

## **ARTSSCI 1C06: Inquiry: Global Challenges**

2015-16, Term I

*NOTE: The course outline for Term II will be available at the start of that term*

Class Times:

Monday 3:30 – 4:20 p.m. BSB 119

Thursday 2:30 – 4:20 p.m. BSB 119

Instructor: Dr. Diane Enns

Department of Philosophy

ennsd@mcmaster.ca

x 27529

Office Hours: Thursdays 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. (or by appointment)

University Hall (UH) 318

### **1C06 Course Description and Objectives:**

In this course the world will be our unit of analysis. We will investigate some of the most vexing economic, environmental and sociopolitical challenges affecting us today at the global level. We will not ignore the local manifestations of such challenges, but our focus will be on those regions of the world that experience the worst effects of global capitalism, patriarchy, colonialism, imperialism and environmental exploitation.

Our approach will be interdisciplinary, with attention to both theoretical frameworks and empirical actualities. Through in depth readings of historical and contemporary texts, and with the help of films, guest speakers, discussions, and student research projects, we will introduce students to the causes and effects of these global challenges and consider a range of responses on the part of institutions, governments, and grassroots organizations. We will examine these challenges in the context of a world profoundly altered in recent decades by globalization and technology.

"Global Challenges" will be taught as an inquiry course, which means that students will be expected to formulate their own questions about the themes and issues presented in the course, and let these questions guide their learning process through written assignments and research projects.

### **Term I Description:**

The first term will begin with the question: what does it mean to inquire? The term "inquiry" is normally defined as an examination of facts or principles, a request for information or a systematic investigation, often of a matter of public interest—in other words, inquiry is research. But when we are investigating an injustice, research is not only a matter of collecting facts and examining them passively and dispassionately. We start with curiosity, the desire to understand, and a need to rectify the problem. We proceed with the work of interpretation, analysis, and evaluation. This work requires thinking and making judgments about the world around us, challenging the status quo and the powerful mechanisms of thought and practice that uphold it. Only then can we address the injustices of the world. But thinking is beset with obstacles and temptations before it even informs action—from the tendency to oversimplify, to the lure of orthodoxy and the resistance to truth. We will discuss *how* to engage in inquiry before introducing the root causes and global effects of the challenges we face as a species. Readings will introduce us to concrete examples of the effects of exploitation, violence, and domination in various regions of the world.

### **Required Texts:**

Katherine Boo, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, And Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*  
Plato, *Apology*  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*  
Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*  
Courseware

### **Assignments:**

Final exam = 40%

Three hour final exam with short answer and essay questions covering the material (lectures and readings) from the entire course.

Book review, due in class October 8, (1200-1500 words) = 20%

A critical review of *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, by Katherine Boo. This is not a summary of the text but a discussion/evaluation of one particular theme presented in the book.

Research essay and proposal = 40%

1) Research proposal, due in class November 9 (1-2 pp) = 10%

The proposal must include a clear research question, a brief overview of the scholarly works consulted for the project, and an outline of the final assignment.

2) Research assignment, due in class December 3 (2400-3000 w) = 30%

Students will investigate and analyze a specific case of a person or group affected by one of the global challenges discussed in this course (injustice or inequality caused by global capitalism, patriarchy, colonialism, imperialism or environmental exploitation).

Late submissions will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day (including weekends). Assignments submitted after class on the due date will be counted as one day late.

### **Class Schedule**

wk 1 SEPT 10: Introduction

2 SEPT 14:  
Jean Améry, "Torture" (courseware)

SEPT 17:  
Plato, *Apology*

3 SEPT 21:  
Hannah Arendt, "The Answer of Socrates" (courseware)

SEPT 24:  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*, "Question" and Part I, pp. 16-44

4 SEPT 28:  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*, Part II, pp. 44-71

OCT 1:  
Friedrich Engels, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, Part III, "Historical Materialism"  
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/ch03.htm>

5 OCT 5:  
Karl Marx, "Estranged Labor"

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/manuscripts/labour.htm>

OCT 8:

Jan Aart Scholte, *Globalization: A Critical Introduction*, (courseware)

\* Book review due, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*

OCT 12-17: RECESS

6 OCT 19:

Aihwa Ong, "Neoliberalism as Exception; Exception to Neoliberalism" (courseware)

OCT 22:

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

7 OCT 26:

Woolf, cont.

OCT 29: Visit to library for research workshop

8 NOV 2

Simone de Beauvoir, "Introduction," *The Second Sex* (courseware)

NOV 5:

Janie Leatherman, "Sexual Violence and the Global Political Economy of War" (courseware)

9 NOV 9:

Mary Nyangweso Wangila, "Beyond Facts to Reality: Confronting the Situation of Women in 'Female Circumcising' Communities" (courseware)

\*Research proposal due

NOV 12:

Frantz Fanon, "The Fact of Blackness" (courseware)

10 NOV 16:

Ronald Niezen, "The Politics of Suicide" (courseware)

NOV 19:

Mary Kaldor, "Human Security" (courseware)

11 NOV 23:

Manuela Bojadzijeve and Isabelle Saint-Saens, "Borders, Citizenship, War, Class: A Discussion with Etienne Balibar and Sandro Mezzadra" (courseware)

NOV 26:

Intergovernmental panel on climate change, report 2014

[http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WG2AR5\\_SPM\\_FINAL.pdf](http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WG2AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf)

12 NOV 30:

Doug Guthrie, "Pollution, Energy Consumption and Renewable Energy" (courseware)

DEC 3:

Group discussions of research assignment

\*Research assignment due

13      DEC 7:  
Final exam review

Final exam during scheduled exam period

### **McMaster Policies:**

#### *McMaster Policy on Academic Integrity:*

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences—e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1) Plagiarism—e.g., the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2) Improper collaboration in group work. 3) Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

#### *McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF):*

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.” Please also see the MSAF statement on our website (<http://arts.mcmaster.ca/forms-requests/>) and direct any questions or concerns to Shelley Anderson or Rebecca Bishop in the Arts & Science Program Office as appropriate.

#### *Email Contact and Student Responsibility Statement:*

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of students to check **their McMaster email** and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes. Announcements will be made in class and by using the course email distribution list.

#### *Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities:*

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or email [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

#### *Sustainable Written Work Submission Guidelines*

The written work submission guidelines have been chosen to support the more sustainable use of paper, energy, and toner, and meet the Gold standard of the Office of Sustainability [www.mcmaster.ca/sustainability](http://www.mcmaster.ca/sustainability). All written work should be submitted without a title page, using 11 pt. font and 1.5 line spacing. When possible, print double-sided.