

# GRS 290/390/490: GLOBAL ISSUES IN CULTURAL CONTEXT

## Rationale

The rationale of this program is to bring GRS students together so that you can get to know one another and form a community of learners for sharing cross cultural experiences and perspectives on global issues. This course will connect you to your GRS colleagues before they go abroad for their international experience, while they are abroad, and after they return to campus.

You are required to take GRS 290, 390, and 490 during the time that you are enrolled in the GRS program. This will ensure that you are part of a GRS community of learners from the time you enter the program until you graduate. You can contribute different questions and different perspectives to the learning process as you develop academically and personally throughout your undergraduate program. In your last year, you can focus on global leadership development as you assist new GRS students in understanding global issues and being effective in their international settings.

Whether abroad or on campus, you will interact and share perspectives on-line that will help both groups understand their place in a global world and build skills as global citizens. In addition to on-line participation, you will attend a series of face-to-face classes during the time you are on campus.

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## Learning Outcomes

- Interact and learn from student colleagues, both in the classroom and on-line.
  - Recognize cultural differences and value cultural diversity (academic, agricultural, gender, ethnicity, nationality).
  - Articulate important global issues that relate to agriculture, food, health, and natural resource systems.
  - Describe the interrelationship between global issues, regional issues, local issues, and culture.
  - Interpret your area of resource specialization within the context of the global community.
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## Facilitators

**Dr. Les Lavkulich, Program Director, Global Resource Systems, Faculty of Land and Food Systems**  
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**Roxana Quinde, Coordinator, Global Partnerships, Faculty of Land and Food Systems**  
[roxana.quinde@ubc.ca](mailto:roxana.quinde@ubc.ca)  
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### Teaching Assistants:

**Cody Alba** [calba@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:calba@mail.ubc.ca)

**Adriana Laurent** [adriana.laurent@alumni.ubc.ca](mailto:adriana.laurent@alumni.ubc.ca)

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## Assessment

You will be assessed on your attendance and contribution in class and on-line, through asking questions, raising global issues, contributing responses, stimulating debate, and sharing cultural experiences. Following your international experience, you will prepare a poster presentation to be displayed on poster night toward the end of the term and post information on the GRS web site about your exchange or internship. You will also be assessed on assignments and on the content and delivery of your poster.

The grading system for the course is pass/fail.

Requirements for assignments can be met in one of three options:

### **Option A: Discussion Groups & Members**

Welcome to the GRS 290/390/490 discussion groups! Discussion topics that will emerge from the class will be posted on-line on the canvas site. The same topics will be discussed by all groups.

Further details and instructions will be provided during our class sessions. The first discussion topic will be posted in the Discussion Section of the GRS Canvas site on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discussion Groups**

You can come at the questions from any angle you choose; from that of your resource specialization, from personal experience in your region, from information you gather in the news or on the internet ... and perspective is welcome! Try to be as specific as you can in your contributions. If you can back up your opinion with examples or case studies in your region, great! And please remember to follow the discussion forum guidelines. The idea is to learn from each other and generate some thought-provoking conversations.

### **Option B**

Submit a 1000 to 1200 word page synopsis regarding the GRS classes that had the greatest impact on your perception of global issues in a cultural context during term 1. Please submit the synopsis to Les via e-mail ([lml@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:lml@mail.ubc.ca)) with a copy to Roxana ([quinde@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:quinde@mail.ubc.ca)) no later than Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Synopses will be posted in a Student **synopsis** site on Canvas.

### **Option C**

This option involves a combination of some posts and a shorter synopsis to be determined in consultation with Les. Canvas posts and the synopsis should be completed by Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Where do I post?***

The format and location for the discussion groups is within the GRS Canvas.

### ***How often do I post?***

There will be three discussion topics posted during each term. You need to post at least **three** discussion items during each term. Response to a class member's discussion posting will be included as a posting for you.

### ***When do I post?***

Each topic will start on Thursday. You can post at any time within that period. Please do your utmost to contribute on time to each topic. You can continue posting comments to past topics as well. All discussion postings should be completed by Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **On-Campus Component**

**Contact:** For all matters regarding the on campus component please email Roxana Quinde at ([quinde@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:quinde@mail.ubc.ca)).

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. You must sign your name on the class list that will be circulating during each class. If you cannot attend a class for a valid reason, you must send an e-mail before the class to both Roxana and Les.