



COURSE NUMBER: UNIV 1985
Course Title: Thinking Globally: Here and Now
Semester and Year: Fall 2026
Day and Time: Mondays, 1:25 PM - 2:15 PM (EST)
Location: Online (apart from September 2 and December 16)
Mode/Format: Online/Synchronous

Instructor Information

Co-Facilitator: Professor Jane Gordon
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Office Hours/Availability: By request over Teams/in-person

Co-Facilitator: Dr Sarah Dorr
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Co-Facilitator: Dr Allison Casaly
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Office Hours/Availability: By request over Teams

Course Materials

All course readings and media will be available in HuskyCT. There are no required textbooks.

Course Description

What are the global challenges that are vital to understanding our contemporary world? This course explores six global debates from different academic and geographic perspectives: tyranny; contemporary social movements; food (in)security; world music; and sports diplomacy. Students will collectively select the final global debate to be discussed. To facilitate “thinking globally” students will engage with at least one resource per week that is published by a scholar based outside the United States and/or one international speaker. Students taking this course will be assigned a final grade of S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory). *No enrollment requirements.*

Structure

Meets one hour per week.

6 hours of online synchronous discussion with UCONN students led by Allison Casaly (Global Affairs), Sarah Dorr (International Studies Association), and Jane Gordon (Political Science/Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies). 6 hours of online virtual panels featuring guest speakers (TBD) in alternating weeks.

Weeks 2 through 12 consist of synchronous class meetings online. Week 1 (September 2) and Week 15 (December 16) are in-person class meetings.

Participation Requirements

Participants can miss up to two virtual sessions while still earning full credit. Students are required to participate in person for the capstone session. If participation in the in-person sessions presents a challenge, please let Allison, Jane, or Sarah know as soon as possible.

Weekly Time Commitment

Session preparation will take between 1 and 3 hours per week.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Examine a range of voices to become familiar with subjects relevant to informed, global citizenship.
2. Identify connections and divergence among disciplinary perspectives.¹
3. Contribute to structured and constructive dialogue on contemporary world issues.²
4. Develop team-building and decision-making skills by collaboratively determining our final topic. Students will have the opportunity to select the readings or organize the panel for the final two sessions.³

Course Requirements and Grading

Summary of Course Grading:

Students taking this course will be assigned a final grade of S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory).

To receive a grade of Satisfactory, 4 out of 6 one-page (double-spaced) reflections and 4 out of 6 question posts must be uploaded by the relevant 11:59 PM Monday deadline. Students must also create and deliver a 5-to-7-minute presentation on insights encountered and an action step for the final capstone session.

Since our aim is to foster a community of conversation through which we together explore global issues, our primary concern is attendance and active participation as the basis for earning credit. As such, credit will not be given for AI-generated posts and questions.

Extra Credit: If a student identifies a news article, podcast, or other resource of relevance to one of the central themes, they can post it on the HuskyCT Discussion Board for extra credit.

Missed and late assignment policy:

All course due dates are identified in the Course Schedule in HuskyCT. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. Emergencies or exceptional circumstances can be discussed.

The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated through HuskyCT Announcements. Please see assignment for late policies.

¹ This develops career competencies around [Critical Thinking](#).

² This develops career competencies around [Communication](#).

³ This develops career competencies around [Leadership](#).

Assignments:

In preparation for each Wednesday discussion, registrants are asked to read/watch/listen to two selected resources from a short list of recommended resources and submit a one-page (double-spaced) reflection to HuskyCT by 11:59p.m. on Monday. The entry should identify a central theme of interest and questions and ideas generated by it.

In preparation for each panel discussion, please post three questions to the Discussion Board on HuskyCT by 11:59p.m. on Monday. At least one of the questions should be addressed to the invited speakers panel over the course of the semester.

As a final assignment, students will author and share a presentation in the final capstone session communicating what they consider an important insight and an action step informed by it.

Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. Emergencies or exceptional circumstances can be discussed.

