GLS 102 First-Year Seminars

GLS 102.1: Jihadis at McDonald's: a Crash Course in Globalization
Meeting Pattern: W 2:20PM-4:20PM
Location: Center for Global Studies and Human Development C109
Note: This class meets for 2 hours a week for the first 7 weeks of the semester.

Based on the book "Globalization: A Very Short Introduction" by Manfred B. Steger (Oxford U.P. 2009), we'll explore the meaning of 'globalization' in five perspectives: economic, political, cultural, ecological and ideological. You will contribute maps, data, biographies and other information (readily accessible on internet) to enrich our weekly discussions centered on chapters of the book.
Requirements: studying the assigned chapters before class; well-informed in-class participation; volunteering pertinent contributions from your life experiences; one three-page book review at the end of term.

Allegra de Laurentiis, Philosophy
I have studied philosophy in Italy and Germany before moving to the U.S. I specialize in nineteenth century European philosophy (especially Hegel and Marx) and in ancient Greek philosophy (especially Aristotle). In my undergraduate classes, however, I teach a much wider range of topics from the history of Western philosophy, and I am particularly interested in the history of political thought.

GLS 102.2: Jihadis at McDonald's: a Crash Course in Globalization
Meeting Pattern: W 5:20PM-7:20PM
Location: Center for Global Studies and Human Development C109
Note: This class meets for 2 hours a week for the first 7 weeks of the semester.

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GLS 102 First-Year Seminars

GLS 102.3: Freedom in Asian Thought
Meeting Pattern: TH 5:20PM-6:15PM
Location: Humanities 1049

Freedom is probably the single value that Americans hold most dear. But although politicians and pundits often talk about America as the “land of the free,” few of them spend time reflecting on what freedom means. Is it the ability to make as much money as you want? The government not being allowed to tell you what you should do? In this seminar we will take a comparative approach to the concept of freedom. How has freedom been defined by religious and political thinkers in Chinese, Indian, and Islamic traditions? Does this differ from concepts of freedom developed in Europe and North America since the 17th century? Is it possible that some types of freedom are overrated? Through reflection on these sorts of questions, students will clarify for themselves their own values, and how they might pursue a well-lived life.

Andrew Nicholson, Asian and Asian American Studies
Andrew J. Nicholson is a specialist in Asian and comparative philosophy. He holds degrees in Religious Studies (M.A., University of Chicago), Philosophy (M.A., DePaul University), and South Asian Languages and Civilizations (Ph.D., University of Chicago). He has also studied Sanskrit, Hindi, Indian philosophy, and yoga with teachers in India. Professor Nicholson joined the Stony Brook University Department of Asian and Asian American Studies in 2006. His first book, Unifying Hinduism: Philosophy and Identity in Indian Intellectual History, was published by Columbia University Press in 2010.

GLS 102.4: The Languages We Use at Home
Meeting Pattern: W 9:35AM-10:30AM
Location: Humanities 1043

Do you speak or hear a language other than English at home? Do you know of someone who does? Does using a home language delight, enrich, comfort, embarrass or annoy you? Should immigrant languages be maintained? Is the loss of ethnic languages part of the price to be paid for becoming American? What roles do home languages play in families and communities? In what ways can home languages become valuable national resources? This course explores an ecological vision of home languages in the U.S.

Agnes Weiyun He, Asian and Asian American Studies
Professor He has been conducting research on heritage language development for the past ten years. Her most recent publication is “Chinese as a Heritage Language: Fostering Rooted World Citizenship” (co-edited with Yun Xiao, University of Hawaii Press, 2008).
GLS 102 First-Year Seminars

GLS 102.5: Latin American Feminist Writers
Meeting Pattern: TH 11:20AM-12:15PM
Location: Library S1410D

This section of GLS 102 will introduce students to several feminist writers from Latin America. Although feminism is generally considered a European and American phenomenon, feminist writers, organizations, and movements have been significant within many Latin American countries. For the purposes of this seminar, we will focus on Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil.

Ritch Calvin,  
*Women’s and Gender Studies*
Ritch Calvin teaches in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program. His areas of research and publication interest include Latin American and Latina literature and culture, feminist science fiction, and representations of women in U.S. popular culture.

GLS 102.6: Immigration on Film
Meeting Pattern: M 2:20PM-4:10PM
Location: Staller 3002
*Note: This class meets for 2 hours a week for the first 7 weeks of the semester.*

Immigration is both the foundation on which this country was built and one of the more divisive issues facing the country. This course will look at these issues using films such as The Visitor, Pow Wow Highway, Crash and others.

