

The University of Oklahoma

College of Continuing Education

Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:

Topics in International Studies: International Activism

Course Number:

IAS 5940-500

Course Description:

This course examines the role that nongovernmental actors and individuals play in international relations as they work independently and in concert to advocate for various transnational causes. The goal of this course is to raise awareness and enhance our understanding of the multitude of actors that work internationally to address issues of concern-and how we might potentially contribute. As such we will explore the history of the study of activism, the evolution of activism and activist causes, the tools and messaging used as well as explore the different types of activism.

Course Dates:

May 22 – June 2, 2017

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: April 23, 2017

Site Director:

This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or e-mail our online site coordinator at aponline@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Rebecca J. Cruise Ph.D.

Mailing Address: College of International Studies
729 Elm St.
Hester Hall 118
Norman, OK 73019

E-mail Address: rebeccajcruise@ou.edu

Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students and other methods by arrangement.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at <http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home> is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fhcg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

1. Castells, M. (2012). *Networks of outrage and hope: Social movements in the internet age*. Malden, MA: Polity Press. ISBN 9780745662855.
2. Keck M. & Sikkink, K. (1998). *Activist beyond borders: Advocacy networks in international politics*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. ISBN 9780801484568.
3. Singer, P. (2010). *The life you can save: How to do your part to end world poverty*. New York: Random House. ISBN 9780812981568.

4. Yunus, M. (2003). *Banker to the poor: Micro-lending and the battle against world poverty*. New York: Public Affairs. ISBN 9781586481988.
5. Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system: Access Canvas at <https://oklahoma.instructure.com/>, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

OU E-Mail:

All official correspondence from distance learning instructors will be sent only to students' ou.edu address.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will understand that activism is much more than protesting in the street, it is an ever-evolving means of advancing a cause or challenging the status quo.
2. Students will know the difference between political activism, social activism and social entrepreneurialism.
3. Students will investigate an international Non-Governmental Organization to see not just what cause the NGO is advocating for, but how it is doing so
4. Students will leave this class understanding that activism is incredibly difficult, but that it is also empowering- small steps can add up.

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:

The course is divided into three segments. Each segment involves a set of readings/videos, a writing assignment, and a discussion topic. Students will complete the assigned readings, submit their written work and participate in a virtual discussion on the Canvas course management system during a pre-specified window; the instructor will participate in the discussion during each period. The instructor will post each discussion prompt on Canvas.

Each paper should be approximately 4-5 double-spaced pages. Your prompt for the first paper is below, and subsequent prompts will be given once the course starts. Participation grade will be based on quality – not simply quantity – of contributions to the discussion and interaction with other students.

Schedule of Assignments and Discussions

The Study and Practice of Activism

- **Read:** *The Life you Can Save* in its entirety (it is a relatively easy read)
- **Read:** *Activists Beyond Borders* Chaps. 1 & 2
- **View:** Compilation of slides and videos on Canvas
- **First Essay:** Assignment due to the Canvas dropbox by midnight CST on **May 22:** You are to research an international organization of your choice (e.g. Red Cross, Amnesty International, Green Peace etc.). Explain the foundation of the organization, its mission and its activities. Look for examples of information, symbolic, accountability and leverage politics (as defined in *Activists Beyond Borders*). Also, explore its fundraising and check out charity navigator to see how it spends its money. You only have about 5 pages and a lot of information to relay, so be concise.
- **Discussion window:** May 23 at noon (CST) to May 26 at noon (CST). (Discussion prompt to be posted on Canvas under “Discussions”)

Social and Political Activism

- **Read:** *Activists Beyond Borders* Chaps. 3, 4, & 5

- **Read:** *Networks of Outrage and Hope* in its entirety
- **View:** Selections from the Daily show on Kony 2012 and Colbert on #Bring Back our Girls
- **Second Essay:** due to Canvas dropbox by **midnight on May 27**: assignment to be announced.
- **Discussion window:** May 27 at noon (CST) to May 29 at noon (CST)

