COURSE PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES:
The purpose of this course is to examine the ways in which the phenomenon of economic globalization has increased the divide between the rich and the poor in contemporary society and to engage in a moral critique of the increasing disparities between wealth and poverty in our world. To that end, we will learn about the engines of economic globalization and draw on resources from the tradition of Christian ethics to study and assess the moral consequences of the reigning model of globalization. This course aims to:

* introduce students to the various elements of the global economy
* study a variety of Christian ethical views and perspectives about wealth and poverty
* engage in a moral evaluation of the consequences of globalization
* challenge students to think about their own position and relationship to globalization

COURSE MATERIALS:
available at bookstore:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Course Identity
Each student will receive a course identity on the first day of class. This identity is only loosely defined by the professor (i.e. – Argentine farmer or CEO of Transnational Corporation). There will be a number of assignments throughout the course that will call on you to draw upon your course identity, some creative, some research oriented, some reflective, and some requiring critical thinking skills. This course identity will provide you with an added lens through which you will be expected to study the topics and ideas presented in this course.

After you have initially created your character, you will be expected to continue to do research on your character and his/her life experiences throughout the course. As you read each assigned reading, make note, not only of your own response to the reading, but how do you think your character would respond? Each day you should be prepared to share both your response to the readings as well as to reflect on the readings (to the best of your ability) from your character’s perspective. (i.e. – if you are a Mexican farm worker – what does NAFTA/FTAA mean to you? How have the World Bank and the IMF affected you and your family? What is Mexico’s perspective on the WTO? etc.)

Course material/critical reflection
You will find the specific details about course assignments in the dated portion of the syllabus below. Generally speaking you are expected to complete all assignments before you come to class on the day that they are assigned. That means that the readings/assignments found for January 5 are to be completed by the time class begins on January 5. These materials frequently provide our discussion material for the day and it is essential that students come to class prepared to participate in class discussions and exercises. While this is a winter term course, it is still four points of academic credit and students should expect three to four hours of reading EVERY DAY, as well as some independent research on each day’s topic. This course is your job for the next three weeks, expect to spend five to six hours a day outside of the classroom in reading, writing, researching, and preparing for class. If students
consistently come to class without having read the material and without being able to engage in discussion about the material – I reserve right to assign additional written assignments related to the readings.

1) Research and develop your identity (100 points)
You will be required to turn in a 3-4 page paper on January 10 that provides the professor with a more detailed characterization of your course identity. This is your chance to do two things:
-define who you are (age, race, class, gender, family, etc.)
-define what your life looks like (describe your working conditions, your wage, your expenses, your hobbies, your hopes and dreams, etc.)
This is your opportunity to show some creativity and to create a persona through which you will engage this course. Clearly this will require substantial research on your part into your country and your industry/job. I am giving you creative license to use your imaginations, to create an historically fictive character, you will be graded on both your creativity and the data and details on your character that show you have done the research on your topic.

2) Country journal (200 points)
You will be required to keep a country journal for your assigned country. You should research the topics that we are discussing in class to see how they relate to your country. You should write a page a day reflecting on the topic of the course for the days we cover topics (Jan. 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19) and how they relate to your country. This journal should be kept in the voice of your character. How does your character experience the wealth and poverty of your country? Your country journal is due on Jan. 20.

3) Attendance/Participation (200 points)
This course is based on a discussion-oriented format. Your attendance and participation are an essential part of creating a productive learning environment. You are permitted one excused absence during the course of a semester. Any absences in excess of one will negatively affect this portion of your grade. This portion of your grade will also reflect the level of your participation in classroom discussions, exercises, projects, etc. There will be a variety of formats, including large and small group discussion, to aid in creating environments where all students feel comfortable sharing their opinions.

4) Economic literacy class project (300 points)
We will be working on developing an economic literacy resource to be used in local community groups. This will be an educational resource developed in a workshop format that will enable people to learn about wealth and poverty and the global economy. This will be a group project and you will be graded on your participation and cooperation as well as on your individual contributions to the project. We will discuss this project more fully in class.

5) Take home final essay (200 points)
Your final will be given to you at the end of class on Jan. 24 and you will have 24 hours to complete it. It will draw on your character identity and require you to use your character to draw together the themes of the course. You will also be allowed to write in your own voice as part of your assessment of your learning.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
Learning is not a passive experience, but an interactive one that requires effort on your part as a student. This classroom will function as a cooperative learning environment.

To this end, each student should:

Attend class regularly - If you miss class, you are responsible for checking with classmates to find out what you missed. The professor will not update you on the content of the class period.