John Lutterbie,  
*Theatre Arts*
Has been teaching Theatre at Stony Brook University for twenty years. Specializes in history of performance art and the philosophy of theatre.
GLS 102 First-Year Seminars

GLS 102.7: Survey of Environmental Economic Issues
Meeting Pattern: M 9:35AM-10:30AM
Location: Library N3090

This course will exam current issues involving production and consumption decision individuals and society make with concern related to environment quality.

Arlene Cassidy, Sustainability Studies
Arlene Kons Cassidy received her bachelor’s degree in Applied and Theoretical Mathematics and a master's degree in Economics from Stony Brook. She completed her Ph.D. in Administration/Management with a concentration in Economics and Mathematics at Walden University. Dr. Cassidy has several years experience teaching a variety of economics, mathematics and business courses for undergraduate as well as graduate students. She has mentored Ph.D. students and has worked as a consultant in varied research design and statistical analysis projects. She has also served on several committees involving academic evaluation and program development, organized and chaired student activities and worked with student advisement. Through her years in education, she has received several awards from students, educational institutions and the community.

GLS 102.8: Russia Through Foreign Eyes
Meeting Pattern: M 9:35AM-11:35AM
Location: Humanities 1057
Note: This class meets for 2 hours a week for the first 7 weeks of the semester.

“Russia Through Foreign Eyes” invites students on a journey to Russia alongside some renowned non-Russian travel writers. The texts, photographs, and short documentary films analyzed in the seminar will lead to broader questions of representation as well as to a discussion of what the constituent elements of Russia’s representation are and whether we can see elements of a stereotype emerge from them.

Izabela Kalinowska Blackwood, European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
GLS 102 First-Year Seminars

GLS 102.9: Global Geography
Meeting Pattern: F 10:40AM-11:35AM
Location: Library C1640B

The course is designed to engage students, even with low geo-literacy skills, in discovering how geography matters in interpreting local and global problems. Within a group of their choice, students will use concepts, basic visualization tools, and online geographic information they find, to better interpret both local and global problems. Students will display maps in Google Earth, create local maps of their neighborhoods, and create a simple regional map that addresses the global challenge of their choice using geographic information system software.

Cynthia Dietz, Library
Cynthia Dietz, Science/Map Librarian, curates Stony Brook’s Map collection, facilitates geographic literacy and Geographic Information System (GIS) efforts on campus, and provides subject expertise for Geosciences and the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. Having studied GIS, Marine Environmental Science, Library and Information Science, and Economics, she has a passion for helping others understand their place in the world through maps, data and imagery.

GLS 102.10: Mapping Immigrant Identities
Meeting Pattern: W 10:40AM-11:35AM
Location: Library N3090

This reading/discussion course addresses the realities of the post-World War II immigrants to the United States in their attempts at creating their own identities in the U.S. maelstrom. As more and more Third World people continue to migrate to the United States, issues that pertain to transnational migration, globalization, ethnic group formation, and the politics of citizenship will continue to be among the most provocative areas of social sciences and humanities research. Therefore, this course is designed to provide the students with a thematic overview of the recent history of these immigrants. For, as globalization and its concomitant effects take the center stage of world events and as they continue to provoke the displacement of people from their homeland, there emerges the need to study and analyze the strategies the immigrants use to adapt to their new milieu.

Georges Fouron, Africana Studies
Georges Eugene Fouron, a native of Haiti, is Professor of Education and Social Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His research focus is transnationalism and its effects as experienced by Haitians in Haiti and those of the Haitian Diaspora. His latest book, authored with Nina Glick Schiller, Georges Woke up Laughing: Long-Distance Nationalism and the Search for Home, was published by Duke University Press in 2001. His latest manuscript, Haiti’s Migratory Streams at the Crossroads of Global Capitalism and the Politics of Competing Empires, is under review by Penn State Press.
GLS 102 First-Year Seminars

GLS 102.11: Critical Issues in International Relations
Meeting Pattern: TU 2:20PM-4:20PM
Location: Humanities 1043
Note: This class meets for 2 hours a week for the first 7 weeks of the semester.

This seminar will address itself to a critical examination of certain key issues in international relations that have defied solution over the years such as terrorism, ethnic cleansing, nuclear proliferation, the Arab-Israeli conflict etc. The issues will be identified by the seminar participants themselves, with the instructor providing guidance for discussion & debate.