Social Entrepreneurialism

- **Read:** *Banker to the Poor* in its entirety
- **View:** *The New Heroes* from PBS.org (Kailash Satyarthi, Albine Ruiz and Muhammad Yunis)
- **Third Essay:** Due to Canvas dropbox by **midnight on June 2** (CST): assignment to be announced.
- **Discussion window:** May 30 at noon (CST) to June 1 at noon (CST)

Final Exam:

Will be given out on Saturday June 2 at 5pm (CST). **Must be submitted to Canvas dropbox by noon on June 9.**

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Assignment	Due Dates	Percent of Grade
Essay 1	Midnight CST on May 22	10%
Essay 2	Midnight on May 27	20%
Essay 3	Midnight on June 2	20%
Participation	During class sessions	30%
Final Exam (take-home)	Noon on June 9	20%

Attendance Policy:

Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Canvas, although students may contact the instructor via e-mail as needed

Incomplete Grade Policy:

A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

Technical Support Information:

If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: <http://webapps.ou.edu/it/> or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).

Procedures for Completion of Course Evaluation:

Upon completion of the course students should go to the [Advanced Programs Online Learning Information webpage](#) and click on the applicable semester link under “Online Course Evaluation” which will direct them to the evaluation. The evaluation will take approximately five minutes to complete. Completion of the online evaluation is an important tool allowing Advanced Programs to gain information and student feedback for improvement of courses.

Your responses will be kept confidential. They will be reviewed by the department and only supplied to the professor once grades for the course have been submitted.

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended making the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

INSTRUCTOR VITA

Rebecca J. Cruise Ph.D.

Education

- 2011 Ph.D. Political Science, University of Oklahoma. Fields: Comparative Politics, International Relations, American Politics
- 2007 MA Political Science, University of Oklahoma
- 2000 BA Political Science, University of Portland

Current Positions

- Assistant Dean
- Teaching at OU, in some capacity, for 10 years

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Security Studies
- International Institutions
- Comparative Politics of Post-Communist Europe
- Female Political Participation
- International Activism and Leadership
- Maritime Security

Representative Publications

- Rebecca J. Cruise and Suzette R. Grillot. December 2010. "The Development of Security Community in Croatia: Leading the Pack," *Croatian International Relations Review*. Zagreb, Croatia. XVI. No: 60/61. 89-103.
- Suzette Grillot and Rebecca J. Cruise with Valerie D'Erman. 2010. *Protecting Our Ports: The Politics of Containerized Freight Security*. Ashgate Publishing House.
- Suzette Grillot, Rebecca J. Cruise and Valerie D'Erman. January 2010. "Developing Security Community in the Western Balkans: The Role of the EU and NATO," *International Politics*. Vol. 47:1. 62-90.
- Suzette Grillot, Rebecca J. Cruise and Valerie D'Erman. July 2009. "National and Global Efforts to Enhance Containerized Freight Security." *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*. Vol. 6:1. Article 51.
- Rebecca J. Cruise. 2008. "The New NATO and Collective Security in Europe," *Defense Politics: International and Comparative Perspectives*. Ed. Ike Wilson/J.F. Forest. London: Routledge

Representative Presentations

- "Security Community in the Western Balkans: A Comparative Analysis." Presented at the *Belgrade Security Forum Symposium*. Belgrade, Serbia. September 2012.
- "The Tough Cases: Security Community Development in Serbia, Bosnia and Kosovo." Presented at the *International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) and Woodrow Wilson Center Regional Policy Symposium*. Washington DC. April 2010.
- "Development in Serbia, Bosnia and Kosovo." Presented fieldwork briefing to officials at the *United States Department of State: Western Balkan Division*. Washington DC. April 2010.

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Grant: 4 Months research in Leipzig, Germany
- American Council of Learned Societies: Language Training Grant: Study in Romania
- University of Oklahoma POLL Fellowship for Quantitative Research
- Presidential International Travel Fellowship for Fieldwork in the Western Balkans