Global Issues

This is a discussion course, to emphasize economics in action, or the economic dimension of everyday issues. Instead of using a textbook, students will read regularly from The Economist, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post Weekly, and/or other journals and newspapers to be decided upon. They will discuss articles on global issues that come up in the news, such as the following:

- Environment (Clean Air and Water, Trees, Global Warming, Ozone Hole, etc.)
- Accountability for the Use and Management of Resources
- World Population Growth
- Ethnic Bias and Affirmative Action
- Poverty, both at home and in the world
- Welfare
- Social Security
- Health Care
- Property, Inflation, and Money
- Law, Corruption, Government Regulation, and Taxes
- Education and Religion
- Entrepreneurship, Labor, and Economic Development
- Hot spots around the world—Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Middle East, China, etc.
- Other issues may be selected.

The professor will supply the background on issues selected. Because of time limitations, not all the issues may be covered; students and professor together will make choices depending on what’s in the news. Students are expected to attend class regularly, to keep up with the reading daily, and to participate in the discussions. Class limit: 18 students.

This is a survey course. For a more thorough coverage of some of these issues, students should take the courses that address them specifically, such as Economics 3535 Natural Resource Economics; 3545/4545 Environmental Economics; 4774 Economic Reform in Developing Countries, 6535 Resources and Environment, etc.