Course Calendar, Topic Outline, & Due Dates –

Dates	Module and Topics	Tasks	Tasks Due Date
September 2 (In-person, location TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does “thinking globally” mean to you? How is your (daily) life global? List of preparatory resources for Sept. 9 distributed Discuss Module 6 format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose two resources from the options listed for Module 1 to read/watch/listen. 	September 8, 11:59 PM (b/c of Labor Day)
September 9 (Online synchronous meeting)	Module 1: On Tyranny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion (Guiding questions TBD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post three questions on HuskyCT for the panelist discussion on Tyranny. Post at least one potential Module 6 theme to the Discussion Board 	September 14, 11:59 PM
September 16 (Online synchronous meeting)	Module 1: On Tyranny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Precious Chatterje-Doody, Open University (TBC); Boaventura De Sousa Santos (TBC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tyranny wrap-up: Submit one-page (double-spaced) reflection on reading and panel discussion to HuskyCT by 11:59p.m. on Monday. Choose two resources from the options listed for Module 2 to read/watch/listen. 	September 22, 11:59 PM (b/c of Yom Kippur)
September 23 (Online synchronous meeting)	Module 2: Contemporary Social Movements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion (Guiding questions TBD) Vote on Module 6 theme, students choose between identifying Module 6 resources or organizing Module 6 panel (selecting and contacting two speakers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post three questions for panelists to the Discussion Board on HuskyCT. <u>Students identifying Module 6 resources</u> post at least one resource to read/watch/listen to the Discussion Board. <u>Students identifying Module 6 panelists</u> post at least one panelist suggestion to the Discussion Board. 	September 28, 11:59 PM
September 30 (Online synchronous meeting)	Module 2: Contemporary Social Movements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essam Boreay, Cornell University (TBC); Leslie Wood (TBC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social movements wrap-up: Submit one-page (double-spaced) reflection on reading and panel to HuskyCT by 11:59p.m. on Monday. Choose two resources from the options listed for Module 3 to read/watch/listen. 	October 5, 11:59 PM

October 7 (Online synchronous meeting)	Module 3: Food (In)security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion (Guiding questions TBD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post three questions for panelists to the Discussion Board on HuskyCT. • <u>Students identify Module 6 resources</u> narrow the list of resources to 5. • <u>Students selecting Module 6 speakers</u> determine four who they will contact to invite. 	October 12, 11:59 PM
October 14 (Online synchronous meeting)	Module 3: Food (In)security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel, including:L • Jason Jacobowski, CEO CT Foodshare (TBC) • Natasha Behl, Arizona State University (TBC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food (In)security wrap-up: Submit one-page (double-spaced) reflection on reading and panel to HuskyCT by 11:59p.m. on Monday. • Choose two resources from the options listed for Module 4 to read/watch/listen. 	October 19, 11:59 PM
October 21 (Online synchronous meeting)	Module 4: World Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion (Guiding questions TBD) • Collect ideas for Module 6 topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post three questions for panelists to the Discussion Board on HuskyCT • <u>Students identifying Module 6 resources</u> share links with course instructors to post on HuskyCT. • <u>Students selecting Module 6 speakers</u> follow up with speakers to confirm participation. 	October 26, 11:59 PM
October 28 (Online synchronous meeting)	Module 4: World Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel, including: • Gideon Ampiere (TBC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Music wrap-up: Submit one-page (double-spaced) reflection on reading and panel to HuskyCT by 11:59p.m. on Monday. • Choose two resources from the options listed for Module 5 to read/watch/listen. 	November 2, 11:59 PM
November 4 (Online synchronous meeting)	Module 5: Sports Diplomacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion (Guiding questions TBD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post three questions for panelists to the Discussion Board on HuskyCT. • <u>Students identifying Module 6 resources</u> post at least one potential discussion question on HuskyCT. • <u>Students selecting Module 6 speakers</u> post a short (100 word) draft introduction of speaker to HuskyCT. 	November 9, 11:59 PM
November 18 (Online synchronous meeting)	Module 5: Sports Diplomacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel, including: • Zanela Denise Bajaraoas (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley) (TBC); Panelist 2 (TBC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports diplomacy wrap-up: Submit one-page (double-spaced) reflection on reading and panel to HuskyCT by 11:59p.m. on Monday • Choose two resources from the options listed for Module 6 to read/watch/listen. 	November 16, 11:59 PM
November 25	No meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy Thanksgiving! 	November 30, 11:59 PM
December 2 (Online synchronous meeting)	Module 6: Student-determined topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion (Guiding questions TBD) • <u>Students who identified Module 6 resources</u> lead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post three questions for panelists to the Discussion Board on HuskyCT. • Select presentation topic (optional meeting with Jane, Sarah, or Alison if helpful). 	December 7, 11:59 PM