Harsh Bhasin, Asian & Asian-American Studies
I am a Visiting Professor of International Relations at Stony Brook and currently serve as Chair of the Department of Asian & Asian-American Studies. Before joining Stony Brook, I served as a career diplomat with nearly four-decades of field experience in Asia, America and Africa. My work and interests center on the role of diplomacy in the conduct of foreign affairs. I currently teach upper-level undergraduate courses on the politics and diplomacy of Contemporary India and of Contemporary China and have recently authored a book on the emerging relationship between the US, China & India in the 21st Century.

GLS 102.12: How to Cool the Planet (and Do We Need to Do It)
Meeting Pattern: TU 2:20PM-3:15PM
Location: Center for Science and Society 103 (Roth Café)

In this class we will discuss the evidence for global warming, the impact global warming is likely to have on the environment, and a variety of engineering solutions which have been proposed. This class is open to both GLS and SSO students, as solutions require both scientific and social/political innovation. We will read the book “How to cool the planet: Geoengineering and the audacious quest to fix Earth’s climate” by Jeff Goodell.

Mary Scranton, SoMAS
Mary Scranton is Professor and Undergraduate Director for the Environmental Studies, Marine Sciences, Marine Vertebrate Biology and Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences majors. She is a marine chemist by training and is interested in was to solve environmental problems.
GLS 102 First-Year Seminars

**GLS 102.13: What in the World Should We Do with Radioactive Wastes?**
Meeting Pattern: TU 9:50AM-11:50AM
Location: Library N3090
Note: This class meets for 2 hours a week for the first 7 weeks of the semester.

The build-up of radioactive wastes around the world has posed enormous environmental challenges to both developed and developing nations. This course will consider the many societal, technological, toxicological, and political problems associated with this issue and explore possible solutions.

**Nicholas Fisher, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences**
Nicholas Fisher is a Distinguished Professor of Marine Sciences at Stony Brook. His research concentrates on aquatic pollution matters.

**GLS 102.14: Exploring the Music of Bob Dylan**
Meeting Pattern: W 9:35AM-11:35AM
Location: Library S1410D
Note: This class meets for 2 hours a week for the first 7 weeks of the semester.

Bob Dylan has produced one of the most influential bodies of work in music and writing since the 1960’s. His work has changed music and has influenced how millions of people think and arguably will continue to do so. In this course, students will be introduced to his major works and learn about the influences of key individuals and societal changes that shaped Dylan’s work.

**Nicholas Fisher, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences**
Nicholas Fisher is a Distinguished Professor of Marine Sciences at Stony Brook, and a life-long fan of Bob Dylan.
How do you know what the weight, or length, or temperature of something really is? Do you assume that there is some unchanging thing somewhere, and that some utterly trustworthy person uses some absolutely reliable instrument to make comparisons? In truth, there are only networks. These networks are global, pretty much invisible, depend on circles of trust, are always changing, and govern everything from international trade and agreements to postal meters and bathroom scales. This course is about those units of measurement, and the networks to which they belong. Each student will select a unit of measure, describe how it was developed and named, and how it is measured or "checked," if at all. Is there a standard? And what ambiguities or uncertainties does it have in use, if any? To what "networks" does it belong?

Robert Crease, Philosophy
Robert P. Crease is Chairman and Professor of the Philosophy Department. He is the organizer of the Trust Institute at Stony Brook, which presents interdisciplinary programs about contemporary issues. His articles and reviews have appeared in The Atlantic Monthly, The New York Times Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, Newsday and elsewhere. He writes a monthly column, “Critical Point,” on the social dimensions of science for Physics World magazine.

Oleg Smirnov, Political Science
Oleg Smirnov is an assistant professor of political science at Stony Brook University. His research and teaching interests include computational modeling, international security and political economy, formal theory, and behavioral economics. He is currently working on an NSF-funded computational model of international security and political economy consequences of climate change based upon the Community Earth System Model (CESM).
This course offers an examination of the collision of science and politics in the context of global climate change. A preponderance of data accumulated through peer-reviewed science by thousands of qualified and distinguished researchers worldwide offers a sobering picture of melting glaciers, rising seas, and profound changes for economic and social stability. A powerful climate-change-denial constituency has arisen from the oil, coal, and public utility industries among others. What are they doing to inform, or misinform the public? What are the consequences of these developments?

Jim Quigley, *Sustainability Studies Program*
Jim Quigley's professional and academic discipline is urban and regional planning, environmental policy and energy management. He is the faculty Director for the Environmental Design, Policy and Planning (EDP) major. Quigley served as Director of the Center for Sustainable Energy at Bronx Community College, CUNY from 2003 to 2007, and Director of the New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability from 1998 to 2002. He also taught environmental studies at Ramapo College of New Jersey and Portland State University in Oregon. During the 1990s he worked as a researcher at the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems headed by the ecologist Barry Commoner. Quigley was in the Peace Corps 1977-80 and later earned his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania.

