

**IBUS 579: Global Business Forum**  
**Fall 2021: Global Approaches to Sustainability and Climate Change**

Class Time/Location	Mondays 5-5:50 pm PST in Paccar 391
Academic Director	Dr. Christina Fong <a href="mailto:ctfong@uw.edu">ctfong@uw.edu</a> <a href="#">Virtual Office hours</a> on Thursdays from 8:30-9:30 am, or by appointment

Course website: <http://canvas.uw.edu>

## OVERVIEW

The Global Business Forum is an MBA class and discussion forum where professionals from around the world share their insights into the complexities of doing business globally - differences encountered, obstacles overcome, advantages discovered, and solutions developed. MBA students interact with these speakers, discuss relevant issues and formulate conclusions and best practices. This forum and class is sponsored by the UW Global Business Center with the support of the U.S. Department of Education Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) program.

Objectives:

- To engage with issues arising from doing business and working with people around the world
- To build knowledge of how organizations work differently in different countries and regions.
- To define the additional leadership qualities which are required of global business executives and professionals.
- To learn best practices and skills for global business.
- To meet and build meaningful relationships with global business professionals

## QUARTERLY THEMES

**FALL 2021- Global Approaches to Sustainability and Climate Change**

As attention and urgency has increased regarding climate change and conservation and stewardship of natural resources, companies and global organizations have played a key role in shaping and leading actionable progress towards sustainability. This quarter, we will invite leaders from emerging and established countries to share how they have helped to take collective action to address climate change. We will invite multiple approaches towards identifying global solutions towards climate change, including clean energy, responsible consumption habits, and conserving biodiversity. We hope to learn about how global business leaders have influenced and been influenced by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, how they have invested and allocated resources towards these efforts, and how they

have worked in partnership across borders, industries, and governments to tackle climate change.

### **WINTER 2022- Doing Business with Africa**

The GBF will host executives who have worked in Africa or have built and maintained significant relationships with companies in countries in Africa to share their experiences. We will highlight several growing economies within the African continent and explore how companies based in the US and other countries have identified and evaluated potential opportunities for growth. Executives will be asked to compare and contrast their experiences in Africa with business experiences in the US and other countries to identify practices, approaches, and frameworks that facilitate strong and sustainable partnerships.

### **SPRING 2022- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on the Global Scale**

Particularly since Spring of 2020, many US-based companies have publicly stated their commitment towards diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). How do these commitments play out in multinational companies, where cultures, power dynamics and historical contexts have shaped corporate cultures? We will invite DEI leaders to join us in wrestling with common “DEI Dilemmas” that global companies face. For instance, how does the definition of equity change (or stay the same) in other countries? How do national culture and government influence whose voices are amplified within organizations? How can global leaders maintain an authentic commitment towards DEI while respecting the diversity of cultures and customs that exist within their organizations?

## **COURSE FORMAT**

The Global Business Forum functions mostly as an avenue to connect students with distinguished professionals who are shaping and shaped by global dynamics in business. Each class session will be 50 minutes. The typical session involves about 10-20 minutes of introductory comments from the speaker with the remaining time for Q&A from the students.

### **COURSE CREDIT**

In order to receive course credit (2 credits) for IBUS 579, you must accumulate a total of 50 points in the following manner:

Attendance (attend 9/10 sessions)	1pt x at least 9 sessions =	9 pts
Pre and Post Forum Surveys	5 pts x 2 surveys =	10 pts
Speaker Reflections	3 pts x at least 7 speakers =	21 pts
Speaker Discussion Board	5 pts x 1 post =	5 pts
Article Discussion Board	5 pts x 1 post =	5 pts
		50 pts total

### 1: ATTENDANCE (minimum 9 points)

My expectation is that you will attend at least 9 of 10 Global Business Forum sessions. This includes the intro session, the final networking session and sessions with 8 guest speakers.

**Please respect and honor the speakers' generosity in speaking to us.**

- No open laptops or use of smart phones during speaker talks and Q&A sessions. If you wish to take notes, please do so by hand.
- You must **attend all but one session**. As this is a speaker course, hearing the speakers is key. You get one free miss—but please see the massive COVID19 caveat below.
- Any session where more than 5 minutes is missed does not count – this includes leaving early and arriving late.
- You are required to bring and use your name tent for each session.