Complete your own work - Elon has an honor code, which is taken very seriously by this professor. If you have even the slightest question about what is appropriate collaborative work, ASK THE PROFESSOR! Failure to do so could permanently affect your academic future.
**Turn in assignments on time, at the beginning of the class period when it is due** - There are no exceptions, lateness will be penalized - see grading policy.

**Actively participate in class** – As a course focused on participatory learning it is essential for all students to contribute to the variety of classroom discussions and activities that occur throughout the semester.

**ELON ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:**
Elon students are expected to:
* refrain from cheating, including plagiarism.
* refrain from lying.
* express opinions with civility and with consideration for the opinions of others.
* respect shared intellectual property and resources.
* promote the importance of the honor code in all their interactions for the benefit of the learning community.

**WRITING CENTER**
Good writing skills are critical to receiving an outstanding grade in this class. While I am not a writing professor, I will take off on grammatical and spelling mistakes that I notice. Clarity of thought, good organization and presentation of ideas, original thinking, and creativity will be required to receive an A on any formal writing assignment. If you need to work on any of these areas, I suggest you visit the writing center BEFORE you hand in any final papers for this class.

**GRADING POLICY**
Unless you have made a prior agreement with me, I will take off one full letter grade (A becomes a B) for each class day an assignment is late. Papers with an undue number of errors of punctuation, spelling, or grammar will be penalized one full letter grade and returned for correction (A becomes a B). **Written work will be evaluated in terms of your depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, clarity of writing, original thinking and creativity, and ability to address issues raised in the class and in readings on the topic at hand.** Grades given reflect the following criteria of judgment:

F: Failure to meet minimum requirements
D: Unsatisfactory, but some effort to meet minimum requirements
C: Satisfactory, meet minimum requirements of assignment but not much more
B: Good to Very Good, thoughtful reflection, good analysis, clear writing style
A: Excellent depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, and writing style; demonstrate creativity and mature analytical skills in going beyond the primary requirements of the assignment

And the following grade scale:

- 93 - 100 A
- 90 - 92 A-
- 87 - 89 B+
- 83 - 86 B
- 80 - 82 B-
- 77 - 79 C+
- 73 -76 C
- 70 -72 C-
- 67 - 69 D+
- 63 - 66 D
- 60 - 62 D-
COURSE OUTLINE

Jan. 4 (Tuesday) – Growing Inequality in the U.S.

Jan. 5 (Wednesday) – Who Are the Rich?/Tax policy workshop
The Wealth Creators, ch. 5, 17, 19
Paul Krugman, “For Richer” (essay found on Blackboard)

Jan. 6 (Thursday) – Who Are the Poor?/Wage workshop
Nickel and Dimed, ch. 1, 3, and Evaluation

Jan. 7 (Friday) – Examining Hebrew Bible attitudes
On Moral Business – p. 38-45; 64; 109-113; 802-811

Jan. 10 (Monday) – Examining U.S. Welfare policy/Welfare workshop
Character paper due

Jan. 11 (Tuesday) – Examining New Testament attitudes
On Moral Business – p. 76-93
In Search of the Good Life – ch. 1-2 (p. 3-33)

Jan. 12 (Wednesday) – Neoliberalism/NAFTA-FTAA
In Search of the Good Life – ch. 3 (p. 36-69)
On Moral Business – p. 291-296; 940-944

Jan. 13 (Thursday) – Development/ International Financial Institutions (WTO/IMF/WB)
In Search of the Good Life – ch. 4 (p. 70-100)
On Moral Business - p. 173-186

Jan. 14 (Friday) – Corporations/ Structural Adjustment
On Moral Business – p. 501-507; 775-784; 786-798

Jan. 18 (Tuesday) - Earthist
In Search of the Good Life – ch. 5 (p. 102-138)
On Moral Business – p. 193-197

Jan. 19 (Wednesday) – Postcolonial
In Search of the Good Life – ch. 6 (p. 139-170)
On Moral Business - p. 228-244

Jan. 20 (Thursday) – Critique and Analysis
Country journal due
In Search of the Good Life – ch. 7-8 (p. 173-210)
“Viewing the Market Economy Through the Lens of Faith” p. 11-56 – Becky Blank

Jan. 21 (Friday) – Opportunities for the Future
On Moral Business – p. 827-836; 853-859; 861-875

Jan. 24 (Monday) – To be determined
Economic literacy project due

Jan. 25 (Tuesday) - Final Exam due