This seminar will introduce students to the possibilities of using satellite imagery to trace change over time. Students will first choose a topic—be it sea level rise, oil slick spread, urban sprawl, retreat of ice, deforestation or any other topic that they want to study, and a place to do this, using Google Earth. They will then be shown how to find and download free satellite imagery for their areas and finally how to map the changes that they see. This course is designed to provide students with a very introductory taste of the power of remote sensing (i.e. satellite imagery) and GIS (i.e. computerized mapping) to investigate broad scale change.

Liz Stone, *Anthropology*
Elizabeth Stone is an archaeologist whose research focuses on the early civilizations of the Near East. She has used satellite imagery to identify the locations of extinct rivers, trace looting of archaeological sites in Iraq after the 2003 war and, now, recover the plans of ancient cities, towns and villages. She is the instructor of a 400-level course in this subject.
Although archaeology might seem to be harmless and irrelevant to the modern world, particularly when dealing with the remote past, it actually figures prominently in politics at many levels. This seminar will consider several case studies of how archaeology has shaped recent debates about national identity, human nature, and public policy; as well as how positions in those debates have influenced the way that archaeologists go about their business. The issues will include antiquities in Iraq, the fate of Kennewick Man, the creation of modern Turkey, and the boundaries of Israel.

Paul Zimansky, History
Paul Zimansky is an archaeologist who has excavated and directed projects at sites in Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey. He has published several books on the Iron Age civilization of ancient Ararat (Urartu) and is the co-author of Ancient Turkey (Routledge, 2009). His other interests include early imperialism and ancient writing systems. He joined Stony Brook’s History Department as Professor of Archaeology and Ancient History in 2006.

Kamazima Lwiza, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
I am a marine physicist. I study ocean processes that affect transport (e.g., currents and tides) and density distribution (e.g., mixing and heat balance). My research interests are climate change, structure and dynamics of the coastal seas, and remote sensing. I design field experiments to observe these processes by incorporating modern technology, with a particular emphasis on the acoustic Doppler current profiler (ADCP), GPS-tracked Lagrangian drifters, and ocean gliders, and satellites.
GLS 102 First-Year Seminars

GLS 102.21: Literature from Indonesia and Vietnam
Meeting Pattern: TU 11:20AM-12:15PM
Location: Center for Global Studies and Human Development C109

To get to know more about countries most of us know too little about, we will read, discuss, and write about two books in this seminar, Pramoedya Toer's This Earth of Mankind (Indonesian) and Le Ly Hayslip's When Heaven and Earth Changed Places (Vietnamese).

Gene Hammond, Writing and Rhetoric
Professor Hammond is Director of the Writing Program at Stony Brook and has taught at Yale University, at the University of Maryland, and for Semester at Sea, a University of Virginia ship on which classes are conducted while the ship travels around the world. He is the author of the textbook Thoughtful Writing and is this year publishing a biography of Jonathan Swift.

GLS 102.22: Myths and Legends of North America and Mesoamerica
Meeting Pattern: W 11:45AM-12:40PM
Location: Social and Behavioral Sciences N501

This course explores Mesoamerican and North American indigenous culture through an anthropological study of Native oral traditions.

Madeline del Toro Cherney, Anthropology
I am a Latin Americanist anthropologist interested in finding an intellectual link between ancient Indigenous American cultures and contemporary society. The focus of my studies are centered on Native literature and artistic expressions both ancient and postmodern.
GLS 102 First-Year Seminars

GLS 102.23: History of Modern Occupation of Western Asia (The Middle East)
Meeting Pattern: M 11:45AM-12:40PM
Location: Humanities 1043

The seminar will be discuss the history of the occupation of the Middle East, starting just after the WWI until the time being, and will include all the states in that part of the world including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Palestine/Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq, with more concentration on Iraq because it is an on-going subject until now.

Donny Youkhanna, Asian and Asian American Studies
I have a PhD in Archaeology from the University of Baghdad, Iraq, worked in Iraq, my home country for over 30 years, became the director of the Iraq National Museum 2003-2005, the chairman of the Iraqi state board of antiquities and heritage, a lecturing professor at the department of archaeology, and department of architecture in the university of Baghdad, and in Babylon College for theology and philosophy in Baghdad. Published two books, and a large number of articles in archaeology and the preservation of Cultural Heritage.

