

Global Challenges: Where Do We Stand?



INST 2500: IRC Interdisciplinary Seminar (21001)

Fall 2021 | Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 pm | IRC Fishbowl | 1 credit seminar
Prof. Phoebe Crisman | IRC Director of Studies | Professor of Architecture | Director of Global Studies
University of Virginia | crisman@virginia.edu | 8/20/2021

Seminar Overview:

Looking for an informal opportunity to discuss the pressing global challenges we face in the 21st century?

Join the new, 1-credit interdisciplinary seminar for International Residential College residents only this fall. We will examine and debate complex social, political, environmental, and economic issues. Each week a distinguished IRC Faculty Fellow will select a reading to frame the discussion and will join the seminar. On 8/31 each student will receive a personal copy of the book *Factfulness* by Hans Rosling. All other readings and video links will be posted on Collab.

Most weeks we will meet in the Munford House 'Fishbowl' over an informal dinner. The seminar will begin on August 31st (second week of class) and end on November 16th (week before Thanksgiving). The schedule on page two provides more detail.

Learning Objectives:

- engage with distinguished IRC Faculty Fellows
- learn about a range of pressing global challenges
- hone open and critical discussion skills
- actively participate in ongoing debates

Learning Evaluation: Successful completion of this credit/no credit course is dependent on 4 factors.

1. Participation: Attend and participate thoughtfully and collegially in every seminar. Active engagement is essential to the vitality of our discussions and your own learning.

2. Readings: Complete all reading assignments before class to prepare for each discussion. Please come to each class with at least one question from the reading to discuss with the class.

3. Discussion Leader: Sign up to be a discussion leader for one seminar. Along with the instructor and faculty fellow, you will be a *class expert* for that day.

4. Brief Reflection Paper: Write a one-page reflection paper that summarizes what you are taking away from our discussions and how you might use this knowledge in your own life to promote positive change in the communities where you live.

| Date | Seminar Topic + Faculty Fellow | Reading / Details |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tu, Aug 31 6:30-7:30 | Interconnectedness and life in a changing climate Phoebe Crisman, Prof. of Architecture & Global Studies | FitzGerald, <i>The Stability Fantasy</i> Holder, et.al. <i>The 3 Degree World</i> Lewis, <i>Let's Say it Without Flinching</i> |
| Tu, Sep 7 6:30-7:30 | What do facts tell us about global trends 1 Teresa Sullivan, University Prof. of Sociology, past UVA President NOTE: meet at Sprigg Lane House (next to Little Morea) | Rosling, <i>Factfulness</i> , pages tbd Book will be distributed on 8/31 |
| Tu, Sep 14 6:30-7:30 | What do facts tell us about global trends 2 Teresa Sullivan, University Prof. of Sociology, past UVA President NOTE: meet at Sprigg Lane House (next to Little Morea) | Rosling, <i>Factfulness</i> , pages tbd |
| Tu, Sep 21 6:30-7:30 | What do facts tell us about global trends 3 Teresa Sullivan, University Prof. of Sociology, past UVA President NOTE: meet at Sprigg Lane House (next to Little Morea) | Rosling, <i>Factfulness</i> , pages tbd |
| F, Sep 24 3:00-4:30 | Democracy biennial: democracy & capitalism register: https://millercenter.org/democracy-biennial/schedule | JPJ Arena - no reading |
| Sa, Sep 25 1:00-2:45 | Mobility, equity & the pursuit of the american dream register: https://millercenter.org/democracy-biennial/schedule | JPJ Arena - <i>optional</i> |
| Tu, Sep 28 | No Tuesday seminar – attend event on previous Friday 9/24 | - |
| Tu, Oct 5 6:30-7:30 | What can we as ordinary citizens do to solve pressing problems? Brad Brown, Prof. of Commerce, IRC Founding Principal | Review: https://bracusa.org Watch BRAC video |
| Tu, Oct 12 | No Tuesday seminar: Reading Day – optional Friday event | - |
| F, Oct 15 11:30-12:30 | A new biology: convergence over the last decade Phillip Sharp, Nobel Laureate, MIT Professor of Biology | Public Session - <i>optional</i> Rotunda Dome Room |
| Tu, Oct 19 6:30-7:30 | Prospects for US-Iran relations under the Biden administration Ambassador Steve Mull, Vice Provost for Global Affairs | tbd |
| Tu, Oct 26 6:30-7:30 | Special Global Week event | tbd |
| Tu, Nov 2 6:30-7:30 | Economic inequality & development from a historical perspective Mark Thomas, Prof. of History and Economics | tbd |
| Tu, Nov 9 6:30-7:30 | Global Water Scarcity & Pollution Sheetal Sekri, Prof. of Economics or Learning from Indigenous Peoples David Edmunds, Prof. of Global Studies | tbd |
| Tu, Nov 16 6:30-7:30 | Final Seminar – Reflections on here do we go from here We will discuss our reflections in class. | one-page reflection paper due |