Introduction to Faculty Colleagues

GST 110 ~ The Global Experience, is a seminar for first year students. As part of the General Studies first year core curriculum, the seminar uses significant global themes as the content through which students engage and explore and begin to construct their own world view. Writing to learn and critical thinking are emphasized in the student’s journey. The common themes of GST 110 are:

- The impact of globalization in an increasingly connected, technological, and rapidly changing world
- The influence of power and resistance in historical and contemporary interactions
- The relationship between humans and the natural world
- Diversity and its relationship to intercultural competency
- The analysis and evaluation of personal and social responsibility
- The processes, limitations, and implications of ethical reasoning

On the first day of class I ask students to work together in groups to identify, describe and connect global issues from current news sources. This simple activity serves to break the ice, promote class participation and starts a conversation about potential causes, impacts and interconnections of global issues.

In order to get deeper discussion on the first day and to set expectations for preparation, this short assignment is sent to students by email prior to the first class.
Dear GST 110 Students,

Welcome to Elon. As your Global Studies instructor, I look forward to meeting you on the first day of class. As the name suggests, the Global Experience is a multidisciplinary seminar where we will think critically about the world we live in and the significant events and trends that are shaping it. GST 110 also focuses on honing some important skills that you will use the rest of your life. In this class you will read, research, question, discuss, write, propose, collaborate, present and take action. I hope that sounds exciting!

You will write a short paper for the first day of class that will prepare you for our first class discussion. GST 110 is a participatory seminar class—not a lecture style class. It is important, therefore, that you come prepared on the first day and every day in order to maximize your learning and contribute to the learning of others. I will expect you to be prepared and engaged each time we meet. Below is your assignment for the first day of class.

**Background**
To complete the assignment for the first day of class you will need the attached GST 110 course syllabus and the link to one of several recent news articles (provided in this email).

**Purpose of the Assignment**
The purpose of the assignment is to set the stage for GST 110 through a discussion of global ideas and issues that are in the news, and to begin to think about the complexity and interrelatedness of global ideas and issues.

**What You Need to Do**
- Carefully review your course syllabus.
- Carefully read your assigned news article.
- Bring your typed paper to class (see paper format below).
- In class you will collaborate with several other students who read the same article. In a group, you will discuss the ideas and issues mentioned in your news article and their possible relationships, and each group will give a brief presentation to the class using their article as a mini case study.
What Your Paper Should Look Like

- Two typed pages (1 inch left, right and bottom margins and no more than 2 inch top margin).

- Specific and informative title as well as your name at the top.

- The body of the paper must include:
  
  o a brief summary of the article that succinctly summarizes the main point or points;
  
  o a component in which you identify and explain at least 3 issues either directly described or inferred in the article (one of the issues that you describe should be an inferred one);
  
  o a component in which you consider the issues and offer an explanation of how the issues might be related or interconnected;
  
  o a final component in which you pose 5 thoughtful questions stimulated by the article.

- The audience for your paper is the class (other students).

What You Should Get from this Assignment (Student Learning Outcomes)

- Students will be able to provide a succinct summary of main point or point and recognize, explain and connect various global ideas or issues from a news article.

- Students will be able to explain the themes of GST 110 and recognize some or all of those themes in the news article. The theme areas of GST 110 are:
  
  o The impact of globalization in an increasingly connected, technological, and rapidly changing world
  
  o The influence of power and resistance in historical and contemporary interactions
  
  o The relationship between humans and the natural world
  
  o Diversity and its relationship to intercultural competency
  
  o The analysis and evaluation of personal and social responsibility
  
  o The processes, limitations, and implications of ethical reasoning
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric for the Assignment</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brief Summary of Main Thesis or Viewpoint of the Article</strong></td>
<td>Thesis or viewpoint is correctly identified and clearly and succinctly summarized.</td>
<td>Thesis or viewpoint identified but summary is superficial or vague.</td>
<td>Thesis or viewpoint Identified but inaccurately or poorly summarized.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Identification of Key Direct and Inferred Issues</strong></td>
<td>Multiple direct or inferred issues are correctly identified.</td>
<td>Only one issue is identified.</td>
<td>One of more issues are incorrectly identified.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brief Explanation of Issues Based on Article</strong></td>
<td>Clear, succinct explanations given for each issue.</td>
<td>Explanations are somewhat unclear or unfocused.</td>
<td>One or more explanations is poorly or incorrectly stated.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Suggested Interconnections of Issues</strong></td>
<td>Very thoughtful suggestions of logical interconnections given.</td>
<td>Interconnections piece of paper is brief or superficial.</td>
<td>Interconnections piece is poorly developed or incorrect.</td>
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<td><strong>Quality of Questions</strong></td>
<td>Thoughtful questions related to article.</td>
<td>Thoughtful questions less related to the issues of article.</td>
<td>Questions are superficial and/or not related to the article.</td>
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