

GIA/UAP 5264  
Global Change, Local Impacts

Professor Wilma A. Dunaway Architecture Annex 105 E-Mail wdunaway@vt.edu

Office Hours Wednesdays & Thursdays 2:00 to 3:30

This class will undertake a critical exploration of two broad areas:

- State of the world trends
- Impacts of globalized capitalism on local communities and nation-states

**Class Format and Skills Development**

- Work on Communication Skills and Professional Presentation of Self:** This class will focus on improving listening and verbal communication skills because "strong presentation of self" and critical verbal skills will be essential in your future job interview process and in your workplace. Every student will be called upon several times every class, and a discussion grade will be recorded for every student every class. Unlike most graduate seminars, we will work directly upon the development of strong professional communication skills. Part of your grade will reflect the degree to which you participate actively in this process and the degree to which you show improvement.

- Written Assignments:** You will write 7 assignments that will be responses to synthesis questions about assigned readings.

**Course Grading Requirements**

- 40% Structured Class Discussions
- 60% Written Assignments

**Course Readings**

All readings are provided online through this course webpage:

<http://courseware.vt.edu/users/wdunaway/gia5264>

NOTE: When prompted, type in your PID and password.

**Policies about Missed Discussions, Written Assignments and Makeup:**

- I expect you to be in every class and to be adequately prepared. A discussion grade will be recorded for every student for every class. An absence will be recorded as an F, and silence when present will be recorded as a D.
- There is NO MAKEUP for missed discussions. To allow for an emergency, I will drop one discussion grade at end of semester.
- Because the study questions are discussed at length in class, written homework will NOT be accepted LATE.
- If you fail to submit an assignment, you must make arrangements with the professor for a different makeup assignment.
- Only 1 makeup will be permitted. Special circumstances for absences that will require makeup beyond one missed assignment MUST be documented through the Dean of Students or a university official and approved by the professor.
- If absent, you may submit the written work via e-mail no later than 7:00 PM of the class date, and it will be accepted.

**How will class discussion be graded?**

- Every student is expected to participate in class discussions, and your participation will be graded.
- You will be graded on your discussion participation in each half of the class, and you are expected to discuss more than once in each half of the class.
- In this class, silence is worse than a partially wrong answer! If you expect to earn better than a "D" for class discussion, you must be prepared to respond to questions about the reading assignments.
- An "adequate" response is one that reflects that you have done ALL the assigned readings. Your response does not have to be perfectly correct, but you must demonstrate that you are grappling with the ideas discussed in readings.
- You will be graded down for expressing ethnocentrism and for exhibiting an unwillingness to explore ideas that disagree with your own.
- Your own personal opinions will not be adequate, you must demonstrate that you have knowledge of the information and viewpoints reflected in the assignments.
- A question does not count as a full discussion grade.