

INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL CULTURES
Integrated Liberal Studies 500-209
First Semester 2009-2010
Joe Elder

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to a few of the globe's rich varieties of cultures (e.g., Chinese, Central American, West Asian/North African, South African, Vietnamese, and Tibetan), illustrating how different the world appears when viewed from different perspectives. It examines what has happened when some of those cultures have encountered "the West." Many readings for this course were originally written in non-English languages (e.g., Arabic, Chinese, German, Hebrew, Spanish, etc.).

Attendance: Attendance will be taken at the discussion sections, and 12% of your final grade will depend upon discussion-section attendance and participation. Attendance and participation at 12 discussion sections will be considered full-attendance. Discussion sections begin immediately; they will not meet the 13th week (Thanksgiving week). One percentage point will be deducted from your final grade for every unexcused absence less than full-attendance. Points will also be deducted for non-participation. An excused absence is one for which you provide a written document (e.g., from a doctor) explaining why it is impossible for you to be present.

Reading-response papers: An additional 18% of your final grade will be based on your Reading-response papers. More-or-less every two weeks -- the due-weeks are marked on the Syllabus **RRP - due** (i.e., Reading-response paper due) -- you are to submit to your Teaching Assistant during your discussion section a 600-800-word Reading-response paper (totaling six Reading-response papers for the semester). Three percentage points will be deducted from your final grade for each Reading-response paper that is not turned in during the week it is due. Reading-response papers that do not meet the guidelines will also not count for 3% unless they are revised and resubmitted so that they meet the guidelines. Guidelines: Each Reading-response paper should (i) begin with one sentence/phrase/word/map-item/diagram **in bold font** that you found particularly noteworthy that you have selected from the lectures, books, or ILS 209 Readings assigned for those weeks. (ii) explain why you found it particularly noteworthy (feel free to draw on your own life experiences), (iii) show how it relates to (i.e., summarizes, supports, explains, challenges, contradicts, modifies, etc.) other materials in the course (lectures, readings, topics dealt with in your discussion section, etc.). At the top of each reading-response paper write your name, the source from which you selected your sentence, phrase, etc., and a number (one through six) identifying which of the six Reading-response papers this is. Reading-response papers are to be typed/word-processed, proofread, and spell-checked. You are encouraged to be creative.

Two Take-Home Exams: The first Take-Home exam will be handed out Sept. 28, due Oct. 14. The second will be handed out Nov. 16, due Dec. 14. The grading formula will be:

First Take-Home Exam	35%
Second Take-Home Exam	35%
Discussion Section Attendance	12%
Reading-Response Papers	<u>18%</u>
TOTAL	100%

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Lectures: 8:50-9:40 MW
Room 165 Bascom

Professor

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(call and leave information)
Hours: M 1-2, T 4-5, W 3:30-
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Global Cultures Certif. Adviser

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Discussion Sections

301	9:55W	B387 CHEM	309	11:00R	2341 ENGR
302	11:00W	2135 CHAMBERLAIN	310	12:05R	7115 WHITE
303	12:05W	2377 CHEM	311	1:20R	1190 GYM-NAT
304	1:20W	2355 ENGR HALL	312	2:25R	2108 MECH ENGR
305	2:25W	575 NOLAND	313	3:30R	1413 STERLING
306	3:30W	6125 SOC SCI	314	4:35R	7117 WHITE
307	4:35W	6177 SOC SCI	315	8:50R	7115 WHITE
308	9:55R	455 NOLAND	316	9:55W	342 NOLAND

Required Books

Borton, Lady, *After Sorrow: An American Among the Vietnamese*
Burgos-Debray, Elisabeth (ed.), *I, Rigoberta Menchu: An
Indian Woman in Guatemala*
Jicai, Feng, *The Three-Inch Golden Lotus*
Lama, Dalai, *Ethics for the New Millennium*
Salih, Tayeb, *Season of Migration to the North*
Collection of ILS 209 Readings from Bob's Copy Shop,
purple building corner of University Ave. & Randall St.

Bring books to class on days when they are to be discussed.

Some time early in the semester visit Meiklejohn House, the brown house on the corner of Johnson and Charter Streets, and look at the photographs of Alexander Meiklejohn and the Honors College -- intellectual predecessors of the Integrated Liberal Studies and Global Cultures programs.

