

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR

Dr. Steven Thomas

office phone: x3193

office: Quad 352-B

office hours:

odd days: 4:30—5:00 at the Local Blend

even days 2:15—3:00 in Quad 352-B

and also by appointment

FYS 101—43A, spring 2008

time: even days, 1:00—2:10

place: Simons Hall G40

GOALS FOR COURSE

- Develop research skills and strategies for evaluating sources of information
- Write a long research paper
- Understand how writing and argument function in the world
- Practice public speaking

TEXTS IN BOOKSTORE

- Amitav Ghosh, *The Glass Palace*
- Alex MacGillivray, *A Brief History of Globalization*
- Doreen Baingana, *Tropical Fish*

COURSE WEBSITE

<http://www.employees.csbsju.edu/swthomas/FYS.htm>

ASSIGNMENTS

Over-the-vacation paper and discussion	3%
Group Oral Presentation on presidential candidates	5%
Major Research Project	
Report on Civil Society Organization (1 page)	5%
Analysis of Apparatus of Communication (3 pages)	10%
Archaeology of Profession or CSO (4 pages)	10%
State of the Debate Essay (6-8 pages)	20%
Preliminary Oral Presentation	5%
Final Paper (10-11 pages).....	20%
Job Application Letter and Résumé	4%
Website	6%
Diagnostic Essay	2%
Attendance, quizzes, and discussions of reading assignments	10%

Over-the-vacation paper and discussion

Write a one page single spaced paper (no more, no less) about two or three things you read or heard in the news over the vacation that relate to globalization.

Group Oral Presentation

Each group of two people will be assigned one of the issues that we discussed last semester that is related to globalization: (1) wages/inflation, (2) immigration, (3) trade, (4) farm bill, (5) environment, and (6) religious diversity, and also one we did not address but perhaps should have, (7) health. The group's job is to compare and contrast the range of positions held by the various political candidates on that issue. Try to be as precise as possible as to the actual policy recommendation. You may have to sift through a lot of rhetoric to find a kernel of substance. I expect your presentation to objectively, dispassionately, and neutrally report your findings.

We will have two days of presentations, so each group will sign up for a day. Your presentation can be purely oral, or you can have a hand-out, use the chalkboard, or use the computer-projector equipment. I expect both members of the group to have equal speaking time.

Major Research Project

To help you learn how to do a major research paper, I have divided the project into a series of smaller steps.

Report on Civil Society Organization (1 page)

I do not want you to begin your project with a topic. Instead, I want you to find a civil society organization (CSO), learn what it is, and find out what topics and issues concern it. So that this assignment is most useful to you, I recommend that you find a CSO that relates to your career, major, or personal interests. What might be difficult for you is finding a CSO that engages meaningful both with your career path and the topic of globalization. Therefore, after you've searched diligently on the internet, consult with me about your options.

Analysis of Apparatus of Communication (3 pages)

The members of CSO's need to communicate with each other, so all CSO's have several apparatuses of communication. Traditionally, this apparatus has been a magazine, newsletter, or journal. Find it and review several recent issues. Your paper should analyze its target audience, purpose, and how well it seems to achieve its goals. You should also compare and contrast it with other similar, overlapping publications with similar, overlapping audiences. Finally, pick one article from a recent issue and analyze it as an example of the periodical's audience and purpose.

Archaeology of a Profession or CSO (4 pages)

Building off your previous paper, find out the relationships of your chosen CSO to business, governments, local and global communities, and other CSOs. As you do this paper, you will also work on a resume and application letter for a job relevant to that CSO or career.

State of the Debate Essay (6-8 pages)

By the time you finish the archeology of a profession paper, you should be very familiar with the issues that currently interest that CSO or other related CSOs. You will choose one of them to write about. I want you to consult with me before you do. Once you've chosen the topic, you will find out who the various stakeholders are for this issue. Obviously, your CSO is one of the stakeholders, but you need to learn the others too. Your task is to survey the various stakeholders, how the issue has exigency for them, and what all the different points of view on the issue are. I expect you to summarize fairly and objectively the different points of view and their arguments. In this paper, you will not assert your own argument. That is what your final paper will do. However, your conclusion ought to consider several possibilities for your final paper.

Preliminary Oral Presentation (5-7 minutes)

This is a warm up towards your final paper. You will give a presentation to the class that explains the situation, the issue, its exigency and stakeholders, the various points of view, and ultimately, your argument and the reasons and evidence that supports your argument. Your audience for this assignment is your classmates, so your goal is to be as clear and interesting as you can for them.

Final Paper (10-11 pages)

In this paper, you are making an argument. I want you to imagine either of the following scenarios: (1) that you are writing this paper for your CSO's apparatus of communication, or (2) that you are writing this paper on behalf of your CSO for publication in a periodical with a more general audience. If you prefer, you can choose another CSO or government agency that you learned about in your archaeology paper.

