

GRS 290/390/490:

GLOBAL ISSUES IN CULTURAL CONTEXT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on in their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is to bring GRS students together, to get to know each other, share interests and experiences and form a community of learners. This course will connect you to your GRS colleagues throughout your degree programs and beyond.

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 by asking different questions and contributing 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 helping them to be effective in their international settings.

Whether abroad or on campus, you will interact and share perspectives that will help new and continuing GRS students understand their place in a global world and build skills as global citizens.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Interact and learn from student colleagues.
- Recognize cultural differences and value cultural diversity (academic, gender, ethnicity, nationality).
- Articulate important global issues that relate to agriculture, food, health, and natural resource systems.
- Understand and communicate the importance of assessing global issues through local and culturally sensitive lens.

- Interpret your area of resource specialization within the context of the global community.

TERM 1 TOPIC: **Flexibility for Adaptation:** GRSers are flexible and can adapt to any situation given their enthusiasm, dedication and set of skills and knowledge.

COURSE INFORMATION		
Class time	Class location	Session Term
While there is some flexibility in this course, you are expected to meet on campus in MCML 160 OR virtually on Wednesdays @ 5:30 - 6:50pm PT (Vancouver Time).	On campus: MCML 160 On-line: https://ubc.zoom.us/j/64629023303?pwd=SDNGQkZ4WFFTSjRDUWJiemhETnAyQT09 Meeting ID: 646 2902 3303 Passcode: 172931	Term 1

FACILITATORS		
Course coordinators	Email	Office location
Dr. Les Lavkulich	lml@mail.ubc.ca	MacMillan 127
Roxana Quinde	quinde@mail.ubc.ca	MacMillan 344
GRS Program Assistant	Email	Office Location
Megan Bingham	megan.bingham@ubc.ca	MacMillan 156C

Teaching Assistants	Role	Email
Rose Wu	Teaching Assistant	ruoqingw@student.ubc.ca
Noa Bridson	Teaching Assistant	noa14@student.ubc.ca
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Salma	Senior Student Leader	salmaghanem456@gmail.com
Khushi Malhotra	Work Learn Program Assistant	khushi.malhotra@alumni.ubc.ca

COVID-19 SAFETY IN THE CLASSROOM

It is important that all of us feel as comfortable as possible engaging in-class activities while sharing an indoor space. Non-medical masks that cover our noses and mouths are a primary tool to make it harder for COVID-19 to find a new host. Please wear a non-medical mask during our class meetings, for your protection and the safety and comfort of everyone else in the class. If you need to drink water/coffee/tea/etc., please keep your mask on between sips. There may be students who have medical accommodations for not wearing a mask. Please maintain a respectful environment. UBC Respectful Environment Statement [<https://hr.ubc.ca/working-ubc/respectful-environment>]

If you have not yet had a chance to get vaccinated against COVID-19, vaccines are available to you, free and on-campus [<https://planning.ubc.ca/news/how-get-covid-19-vaccine-clinic-ubc>]. The higher the rate of vaccination in our community overall, the lower the chance of spreading this virus. You are an important part of this community. Please arrange to get vaccinated if you have not already done so.

While we will not have a rigid seating plan, you are encouraged to sit in the same area each time you come to the classroom. MCML 160 has a large seating capacity, allowing you to have extra space between you and your classmates. To increase ventilation in the room, we may open windows and doors, so please dress appropriately (i.e., wear a sweater on cold days).

What if I cannot attend Class in-person?

Various circumstances may lead to a student being unable to attend classes for a temporary period of time. For example:

- They may not be able to get to Vancouver in time for the start of the course;
- They may be isolating after arrival / feeling unwell at some point in the course;
- They may have different travel restrictions or regional health orders.

Please do not worry if you find you cannot attend class in-person. You will also be able to attend GRS 290/390/490 via Zoom (see Canvas for link). All course materials will be available to students via Canvas. Presentation slides and/or recordings will be posted within the Canvas course.

