

# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Iowa State University

For Curriculum Committee use		
Semester(s) this course was previously offered:	Proposal Number:	F09-1

## COURSE PROPOSAL

Please complete this form with the understanding that you may revise the course description and topics before the catalog is finalized. To see a catalog from last semester, go to the OLLI at ISU Web site: [http://www.isualum.org/en/olli\\_at\\_isu/](http://www.isualum.org/en/olli_at_isu/)

If you are completing this form using Microsoft Word, note that it is done in tables form. To see (or to hide) the gridlines, click the Table menu and click Show Gridlines (or Hide Gridlines).

1. **Course title:** Great Decisions

2. **General field of interest** (e.g., Science, Music): Current Events/Politics

3. **Curriculum Committee contact person:** Don Lambert

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Instructor or coordinator:** Doug Finnemore or Jan/George Beran

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief background of instructor** (all or part of this will be used in the catalog):

*Douglas Finnemore, distinguished professor emeritus, Department of Physics and Astronomy, spent 40 years with the Ames Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy and has facilitated several Great Decisions courses.*

*George Beran retired from Iowa State as a distinguished professor emeritus, veterinary microbiology and preventive medicine, specializing in public health. Jan is a retired professor of physical education from ISU. They have done extensive travel throughout the world.*

5. **Course description** that can be used to advertise the course in the catalog (you may revise this later if you wish).

Great Decisions is a foreign policy discussion group that studies one topic each week for eight weeks. The Foreign Policy Association prepares about 10 pages of reading material and a 25-minute video for each topic as a factual base for the discussion. A study guide is available for \$20. (Purchase is encouraged, but not required; please pay when you register. Study guides will be distributed at the first class.)

6. **Specific topics** to be covered in the number of classes proposed: **Topics for 2009**

### U.S. and Rising Powers

Since the end of the cold war, the U.S. has emerged as the world's predominant power. However, in the 21st century some rapidly developing countries have become increasingly influential. Who are these "rising powers?" Will their emergence change the global balance of power? How will the U.S. react?

## **Afghanistan/Pakistan**

Newfound hopes for stability in Iraq have shifted the U.S. military focus back to Afghanistan and Pakistan, one of the most volatile border regions in the world. What impact will this renewed interest have on the two states as well as on U.S. defense strategy?

## **Energy and the Global Economy**

Rising energy prices, driven by instability in key producing regions such as the Middle East and increasing demand from developing countries, are affecting the global economy. What are the potential consequences of huge wealth transfers to oil-exporting states? Are there any realistic alternative energy scenarios on the horizon?

## **The Arctic**

Rising global temperatures have created new opportunities in the Arctic for resource extraction and inter-continental transport. How will sovereignty disputes among the five countries that border the Arctic affect its potential development? What impact will this race for the Arctic have on an environment already in serious flux?

## **Egypt in the 21st Century**

Egypt has long played an important role in the Arab world while maintaining a strategic relationship with the U.S. With elections scheduled for 2009, how will Egypt deal with serious domestic issues, ranging from Islamic radicalism to food shortages? What factors will influence the path of this regional heavyweight?

## **Global Food Supply**

Global prices for food staples have risen dramatically, resulting in protests and unrest around the world. What factors are driving prices up, and can they be tamed? What will the political fallout be for governments that fail to act, and what role can global institutions play?

## **Cuba after Castro**

Since Fidel Castro handed over the presidency of Cuba to his brother Raúl in early 2008, signs of greater economic openness have led to much speculation. Will Raúl seek to reopen ties with the U.S.? What role will Cuba's American exiles play in shaping a post-Castro Cuba?

## **Universal Human Rights**

As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrates its 60th anniversary, events in the Balkans, Sudan, and Myanmar continue to challenge its idealism, while raising new questions about the prospects for humanitarian interventions. Do human rights transcend national borders and customs? Is the definition of human rights changing?

This paragraph should be on page 2. If you needed more space than was provided on page 1, this paragraph will have moved to page 3. To move it back to page 2, click before the first word of this paragraph and press Backspace to remove the page break.

**7. Preferred**

**class size:** \_\_\_ 15 or less \_\_\_ 16-25 \_\_\_ 26-35  x  36-45 \_\_\_ 46-55 \_\_\_ 55 or more

**8. Preferred session**

**(include year) :**  x  Sept.-Nov. \_\_\_\_\_ Jan.-Feb.  x  March-May

**9. Preferred number of weeks and sessions:**

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 weeks \_\_\_\_\_ 6 weeks  x  8 weeks  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Once a week \_\_\_\_\_ Twice a week

**10. Check preferred class time. Put N/A where you are not available.**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Comments
9:00-10:30					
11:00-12:30					
1:00-2:30					
3:00-4:30					

**11. Recommended textbook (if any):**  Study guide by Foreign Policy Association

Where to obtain:  OLLI staff will order and distribute first day of class  
 Cost of textbook:  \$20  
 Students will pay:  \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ OLLI at ISU when registering

**12. Copying:**

If a large quantity of printed materials is proposed, materials may be offered as a packet to be handed out at the beginning of the semester. Cost of printing, if substantial, may be added to cost of course.

**Estimated number of pages to be copied for each session:** \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Requested equipment**

**Please check choices.** (A more detailed form will be provided for your use before classes begin.)

\_\_\_\_\_ DVD player \_\_\_\_\_ LCD projector \_\_\_\_\_ 35mm slide projector  
 \_\_\_\_\_ VHS player \_\_\_\_\_ Elmo (opaque) projector \_\_\_\_\_ Lapel microphone  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CD player \_\_\_\_\_ Overhead transparency projector \_\_\_\_\_ Laser pointer

**14. Please list any potential guest presenters and city in which they live:**

**15. Is travel reimbursement requested?** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No