Job Application Letter and Résumé

You will learn the form of a job letter and résumé. You will imagine applying for a real job or internship that you might actually want to do this summer or next year or when you graduate. The research that you did for your archaeology paper might help you find a job and also give you a sense of the "ethos" of that job. Having a sense of that ethos will help you write a better application. Letters and résumés are typically one single-spaced page each.

Website

You will learn the basics of web design and create your own personal website. Part of your website will include your "professional image." In other words, imagine that one of the companies or CSO's to which you've applied for an internship might look at it as they consider whether to hire you. The part of your website will include some creative engagement with globalization based on your research paper.

Diagnostic Essay

You will write this essay in class. The prompt will be given to you then.

Attendance, Quizzes, and Discussion

I expect you to come to class every day, having done the reading and ready to ask questions about it and discuss it. More than three absences will lower your overall attendance, participation, and quiz grade. Often, I will give pop quizzes on the reading. There are no make-ups for quizzes if you are absent.

FYS
Spring 2008 Calendar

- Jan. 15 (T) in class: get into groups for presentation on presidential candidates' positions
- Jan. 17 (Th) **due:** over-vacation paper on current news
in class: present, discuss over-vacation paper
- Jan. 21 (M) meet in Simons computer room G60 to research candidates' positions
have read "Author's Notes" to *The Glass Palace*, pp. 471-5
- Jan. 23 (W) **due:** presentations on presidential candidates' positions
have read *Glass Palace* ch. 1-3 (pp. 3-31)
- Jan. 25 (F) **due:** more presentations
Glass Palace ch. 4-5 (pp. 32-54)
- Jan. 29 (T) *Glass Palace* ch. 6-9 (pp. 57-102)
look up "civil society" in wikipedia
in class: introduction of the major research project and
discussion of possible topics
- Jan. 31 (Th) Anant Bhan et al. "Grand Challenges in Global Health" *PLoS Medicine* 4:9
(September 2007): 1456-59. -- Academic Search Premier
Glass Palace ch. 10-12
Aung San Suu Kyi essay on democracy in Burma
look up "civil society" in wikipedia
in class: lecture and discussion on how to identify a CSO
- Feb. 4 (M) **due:** report on civil society organization
Glass Palace ch. 13-14
- Feb. 6 (W) *Glass Palace* ch. 15-16
in class: lecture and discussion on apparatus of communication
- Feb. 8 (F) **due:** find an apparatus of communication, bring to class
Glass Palace ch. 17-19
- Feb. 12 (T) *Glass Palace* ch. 20-24
Arnesen, "... Rosa Parks," *Chicago Tribune* (20 Nov. 2005). -- ProQuest
in class: go over how to analyze an apparatus of communication
- Feb. 14 (Th) **due:** Analysis of Apparatus of Communication
- Feb. 18 (M) in class: discussion of play *Death and the Maiden*, showing on campus 2/7-2/16

Feb. 20 (W) *Glass Palace* ch. 25-31

Feb. 21-22 Long Weekend

Feb. 26 (T) *Glass Palace* ch. 32-37

Feb. 28 (Th) **due:** Archaeology of Profession or CSO
guest presentation by Career Services
Glass Palace ch. 38

Mar. 3 (M) **due:** job application letter and resume

Mar. 5 (W) *Glass Palace*, finish
Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech

Mar. 7 (F) *A Brief History of Globalization* ch. 1 and acknowledgements
in class: lecture on how to locate an issue

Mar. 11 (T) **due:** memo on your issue and exigency for issue
meet in library, research

Mar. 13 (Th) *A Brief History of Globalization* ch. 2
Tropical Fish ch. 1 and 2

March 15-24 Easter

Mar. 25 (T) *Brief History of Globalization* ch. 3
Ruth Reitan, "A Global Civil Society in a World Polity..." *Global Governance* 13
(2007): 445-60. -- Academic Search Premier
in class lecture: how to write a state of the debate paper

Mar. 27 (Th) library day

Mar. 31 (M) *Brief History of Globalization* ch. 4
Tropical Fish ch. 3

Apr. 2 (W) **due:** State of the Debate Essay

Apr. 4 (F) *Brief History of Globalization* ch. 5
Tropical Fish ch. 4

Apr. 8 (T) due: Preliminary Oral Presentations

Apr. 10 (Th) due: Preliminary Oral Presentations

Apr. 14 (M) *Brief History of Globalization* ch. 6
Tropical Fish ch. 5

Apr. 16 (W) **due:** rough draft of final paper
in class: draft workshop

Apr. 18 (F) **due:** final paper

Apr. 22 (T) *Brief History of Globalization* ch. 7
Movie: *Up and Down*

Apr. 23 (W) Scholarship and Creativity Day

Apr. 25 (F) computer lab and guest presentation by IT services – location to be announced

Apr. 29 (T) *Brief History of Globalization* ch. 8
Tropical Fish ch. 6

May 1 (Th) *Tropical Fish* ch. 7

May 5 (M) **due:** website
Tropical Fish ch. 8