IMPORTANT: If you are feeling unwell, please DO NOT come to campus. This is to protect the health and safety of all students, staff and faculty at UBC. Please email Roxana, Les or a TA before the scheduled class to inform us if you are unable to attend.

You can download UBC Safe Vancouver App to conduct a daily health assessment before using public and shared spaces on campus. For more information, and to download the app, visit the UBC Safety & Risk Services website [<https://srs.ubc.ca/health-safety/ubc-safe-vancouver-app>]

ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

#	Component	
1	Attendance and participation	70%
2	Assignments (Discussion groups, social media post, synopsis, skill sharing)	30%
	Total	Pass/ D/ Fail

- You will be assessed on **your attendance and participation in class** and (online), through asking questions, raising global issues, contributing responses, stimulating debate, and sharing cultural experiences.

Attendance is mandatory. However, if you are ill or are feeling unwell DO NOT attend class in-person. If you cannot attend a class (either in-person or Zoom) for a valid reason, you must send an e-mail before the class to Roxana, Les or a TA.

- Requirements for **assignments** can be met by completing two of the four options:
 - Discussion groups
 - Social Media post
 - Synopsis
 - Student skill sharing
- The grading system for the course is **Pass/D/ Fail**.

OPTION A: DISCUSSION GROUPS

Discussion topics that emerge from class discussion will be posted online on the canvas site.

Further details and instructions will be provided during our sessions.

You can approach the questions from any angle you choose; from that of your resource specialization, personal experience in your region, and/or information you gather in the news or the internet. Any 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 from your region, great! Please remember to follow the ground rules discussed in class. The idea is to learn from each other and generate some thought-provoking conversations.

OPTION B: SOCIAL MEDIA POST

Submit a social media post (Instagram and/or GRS website post) about a GRS experience such as your global experience (if completed already), directed studies, research, volunteering or anything you would like to share with the GRS community.

- ***Instagram (@grs_program)***

For the post you should submit to the TA's the following:

- A headshot (png or jpg) and your preferred name and preferred pronouns
- One or two high-quality pictures of your experience(s)
- One or two paragraphs explaining your experience(s) for the post caption (e.g. exchange, research, directed studies, etc.)
- Optional
 - The place you call home
 - Your GRS resource/ region

- ***GRS website: Current student profile***

- Fill the following questionnaire: <http://grs.landfood.ubc.ca/current-students-questionnaire/>

OPTION C: SYNOPSIS

Submit a up to 500-word synopsis regarding the GRS classes or online discussions that had the greatest impact on your perception of global issues during Term 1. Please submit the synopsis to Les via e-mail (lml@mail.ubc.ca) with a copy to Roxana (quinde@mail.ubc.ca), no later than **Friday, December 18th at 11:59pm.**

OPTION D: STUDENT SKILL SHARING

Have a skill you'd like to share with your fellow GRS students? We will dedicate half of our discussion classes to host two student-led workshops that GRSers can choose to attend. Example workshops include: yoga, art, kombucha-making, etc. If you choose to lead a workshop, you will be in charge of coordinating with the GRS team to make sure all necessary supplies/accommodations are in place.

Sign up for a slot [here](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where do I post my contributions?

The format and location for the discussion groups is on Canvas.

How often do I post my contributions?

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

When do I post?

Each new discussion section will start every other Thursday. Please do your utmost to contribute to each topic in a timely manner. All discussion postings should be completed by Friday, December 18th at 11:59pm.

How do I submit my social media post?

Send your pictures and paragraphs to Megan at megan.bingham@ubc.ca . Use your name and "Social Media Post" as the subject.

When do I submit my social media post?

You can submit your social media post anytime between September 7th, 2021 and December 18th, 2021. Please try to submit your experience as soon as possible. Do not wait until the last day.

What happens if I am ill/sick and need to miss a GRS class?

Attendance is mandatory. However, if you are ill or are feeling unwell DO NOT attend class in-person. If you cannot attend a class (either in-person or Zoom) for a valid reason, you must send an e-mail before the class to Roxana, Les or a TA.