	<p>discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review criteria for presentation 		
<p>December 9</p> <p>(Online synchronous meeting)</p>	<p>Module 6: Student-determined topic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who invited speakers introduce them and follow up with a thank you message Panel: Speakers (TBC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare 5-to-7 minute capstone presentation 	<p>December 14, 11:59 PM</p>
<p>December 16</p> <p>(In-person, location TBD)</p>	<p>In-Person Capstone Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anonymous course survey distributed. 	

Student authentication and verification:

The University of Connecticut is required to verify the identity of students who participate in online courses and to establish that students who register in an online course are the same students who participate in, complete the course activities and assessments, and receive academic credit. Verification and authentication of student identity in this course require secure access to the learning management system using your unique UConn NetID and password.

Students who do not complete the above required authentication steps may be denied access to the course and given an incomplete. Students could lose credit if the identity of the enrolled student completing course activities and assessments cannot be confirmed.

Resources/Policies

Academic Integrity

You are responsible for acting in accordance with the [University of Connecticut's Student Code](#). Review and become familiar with the expectations. In particular, make sure you have read the section that applies to you on Academic Integrity. Students in this course are expected to maintain the highest standards of intellectual honesty. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty (cheating or plagiarism), you should review UConn's code of conduct at <http://community.uconn.edu/the-student-code-appendix-a/> and consult with the instructor PRIOR to taking any questionable actions.

Avoiding Plagiarism: As a student, it is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism and meet University expectations related to [academic integrity](#). The University of Connecticut Library recommends the following resources for students to understand and avoid plagiarism:

[Understanding Plagiarism](#), a tutorial from UConn Library

[Citing Sources](#), a UConn guide to introduce citing MLA, APA styles and more

[Citation Machine](#), interactive citation tool for MLA and APA styles

[KnightCite](#), interactive citation tool for MLA, APA, and Chicago styles

[Assignment Calculator](#), interactive tool that provides a timeline for writing

[Research QuickStart](#), guidance on common questions and needs in the research process

[Research Now](#), guides to help you develop your research skills

Copyright: Copyrighted materials within the course are only for the use of students enrolled in the course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

Resources for Students Experiencing Distress

The University of Connecticut is committed to supporting students in their mental health, their psychological and social well-being, and their connection to their academic experience and overall wellness. The university believes that academic, personal, and professional development can flourish only when each member of our community is assured equitable access to mental health services. The university aims to make access to mental health attainable while fostering a community reflecting equity and diversity and understands that good mental health may lead to personal and professional growth, greater self-awareness, increased social engagement, enhanced academic success, and campus and community involvement.

Students who feel they may benefit from speaking with a mental health professional can find support and resources through the [Student Health and Wellness-Mental Health](#) (SHaW-MH) office. Through SHaW-MH, students can make an appointment with a mental health professional and engage in confidential conversations or seek recommendations or referrals for any mental health or psychological concern.

Mental health services are included as part of the university's student health insurance plan and also partially funded through university fees. If you do not have UConn's student health insurance plan, most major insurance plans are also accepted. Students can visit the Student Health and Wellness-Mental Health located in Storrs on the main campus in the Arjona Building, 4th Floor, or contact the office at (860) 486-4705, or <https://studenthealth.uconn.edu/> for services or questions.

Accommodations for Illness or Extended Absences

If illness prevents you from participating in class, it is your responsibility to notify me as soon as possible. If life circumstances are affecting your ability to focus on courses and your UConn experience, students can email the Dean of Students at dos@uconn.edu to request support.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, [\(860\) 486-2020](tel:8604862020) or <http://csd.uconn.edu/>.

Policy against Discrimination, Harassment, and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships

The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate Romantic relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. Refer to the [Policy against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships](#) for more information. To protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report assaults they witness or are told about to the [Office of Diversity & Equity](#) under the [Sexual Assault Response Policy](#). The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help. Refer to the [Sexual Assault Reporting Policy](#) for more information.