

HONORS 383 HONORS COLLOQUIUM: MEETING THE GRAND CHALLENGES**Fall, 2015****Monday Wednesday evenings 6:00-8:50 p.m.****Honors Hall 119****Your faculty team**

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Honors colloquium is a multi-disciplinary examination of a contemporary topic or issue. During fall, 2015, the course has as its theme 'Meeting the Grand Challenges', and will include a broad, systems-based exploration of a wide range of related topics such as hunger and food security, sustainable energy, climate change, food safety and obesity. We will explore the interconnected nature of these challenges with an emphasis on ethical approaches and optimal outcomes. Our class will emphasize critical thinking, inquiry, service and project-based learning, oral and written communication.

Required texts:

Oreskes, Naomi and Erik M. Conway (2014). *The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future*. Columbia University Press. New York.

Paarlberg, Paul (2013). *Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Second edition. Oxford University Press. New York.

A supplemental required reading list will include source materials linked to the course website each week.

Another required course resource will be from the Food Policy for Developing Countries Institute at Cornell University.

<http://cip.cornell.edu/DPubS?Service=UI&version=1.0&verb=Display&handle=dns.gfs&page=lectures>

<http://cip.cornell.edu/DPubS?service=UI&version=1.0&verb=Display&page=current&handle=dns.gfs>

Additional video clips, guest lectures/panel discussions and web-based materials will be utilized.

We will also have a course D2L site where materials and links will be posted, and where students will have the opportunity to engage in regular on-line discussion over course materials.

Pre-requisites: There are no pre-requisites for this course. Student must be Honors College eligible. Students from all majors are welcomed and encouraged to enroll. In the Fishback Honors College, we respect one another's perspectives and value the opportunity to learn from and with one another. Students are advised to note that Honors 383 is taught as a rigorous upper division Honors course, and, as such, active student intellectual engagement – including reading, writing, discussion, and participation -- is expected from all students.

Course objectives:

Students will:

- Articulate an appreciation for the complexity, connectedness and magnitude of the grand challenges;
- Engage in research, discussion and reflection around contemporary issues relating to the grand challenges at the local and global levels;
- Demonstrate an awareness of personal responsibility for their role/s in meeting the grand challenges;
- Provide meaningful service to the community in important grand challenge areas;
- Develop an educational outreach program relating to the grand challenges;
- Work effectively as individuals and teams to execute course projects;
- Apply and synthesize their enhanced understanding of the grand challenges in newfound understanding in culminating project;

This course fulfills SDSU's **Institutional Graduation Requirement #2: Cultural Awareness and Social/Environmental Responsibility.**

Students will acquire knowledge about the world's peoples – their cultures, arts, and environments – that prepares them for further study, deepens their understanding of the human condition, and strengthens their commitment to social and environmental responsibility.

Student Learning Outcomes associated with IGW 2 are listed below.

As a result of taking the course(s) meeting this goal, students will:

1. Articulate the ways in which different peoples express an understanding of the human condition and respond to environmental opportunities and constraints.
2. Describe how personal choices derive from and affect social, cultural, and environmental contexts.
3. Explain the ethical consequences of decisions and actions concerning the environment to strengthen commitment to local, national, and global citizenship.

These outcomes will be assessed through student completion of the major assessments below:

Description of major assignments/assessments

- Quizzes (5 @ 20 points each; one per challenge): 100
 - Scheduled throughout the semester, 9/21, 10/5, 10/26, 11/9, 11/23;