Week 1

Sept. 2 Looking from Different Perspectives:
Maps, Gustav Vigeland's park in Oslo,
Edward Steichen's The Family of Man,
Peter Menzel's Global Family Portrait
Language: Ethnocentrism/Relativism

Assignment

Certificate in Global Cultures
"Seeing from Another Direction" (Diagram)
Cynthia S. Brown (ed.), Alexander Meiklejohn: Teacher of Freedom, "Building the
Experimental College"

Week 2

Sept. 9 Relative Concepts of "Ownership"

Assignment

R. Hudson, "The Great Issues (Grey Tissues)"
J. Culler, "Saussure's Theory of Language"
Joe Elder, "Language, Identity, and Cultural Superiority"
John Stuart Mill, Principles of Political Economy (excerpts)
Karl Marx, Pre-Capitalist Economic Formations, (excerpts)
Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party (excerpts)
Melford E. Spiro, "The Moral Postulates of Kibbutz Culture"

Week 3 (RRP #1 – due)

Sept. 14 Relative Theories of "History"
Sept. 16 Relative Theories of "Resistance"
Video: "India - Defying the Crown"

Assignment

Edward W. Said, "Knowing the Oriental"
Samuel P. Huntington, The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order, pp.
19-20, 301-312
James C. Scott, Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance, pp. xv-xix
Walter H. Conser, Jr. et al, "The American Independence Movement, 1765-1775: A
Decade of Nonviolent Struggles"
"Gandhi: The Applications of Non-Violence to Large-Scale and Small-Scale Struggles"
Ho Chi Minh, "Message to the Vietnamese People, the French People, and the Peoples of
the Allied Nations," "Message to Peasant Cadres"
"Special Report: The Srebrenice massacre: A chronicle of deaths foretold," The
Economist, July 9, 2005

Week 4 (RRP #2 – due)

Sept. 21 Relative Concepts of "Causation"
Sept. 23 Relative Concepts of "Religion"

Assignment

"Karl Marx: Quotations Regarding Religion"
"Religions of the World: Introductions," Jim McKinney
"The 'Golden Rule' as Stated in Different Religions"
Gary MacEoin, The People's Church: Bishop Samuel Ruiz of Mexico
Charles Kimball, When Religion Becomes Evil, pp. 15-33

Week 5

Sep. 28..... (*First Take-Home Exam handed out*) Relative Concepts of "Life Stages"
Sep. 30..... Relative Concepts of "Spirit/Body", "Suffering"/"Happiness"

Assignment

William Shakespeare, *Jaques*, "All the world's a stage..." As You Like It
Erik K. Erikson, "Eight Stages of Man"
Joseph Elder, "Varnasrama-dharma: Classical Views of Society"
Alex Wayman, "Varnasrama-dharma: Ends and Obligations of Man"
Henry Clarke Warren (tr.), "The Great Retirement [of Buddha]"

Week 6 (RRP #3 – due)

Oct. 5..... China's Cultural Backgrounds
Oct. 7..... China in the 20th/21st Centuries

Assignment

"Confucianism," "Confucius," The Columbia Encyclopedia, p. 625
BOOK: Jicai, Feng (note: In Chinese his names are reversed; Feng is his family name),
The Three-Inch Golden Lotus

Week 7

Oct. 12..... The 1995 Beijing World Conference on Women
Oct. 14..... Is There a Global "Women's Culture?"
(First Take-Home Exam due at start of class)

Assignment

Margaret Strobel and Marjorie Bingham, "The Theory and Practice of Women's History
and Gender History in Global Perspective," pp. 20-46
"Ten-year review of 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women..."
"Religion and Women: An Agenda for Change," March 3, 2004

Week 8

- Oct. 19.....Spain, Portugal, and the "New World"
Oct. 21.....History and Legends of "Indigenous People"

Assignment

Christopher Columbus, "From a Letter to Gabriel Sanchez"
Howard Zinn, "Columbus, the Indians, and Human Progress"
Adelaida R. Del Castillo, "Malintzin Tenepal: A Preliminary Look into a New Perspective"
"Rigoberto Menchu" (1992 Nobel Peace Prize Winner)
Carmen Tafolla, "La Malinche"
BOOK: Burgos-Debray, Elisabeth (ed.), *I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*, chaps. 1,6,14,19-21,25-34
"Rigoberta Menchu" (1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner)
Jan Rus, "Introduction," *IF TRUTH BE TOLD, A Forum on David Stoll's Rigoberta Menchu and the Story of All Poor Guatemalans*
Mara Loveman, "High-Risk Collective Action: Defending Human Rights in Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina"

