economic development, and in-depth comparisons of developed and less developed regions of the world. This course provides a global perspective on contemporary issues. It challenges students to apply geographic and research skills in order to increase their understanding of the world, recognize its diversity, and clarify their place in its many different interacting systems. Global Issues 621 will also focus heavily in the study of current events on a provincial, Canadian, and (most importantly) world scale. Students will be required to cultivate an active interest in the world around them and their place within it.

THE COURSE IS DIVIDED INTO MANY SECTIONS, INCLUDING:

Population Issues
Environmental Issues
Global Conflict
Cultural and Political Issues
Human Rights Issues

STUDENTS IN GLOBAL ISSUES 621 WILL:

- Arrive on time. Late students lose one mark from the final average for each day late.
- Be prepared to begin when the instructor is.
- Behave in the manner of a mature student.
- Observe deadlines with a fanatical zeal - students are generally given plenty of time to complete activities.
- Be open to an alternative approach to instruction and evaluation.

COURSE MATERIALS:

While there is a textbook (Global Connections: Canadian and World Issues), students should be prepared for a wide variety of course delivery and materials. The course sometimes employs the Internet, guest speakers, field trips, Canadian and world magazines, news programs, and other sources in curriculum delivery.

THE DAILY NEWS:

Frequently, students will be required to discuss and/or write about news topics of the day. This means that students will be expected to keep up to date with what is happening in the world. That means watch the news, read the paper, listen to news on the radio, and use the Internet for something constructive. We don't want students to enter the big, bad world next year and not be able to participate meaningfully in a conversation about Canadian, provincial, or world issues.

TESTS, ACTIVITIES, & CLASS PRESENTATIONS:

There are several tests, activities, and class presentations in this course. Under no circumstances are students to miss any of them. All are assigned well in advance and students must make arrangements to make them the number one priority. Activities not submitted on the due date will be subjected to Morell High's late assignment policy (see below). Activities **MUST** be submitted on the due date by 3:05 pm. As for tests: if students have a legitimate and unavoidable excuse (death in the family is unavoidable; hockey games or hair appointments are not), they will be permitted to write the test, under the following conditions:

1. The test will be written either **AT LUNCH** or **AFTER SCHOOL** on the day of the student's return
2. The student provides a note explaining the reason for the absence (signed by a parent/guardian).
3. If students cannot comply with the two conditions above, the test grade shall be **ZERO**.

Under no circumstance will a test total be added to the final exam. Nor shall low test grades be dropped from the student average. If students don't write tests in a timely manner and following the above conditions, the result shall be **ZERO**.

ATTENDANCE

Students are obviously expected to attend class daily. Sickness/family issues are understandable and excusable reasons for missing class and - when verified by a note - will not count against a student's final average. **When a student misses class, a signed note is expected to be given to Mr Coffin the day that student returns to school.** Absences not cleared within 48 hours are considered un-excused and will result in the following disciplinary action: **Every three un-excused absences shall carry a penalty of a two percent deduction from a student's final average. When a student reaches a total of eighteen absences, he/she risks losing course credit.** After five un-excused absences, parents are contacted by the school.

SOCIAL STUDIES ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Teachers will provide students with two types of assignments: Standard and Major. Standard assignments are assigned activities that are given to further strengthen concepts in the course. Major assignments are compulsory activities which are also course requirements and, therefore, must be completed before course credit is awarded.

Standard Assignments: Students are expected to submit standard assignments on or before the assigned due date. Late assignments will be reduced in value by 10% per day late. After the fifth day, the assignment is worth zero and will not be accepted. It will not receive a mark of incomplete.

Major Assignments: Students are expected to submit major assignments on or before the assigned due date. Late assignments will be reduced in value by 10% per day late until the fifth day, when the assignment is classified as incomplete, which will result in withholding of course credit. Major assignments will be accepted until the final instructional day of the semester and will be awarded credit (up to 50%). At such time, the grade of incomplete will be changed for course credit.

MISSED MATERIAL

Something happens in Global Issues 621 every single day. If a day is missed, check the following websites, which are kept for student use:

coffinweb: <http://users.eastlink.ca/~icoffin/>
coffinblog: <http://coffin.wordpress.com/>

Think of [coffinweb](#) as a file warehouse. Activities, notes, rubrics, and assignment criteria are kept here. Students must use the homework site ([coffinblog](#)) to find out what was done in class on any given day. **It is required that students missing days check coffinblog.** Excuses for missing work and deadlines will not be accepted. Use the blog and/or contact classmates when a day is missed. It is students' responsibility and a requirement of this course.

LATENESS

One mark shall be deducted from a student's final average for each late arrival. The instructor decides when a student arrives late.

ASSESSMENT

In this class, students are assessed in many different ways, each with the focus on improving learning. Each time an assignment is given, a rubric or a checklist shall also be provided, detailing the areas to be assessed. Several opportunities to accumulate marks will be offered during the semester.

GLOBAL ISSUES ON THE WEB:

Weekly, Global Issues 621 students will be required to participate in an online discussion dealing with issues in the news and other items of interest. Questions will be posted on a website forum each Monday morning. Students will have to respond to that question (and sometimes pose their own questions) by the following Sunday at 9:00 pm. The website address is: <http://sonofcoffin.wordpress.com/>

Students are required to complete responses on their own time. Students will be required to publish 8 to 10 responses each term.

PowerPoint Notes Each section covered in this course shall be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. Students may access these presentations online from coffinblog. Electronic copies may be made available upon request as well.

Wednesdays Once a week, the class will be held in the library so that students may use the time to research for ongoing activities and complete assigned work. This is a valuable day for students and it should not be missed.

GRADING

Students in Global Issues 621 will be assessed in the following manner for each term. Each term is worth 50% of the final grade:

Global Issues Tests:	(at the completion of each unit)	15 %
Global Issues Activities:	(homework, presentations, Maclean's activities, debates, discussions)	15 %
Global Issues Discussion:	(discussion responses, questions, and article responses)	10 %
Global Issues Examination:	(mid-term examination and final examination panel discussion)	10 %