- Personal responsibility work and reflection: 50
 - Students will complete a series of personal responsibility activities associated with each of the grand challenges. These will be assigned as per challenges with due dates throughout the semester.
- Social Media, guest introductions and facilitation: 50
 - During assigned weeks, students will provide leadership for hosting guests to class and for leading the discussion of that week's readings. In addition, they will post questions and insights under the course's facebook and twitter #honorsgrandchallenges. Due dates as assigned throughout the semester.
- Book report papers/discussions: 50
 - Students will select a book from the list provided and develop a handout for class answering key questions about the text. They will share these reports in class during a book panel discussion on dates assigned throughout the semester.
- Interdisciplinary case study presentations: 50
 - Students will work in teams to present on a case study dealing with one of the grand challenges. <http://cip.cornell.edu/DPubS?service=UI&version=1.0&verb=Display&page=current&handle=dns.gfs>. As described above, these case studies will be presented at dates associated with each of the challenges.
- Hunger banquet: 25
 - SDSU's Hunger Banquet is 11/8. Class members will develop Hunger Banquet 'character cards', and will assist with the planning and execution of the event.
- Harvest table: 50
 - On the evening of 11/30, our class will serve at the Brookings Harvest Table. Students will provide leadership for obtaining food and sponsors, preparing and serving the meal, cleaning up, and providing programming. Educational outreach activities will be highlighted here again.
- Educational outreach project: 100
 - Students will work in teams to develop an educational outreach component relating to one of the challenges. These will include a 'pictochart' graphic on a display board which will be displayed at the Harvest Table 11/30 and on the University Student Union Main Street during the week of 11/30. The displays/activities must address 1) what is the nature/background of this challenge and why is it important? 2) what is some of the best/most promising work currently being done to meet this challenge? 3) How does it connect to the other 'grand challenges' from a broader systems perspective? 4) What can/should be done to meet this challenge? And What will you do to contribute to its resolution?
- Final examination: 100
- Attendance and participation: 100

Students will be expected to attend class each week. These points (5-10 per week) will be based on presence, participation, discussion of the week's readings, #honorsgrandchallenges social media and additional in-class activities. 15 bonus points will be assigned throughout the semester. These points may not be made up without a signed university excused absence card. Those wishing to make up attendance points will turn in a 500 word summary of the week's readings.

Points	Percent	Grade
608-675	90-100	A
540-607	80-89	B
473-539	70-79	C
405-472	60-69	D
0-404	0-59	F

Additional considerations

Extra credit opportunities may arise throughout the semester and will be announced throughout the semester. Extra credit will be awarded at the instructors' discretion.

- *Policy on late assignments:* Assignments are due in class on the date published in the syllabus. Late assignments will be penalized ten percent (one letter grade) for day late.
- *Absences:* Each student is considered a vital part of the classroom community. If you are not present, you are not contributing to or benefiting from the learning process. Attendance and/or in-class activity points may not be made up without a signed university excused absence card.

Note that regular class sessions will not be held three times through the semester. With a course that meets once per week, this underscores the importance of 1) perfect attendance on the other dates in question, and 2) utilizing out of class time wisely with consistent, focused attention on completing individual and group projects.

- *Academic honesty policy:* Fishback Honors College students are expected to abide by the highest standards of academic integrity, and contribute in an equitable manner to all group assignments. Failure to do so may result in a grade of zero on the assignment in question, an F in the course, and/or the loss of eligibility for graduation with Honors College distinction.
- *Reasonable accommodations:* If you are a student who needs reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please notify your instructors immediately. You should also inform the Office of Disability Services, Nancy Hartenhoff-Crooks, coordinator (688-4986). We will work with you to help you be successful.
- *Academic freedom and responsibility:* Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should first contact the instructor of the course. If the student remains unsatisfied, the student may contact the department head and/or dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation

HONORS 383 MEETING THE GRAND CHALLENGES – FALL 2015
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings *See the course D2L site for most up to date list.	Assignments and Assessments
8/24	Introduction and Overview Systems Thinking		
8/31	Food-Water- Energy and the Grand Challenges	Paarlberg 1-28 Conquest of the Land Through Seven Thousand Years (Loudermilk) http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nj/people/teachers/?cid=nrcs141p2_018775 Five Step Plan to Feed the World (NATGEO Foley) http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foodfeatures/feeding-9-billion/ The Next Breadbasket (NATGEO Bourne, Jr.) http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foodfeatures/feeding-9-billion/ The Next Green Revolution (NATGEO Folger) http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foodfeatures/green-revolution/ Carnivore's dilemma (NATGEO Kunzig) http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foodfeatures/meat/	
9/7	Holiday – no class		
9/14	Climate Change	Paarlberg 116-134 Oreskes and Conway	
9/21	Climate Change		Quiz, book report/panels, case studies -- Climate Change
9/28	Sustainable Energy		