Week 9 (RRP #4 – due)

- Oct. 26.....Islam and the Muslim Heritage
Oct. 28.....Multiple Cultures of Muslims

Assignment

"The Growth of the Ottoman Empire. 1299-1672" (map)
"World Distribution of Muslims" (map)
John A. Williams, "The Origin and Spread of Islam," "Islamic Doctrine, Thought, Law"
Eknath Easwaran, A Man to Match His Mountains: Badshah Khan, Nonviolent Soldier of Islam (excerpts)
Mohammad Hossein Panahi (transl.), "Excerpts from Messages and Interviews of Ayatollah Khomeini,"
Ameer Ali, "Globalization and Greed: A Muslim Perspective"

Week 10

- Nov. 2.....West Asia/North Africa: Ebb and Flow of Conflict and Compassion
Nov. 4.....West Asia/North Africa: Ebb and Flow of Conflict and Compassion

Assignment

BOOK: Salih, Tayeb, Season of Migration to the North
Ghassan Kanafani, "The Land of Sad Oranges" (plus Map)
"Suicide Bomber"
Juan Cole, "Informed Comments: Thoughts on the Middle East..."
Osama bin Laden, "... call on every Muslim..." "As you kill, you shall be killed."
"Muslim Clerics Say Attacks on US are Un-Islamic"
"Full Transcript of bin Ladin's Speech" [Oct. 30, 2004]

Week 11 (RRP #5 – due)

- Nov. 9 Multiple Diversities of Africa
- Nov. 11 Africa and the Media

Assignment

- "Would You Believe?" (map)
- "Africa: Ancient Kingdoms" (map)
- "Africa after the First World War" (map)
- "Africa and its Neighbors" (map)
- "Outline Map of Africa" (map)
- "The Two Brothers" (Egypt)
- "The Fifi Bird" (Mbuti)
- Jo Ellen Fair, "War, Famine, and Poverty: Race in the Construction of Africa's Media Image"
- Catherine Lutz and Jane Collins, "Reading *National Geographic*: The Making of National Identity in Popular Photography"

Week 12

- Nov. 16 The De-con-struction of Apartheid in South Africa
(Second Take-Home Exam handed out)
Video - South Africa: Freedom in Our Lifetime
- Nov. 18 South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission
Video: Facing the Truth

Assignment

- "Facts About the Region," South Africa, Lesotho & Swaziland, pp. 15-33
- "South Africa," Encyclopedia Year Book 1997, pp. 457-459
- Frederick Cooper, Africa Since 1940: The Past and the Present, pp. 191-204

Week 13 (RRP #6 – due)

- Nov. 23 Vietnam's histories and cultures
- Nov. 25 Vietnam after 1989

Assignment

- "Colonial Empires in Asia" (map)
- "Facts About Vietnam - History," Vietnam, pp. 11, 19-35
- BOOK: Borton, Lady, After Sorrow: An American Among the Vietnamese, 3-132

Week 14

- Nov. 30 Tibet's histories and cultures
- Dec. 2 The Dalai Lama's Approach to Ethics
Video: The Dalai Lama

Assignment

- "Tibet, Tibetan art and architecture, Tibetan Buddhism, Tibetan Language," The Columbia Encyclopedia, pp. 2744-2745
- Melvyn C. Goldstein, A History of Modern Tibet, 1913-1951: The Demise of the Lamaist State, pp. xxvi, xxvii, 815-825
- BOOK: Lama, Dalai, Ethics for the New Millennium, pp. xi-77, 161-171, 201-237

Week 15

- Dec. 7 Constructing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Dec. 9 Beyond the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Assignment

"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights"

Joe Elder, "Constructing/Enforcing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"

Barbara Crossette, "Midway to the Goals, the UN and The World Bank are Hopeful, But See Disturbing Signs."

Michael Kraig, "Taking Steps Toward a Responsibility to Protect"

L2PCS Listserv, "Responsibility to Protect - Engaging in Civil Society"

Week 16

- Dec. 14 *Second Take-Home Exam due during class period*