

# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Iowa State University

For Curriculum Committee use		
Semester(s) this course was previously offered:	Proposal Number:	S10-01 F10-1

## 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--2010

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 / Jan & George Beran

Address: 2107 Northcrest Drive City: Ames Zip: 50010  
304 24th

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

515-294-3455

[finnemor@ameslab.gov](mailto:finnemor@ameslab.gov)

515-232-2790

[gberan@iastate.edu](mailto:gberan@iastate.edu)

**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 2010**

### Special envoys

Special envoys can help bring attention and diplomatic muscle to resolve conflicts and global challenges

but they also bring with them their own "special" problems. Will the Obama administration's reliance on special envoys increase the ability of the U.S. to deal with major international issues or complicate our diplomatic options?

### **Kenya & R2P**

Post-election rioting in Kenya in December 2007 brought pressure on Nairobi, from international and regional diplomats, to end tensions and avert bloodshed on a massive scale. What lessons can be learned from the intervention in Kenya? What does it mean for the UN's emerging responsibility to protect doctrine?

### **Global crime**

From the booming sex trade in Eastern Europe, to online fraud syndicates in Africa and the drug cartels of Asia and Central America, crime is becoming increasingly organized and globalized. How can countries better protect citizens seeking the benefits of a globalized world from being exploited? What international actors can effectively fight global organized crime?

### **U.S.-China security relations**

China's influence is growing, along with its military expenditures. How will this growth affect China's relations with its neighbors and with the U.S.? Will China's expanding military and economic power affect traditional U.S. roles and U.S. alliances in East Asia? How will countries like Japan, South Korea and India respond?

### **Global financial crisis**

The global financial crisis that began in late 2007 revealed major deficiencies in the regulation of markets and institutions all of which came perilously close to collapse. Emergency measures to prevent a full collapse of the global financial system have led to mixed results. How will governments and the world community respond to this challenge?

### **Russia and its neighbors**

Russia's policy of maintaining a sphere of influence in former Soviet satellites has been challenged in recent years by movements against pro-Russia regimes. Russia has pushed back by cutting Ukraine's natural gas supply and intervening in Georgia's campaign in South Ossetia. Will Russia regain its traditional leadership role in the region?

### **The Persian Gulf**

Now more than ever, the Persian Gulf region offers many difficult challenges to U.S. policymakers. How will Obama's direct appeal to Arabs and Muslims impact U.S. foreign policy in the region? What will the fallout of withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq be? Can the U.S. and its allies prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons?

### **Peacebuilding and conflict resolution**

U.S. campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown that military force alone cannot ensure peace in all conflicts. How can the U.S. successfully integrate the tools of peace building into its statecraft? At what point do poverty, disease and climate change threaten national security? What role can non-governmental actors play in supporting government led efforts?

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