10/5	Sustainable Energy		Quiz, book report/panels, case studies -- Sustainable Energy
10/12	Holiday – no class		
10/19	Food Safety	Paarlberg 184-202	
10/26	Food Safety		Quiz, book report/panels, case studies -- Food Safety
11/2	Hunger & Food Access	Paarlberg 31-47 The New Face of Hunger (NATGEO McMillan) http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foodfeatures/hunger/ The Evolution of Diet (NATGEO Gibbons) http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foodfeatures/green-revolution/	
11/9	Hunger & Food Access		Quiz, book report/panel, case studies -- Hunger/Food Access
11/16	Obesity and Diabetes	Paarlberg 81-97	
11/23	Obesity and Diabetes		Quiz, book report/panel, case studies -- Obesity and Diabetes
11/30	Class serves Harvest Table	The Joy of Food (NATGEO) http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foodfeatures/joy-of-food/ The Communal Table (NATGEO Pope) http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foodfeatures/communal-table/	Educational Outreach displays
12/7	Course Conclusion:	Paarlberg 220-224	
12/14	Final Examination		

SCHEDULE FOR BOOK REPORTS AND CASE STUDY PRESENTATIONS

Challenge	Date	Book Report Options	Case Studies Teams select one
Climate Change	9/21	<p><i>The Climate Challenge</i> (Dauncey)</p> <p><i>This Changes Everything</i> (Klein)</p> <p><i>The Sixth Extinction</i> (Kolbert)</p> <p><i>The Future of Life</i> (Wilson)</p> <p><i>Earth -- The Sequel: The Race to Reinvent Energy and Stop Global Warming</i> (Krupp)</p> <p><i>Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change</i> (Kolbert)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8-4 Allocating Irrigation Water in Egypt

Sustainable Energy	10/5	<p><i>Sustainable Energy Without all the Hot Air</i> (Ronald)</p> <p><i>No Impact Man</i> (Beavin)</p> <p><i>The Quest: Energy Security and the Remaking of the Modern World</i> (Yergin)</p> <p><i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> (Kamkwamba)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-8 Biodeisel and Rural India's Economy
Food Safety	10/26	<p><i>American Wasteland: How American Throws Away Nearly Half its Food (And What We Can Do About it)</i> (Bloom)</p> <p><i>Eating Dangerously</i> (Booth and Brown)</p> <p><i>Is Our Food Safe?</i> (Leon and Smith-DeWaal)</p> <p><i>Safe Food: The Politics of Food Safety</i> (Nestle)</p> <p>Waste: Uncovering the Global Food Scandal (Stuart)</p>	10-12 Vietnam's Aquaculture Trade: Food Safety and Sanitation Issues

Hunger/Food Access	11/2	<p><i>The End of Plenty</i> (Bourne, Jr.)</p> <p><i>One Billion Hungry: Can We Feed the World?</i> (Conway)</p> <p><i>Tomorrow's Table: Organic Farming, Genetics, and the Future of Food</i> (Ronald and Adamchak)</p> <p><i>Ending Hunger in our Lifetime: Food Security and Globalization</i> (Runge, Senauer, Pardey and Rosencrantz)</p> <p><i>The Coming Famine: The Global Food Crisis and What We can do to Avoid it</i> (Cribb)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-1 HIV/AIDS, Gender and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa • 3-2 Food Security, Nutrition and Health in Costa Rica's Indigenous Populations • 4-4 Zambia and Genetically Modified Food Aid • 4-5 Intrahousehold Allocation, Gender Relations and Food Security
Obesity and Diabetes	11/23	<p><i>A Big Fat Crisis</i> (Cohen)</p> <p><i>Salt, Sugar, Fat</i> (Moss)</p> <p><i>The Weight of a Nation</i> (Moss and Salerno)</p> <p>Why We Get Fat and What We Can Do About it (Tauber)</p> <p><i>Big Fat Surprise</i> (Teicholz)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-9 The Nutrition Transition and Obesity in China • 10-1 Globalization and the Nutrition Transition