### 2: PRE AND POST FORUM SURVEYS (5 pts each)

At the outset and culmination of the course you will complete a reflection survey to help codify what you want to learn, and what you learned. These surveys also provide an important avenue for feedback and communication between us, and I value your input in tailoring the course to fit your needs.

### 3. SPEAKER REFLECTIONS (3 pts each= 21 pts minimum)

After each session that you attend, please complete a post-speaker evaluation to debrief and reflect on the speaker or session. Each survey should take no more than 10-15 minutes, and are available on Canvas. You should only complete surveys for sessions that you attend.

### 4. SPEAKER DISCUSSION BOARD (5 pts)

At least once in the quarter, please share your reflections on a speaker of your choice by posting to the Canvas Discussion Board for that speaker.

### 5. ARTICLE DISCUSSION BOARD (5 pts)

Join the conversation on sustainability and climate change by reading a posted article and sharing your reactions on the Canvas Discussion Board by November 8.

**Access and Accommodations:** Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or [uwdrs@uw.edu](mailto:uwdrs@uw.edu) or [disability.uw.edu](http://disability.uw.edu). DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

**Religious Accommodations.** It is the policy of the University of Washington to reasonably accommodate students' religious observances in accordance with [RCW 28B.10.039](#) regarding religious accommodation for higher education students as amended by [SB 5166](#), effective July 28, 2019. Any student seeking reasonable accommodations must provide written notice to the Office of the University Registrar of the specific dates of absence due to religious accommodation, within the first two weeks of the beginning of the course.

Students who have requested and been denied a religious accommodation and wish to file a complaint should contact the **University Complaint Investigation and Resolution Office (UCIRO)**. UCIRO is responsible for investigating complaints that a University employee has violated the University's nondiscrimination and/or non-retaliation policies, including a failure to accommodate a student under this policy.

### **COVID Considerations**

Let's take a moment that teaching, learning, and building community can be hard during a global health crisis that has implications for health equity, social justice, and systemic bias. We will need to rely upon each other to stay safe, connected, and flexible. A few important reminders. In accordance with [UW COVID Guidelines](#):

- The University [requires masks indoors](#) for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, and also requires all students and personnel to be vaccinated.
- **[If you are sick with any illness, you must stay home, even if you are fully vaccinated.](#)** Please let me know right away, and I will work with you to ensure that your learning experience will not be significantly negatively impacted. Please recall that *GBF is never recorded* so we will come up with a different plan to ensure that you will be able to receive an equivalent learning experience.
- Requests for accommodations related to COVID-19 will be handled in the same manner as for other medical conditions. You can request should request accommodations from [Disability Resources](#).
- If you test positive for COVID19 or have been in close contact with someone who has tested COVID19, please contact [EH&S](#).

Please note that these standards are continually evolving and subject to change. The guidelines are confusing, and the situation can be scary and anxiety provoking. Please know that I am happy to be a partner and advocate for you; let's work through this time together.

## Tentative Schedule

		Session Topic/Speaker	Deliverables
1	Oct 4	Course Intro	
2	Oct 11	Charlie Donovan "Making Solar the New King of the Global Energy System"	Complete Pre-Forum Survey by 10/11 (5 pts)
3	Oct 18	Roei Ganzarski MagniX and Eviation	Complete Donovan Reflection by 10/18 (3 pts)
4	Oct 25	Jennifer Wong Head of Sustainability at Convoy	Complete Ganzarski Reflection by 10/25 (3 pts)
5	Nov 1	Morgan Collins Starbucks	Complete Wong Reflection by 11/1 (3 pts)
6	Nov 8	Theresa Dugan Slalom	Complete Collins Reflection by 11/8 (3 pts) Complete Article Club Post by 11/8
7	Nov 15	Jeff Canin Element 8, W Fund	Complete Dugan Reflection by 11/15 (3 pts)
8	Nov 22	Sally Jewell Fritzky Chair	Complete Canin Reflection by 11/22 (3 pts)
9	Nov 29	<b>WILDCARD</b>	Complete Jewell Reflection by 11/29 (3 pts)
10	Dec 6	Networking Session/Course Wrap Up	Complete Post Forum Reflection by 12/10 (5 pts)