

CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES

(PCS 822) - CHs: 3.0

1. **Course objectives:** Human beings and nations have always been facing new issues/challenges from time to time. In today's world, we have seen the so-called Arab Spring and its impacts on nations like Syria and Egypt. We have also seen an increase in youth activism e.g. protests on the sidelines of the FIFA World Cup held in Brazil. In addition, there are serious ongoing challenges in the form of poverty, transnational crimes, climate change, and certain diseases like HIV/AIDS. On one hand some of these challenges create tensions among nations but on the other hand, they also create opportunities amongst nations. This interdisciplinary course seeks to explore contemporary global issues. It provides an in-depth understanding of themes related to social, political, economic, and cultural processes; global linkages/interdependencies; and power relations that connect individuals, communities, groups, states, and regions across the globe. It examines the values and vision emerging from regional perspectives that lead to conflict and/or cooperation in the international system. It contrasts the increasingly complex problems faced by different regions with the growing integration of the global economy.

2. **Outcomes:** Students should be able to

- a. Analyze and discuss the major problems facing the world today, including problems related to environment, population growth, human rights, security, economic development, and trade.
- b. Critically assess the merits of competing arguments concerning these issues.

3. **Contents**

- a. Introduction to global issues
- b. The military industrial complex and nuclear proliferation
- c. The growth and decline of nationalism
- d. Human rights
- e. Global vs. regional security
- f. International Trade
- g. Global Poverty

- h. Population and migration
- i. Women, children and development
- j. Health issues
- k. Environmental security
- l. Conflict over natural resources and future prospects
- m. Refugees and IDPs

4. **Reference Material**

- a. Baylis, John. 2005. "International and global security in the post-cold war era." In *The Globalization of World Politics: An introduction to international relations*, eds. John Baylis and Steve Smith. Third Edition. NY: Oxford University Press.
- b. Best, Edward and Thomas Christiansen. 2008. "Regionalism in international affairs." In *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, eds. John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens. New York: Oxford University Press.
- c. Chatterjee, Shiladitya and Raj Kumar. 2010. "Assessing social outcomes through the Millennium Development Goals." In *Poverty and Sustainable Development in Asia: Impacts and Responses to the Global Economic Crisis*, eds. Armin Bauer and Myo Thant. Manila: Asian Development Bank.
- d. Greene, Owen. 2005. "Environmental issues." In *The Globalization of World Politics: An introduction to international relations*, eds. John Baylis and Steve Smith. Third Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- e. Hurrell, Andrew. 2006. "Hegemony, liberalism and global order: what space for would-be great powers? ." *International Affairs* 82(1):1-19.
- f. Mirza, Monirul. 2007. "Climate change, adaptation and adaptive governance in water sector in South Asia." In *International Conference on Dimensions of Global Environmental Change*. Amsterdam: Institute for Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
- g. Barnett, Jon and Neil Adger. 2005. "Security and climate change: towards an improved understanding." In *Human Security and Climate Change*. Oslo: International Peace Research Institute, Norway.