**Global Issues First Semester Final Exam—January 2012**

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You are to answer **THREE** of the following essay questions. You may want to take a few minutes to outline your answer before beginning to write. Be sure to write a well organized essay with a good thesis (do not just repeat the question), and support your answer with specific facts and examples. You may bring one 3x5 index card with any information you like except for fully pre-written essays. You should reference articles you have read, your research projects and the videos we have seen in class.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ESSAY**:

Watch the video clip that is on my Weebly site with Jared Diamond briefly discussing the concept of what he calls “ecocide.” Review your notes on *An Inconvenient Truth*. Do you agree with either Jared Diamond or Al Gore regarding their assessment of the world’s environmental situation? Discuss what you believe are the most pressing environmental issues facing the world today. Include the topic you personally researched as well as at least TWO of the topics presented by your classmates. What are the root causes of the problem and, more importantly identify potential solutions including who or what organizations should be active in the solution.

**GENOCIDE ESSAY:**

Read the article *Defining Genocide* on my Weebly site from the Blog site of Michael Dobbs, a contributor to Foreign Policy magazine. It is a back and forth dialogue about the difficulties in proving that a person is guilty of the crime of genocide. In your essay, you should comment on this article. Do you agree with Dobbs or with his critics? In looking at the genocide that you researched for class, as well as at least one other genocide debated in class, give an assessment of the difficulties that arise when trying to prosecute these types of crimes. Do you believe that the International Court of Justice is the appropriate forum for such trials? In the film, *Ghosts of Rwanda*, what were some of the reasons why the world did so little to stop the killing of the Tutsis? What do you think are the important lessons that the world needs to learn in order to prevent further incidents of genocide from occurring?

**LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ESSAY:**

Read the article *Should LDCs Love MNCs?* posted on my Weebly site. It discusses the issue of what type of impact multinational corporations are having on developing nations. Analyze both sides of the argument. You may want to rewatch the *No Logos* and *The World Is Flat* videos linked on Weebly. Are big corporations a good thing or a bad thing for the least developed countries? Using your research on one of the LDCs as well as at least one other LDC, discuss what some of the major issues are that face the developing world. What are their biggest challenges? Is there a responsibility on the part of the developed nations to help the LDCs? What groups or organizations are most helpful to these LDCs?

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS/INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ESSAY:**

Read the article *There is No Neutral* posted on my Weebly site. It discusses the role that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are playing in the post-military period facing Afghanistan. The question is whether NGOs can really be neutral and not subject to international politics. Comment on this article and discuss the role that NGOs and other international organizations play in the developing world today. Specifically discuss those groups we learned about at the beginning of the semester and choose four that you believe are the most important in maintaining a secure and improved world.

**HUMAN RIGHTS ESSAY:**

Review the video *What Are Human Rights?* that is on my Weebly site. You should also review the *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights* that is also linked on Weebly. Why do people find it so hard to define what constitutes “human rights”? What are some of the issues that arise when one group or culture tries to define behavior of another group of people? Under what circumstances should nations interfere in the actions of another nation when there may be human rights issues involved? What do you believe are the most important human rights issues facing the world today (do not discuss genocide in this essay if you wrote the essay above) and what can we do to help curtail such violations of human rights?