GLS 102.24: Global Games
Meeting Pattern: F 10:40AM-12:40PM
Location: Harriman 243
Note: This class meets for 2 hours a week for the first 7 weeks of the semester.

This seminar, for first-year students in the Undergraduate College of Global Studies, is about international games, game theory, and global politics. The mathematician John von Neumann (1903-1957) and the economist Oskar Morgenstern (1902-1977) in their revolutionary book Theory of Games and Economic Behavior (1944) argued that economics and social behavior “when they are examined by the methods of modern mathematics...are strictly identical with—not merely analogous to—games of strategy.” This seminal work gave birth to game theory. In this course you’ll be invite to enjoy (and to share) with others a variety of international games—simple games such as tic-tac-toe generalized to four dimensions or quantum mechanical variations as well as more complex games like Western chess (played with partners, known as “Siamese chess” or “bug house”, Chinese chess, and Go and Go-mo-ku. We will explore how these games, besides their obvious recreational values, through the basic concepts of game theory, can give us insight into selfish accounts of altruism and the logic behind the seemingly irrational realm of global politics.

Gary Mar, Philosophy
Gary Mar specializes in Logic, Philosophy of Mathematics, Analytic Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, and Asian American Philosophy. He is co-author with Donald Kalish and Richard Montague of the classic logic text Logic: Techniques of Formal Reasoning (2nd ed. OUP, 1980) and co-author of The Philosophical Computer (MIT, 1991). His research on fractal images in the semantics of paradox was discussed in Scientific American (Feb. 1993), presented at the historic Kurt Gödel Centenary Symposium, University of Vienna in April 2006, and published in the memorial volume in honor of the great 20th century logician Alonzo Church. His work on the “evolution of cooperation” was presented in Evolutionary Origins of Morality: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives (Academic, 2000).
GLS 102 First-Year Seminars

GLS 102.25: The Climate Debate
Meeting Pattern: TU 12:50PM-1:45PM
Location: Center for Science and Society 103 (Roth Café)

Opposing views of global climate change are contrasted in this course. Is the current pattern of global change a harbinger of great danger for humanity? Is it driven by human activity or is it a natural fluctuation? Do benefits of climate change outweigh the damage? These questions are explored by the students with their own analyses of climate data. Students will be guided in statistical analyses of data on temperature, precipitation, sea level and other climate variables using Excel.

Sultan Hameed, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
I am a professor in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook. My research interests are in investigating the nature and causes of climate change in different parts of the world.

GLS 102.26: The Curse of Impunity: East Timor and the History of Unpunished Atrocities
Meeting Pattern: TU 9:50AM-11:50AM
Location: Library S1410D
Note: This class meets for 2 hours a week for the first 7 weeks of the semester.

We will take a look at the illegal invasion of East Timor by Indonesia in 1975, the subsequent brutal occupation, the eviction of the Indonesian military in 1999, and the years of effort, so far fruitless, to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice. We will then consider other cases of human rights violations, in particular aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, and deal with efforts of the international community to prevent and punish these actions which often take cover behind the principle of state sovereignty. We will debate the role of the United Nations, the possibility of humanitarian intervention, and the prospects of the newly-established International Criminal Court when confronted with Great Power realpolitik.

Jakob Schmidt, Biochemistry and Cell Biology
After education and training at the University of Munich, the University of California Riverside, and the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena I pursued a career in biochemistry and neurobiology at SUSB. I have taught Freshman Seminars on science and public policy and on Third World development with emphasis on East Timor. I have been a member of the East Timor and Indonesia Action Network since 1999.
GLS 102.27: Global Issues in Public Health
Meeting Pattern: M 5:20PM-7:20PM
Location: Center for Global Studies and Human
Development C109
Note: This class meets for 2 hours a week for the first 7 weeks of the semester.

In this course we will examine global issues in public health, including maternal morbidity and mortality, HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, child health and anti-poverty programs, infectious diseases, and water supply and health. Students will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss current events related to these issues, perform weekly reading assignments, and write a short paper on a global health topic of their choice at the end of the term.

Tia Palermo, Preventive Medicine
Tia Palermo teaches in the Graduate Program in Public Health, where she conducts research on issues related to maternal and child health in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. Formerly, she was a Research and Evaluation Associate at Ipas, an international NGO that works to decrease maternal morbidity and mortality in developing countries. She has also worked and consulted for other NGOs and international organizations, including UNICEF, World Bank, Population Council, and Family Care International.