

CHAPTER 5: TEACHING RESOURCES

Courses based on the 7 Revs framework are unique in that they focus on current ideas about the revolutionary changes facing the world in the coming years, requiring instructors to have access to the best up-to-date information. In addition, these courses also cover a wide range of topics that span many academic disciplines. This section provides recommendations from instructors who have taught 7 Revs courses including: preparatory books, magazines, DVDs, and numerous on-line resources. A searchable, expanded collection of resources can be found at the Global Strategies Institute Web Site at the following address: <http://gsi.csis.org/toolkit>.

New York Times Epsilon-Based Resources

The *New York Times* makes their current and archived resources on 7 Revs available through their Knowledge Network and Epsilon platform. The extensive *Times* resources include interactive, audio, and video features, in addition to the familiar print-based articles.

Examples of Times resources, as well as many resources from the Center for Strategic and International Studies, can be found in the “Teaching Seven Revolutions Sample Course.” To access this course, 1) sign on (registering if necessary) to Epsilon.com, 2) select “courses” on the left hand menu, and then 3) search for the “Teaching Seven Revolutions” course. You can then request to join the course. Additional information about teaching 7 Revs is available in the “Teaching Seven Revolutions” group within Epsilon. This group provides a means of sharing resources and information about teaching about 7 Revs and related content. To access this group, 1) sign on (registering if necessary) to Epsilon.com, 2) select “groups” on the left hand menu, and then 3) search for the “Teaching Seven Revolutions” group. You can then request to join the group. Please note that you will need to use an “.edu” email address to access Epsilon.

CSIS and Global Strategies Institute Resources

In addition to having many resources through the New York Times Knowledge Network, the Global Strategies Institute (GSI) at the Center for Strategic and International Studies has a wealth of resources at their general web site at: <http://forums.csis.org/gsonline/>. Information directed toward higher education, including an excellent set of interviews, can be found at the web site at: <http://gsi.csis.org/toolkit>

On-line Resources

The web is a great source for videos, articles, maps and statistics. It is highly recommended that you speak with your librarian for information about how to bring these resources into your class. For example, your library may have an on-line subscription to National Geographic, and an instructor could simply link students to an article directly through the library.

The following list of on-line websites have been useful. This list is by no means complete, but these sites have been used often. This list is followed by some specific videos, radio programs and articles found on these sites.

Global Statistics:

1. CIA: World Fact Book: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

Great country by country statistics and maps.

2. United Nations: <http://esa.un.org/unpp/index.asp>

Create your own graphs using statistics provided.

3. World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int/research/en/>

Maps:

1. Worldmapper: <http://www.worldmapper.org/>

Provides images of the globe based on statistical information. For example, looking at a global map based on malaria, Africa is made disproportionately large and the United State is only a sliver.

2. CIA regional maps: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/refmaps.html>

On-Line Videos: (see below for specific videos that can be shown in-class or watched at home).

1. Youtube: www.youtube.com

2. TED: www.ted.com (15-20 minutes talks by world experts)

3. Snagfilms: <http://www.snagfilms.com/> (Allows one to watch selected documentaries in their entirety).

4. [CNN.com](http://www.cnn.com), [BBC.com](http://www.bbc.com) and [PBS.org](http://www.pbs.org) (specifically NOVA programs) also have good video achieves.

On-Line Radio Programs:

1. This American Life: www.thislife.org

2. Radio Lab: www.radiolab.org (good for science)

3. The World: <http://www.theworld.org/>

PowerPoint Lectures:

1. Slideshare: www.slideshare.com

2. Google advanced search, filetype ppt:

http://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en

One can also just search google.com and add (filetype:ppt) after a subject word. For example, if you wanted to look for a PowerPoint talk on ethanol, just type (ethanol filetype:ppt).

Interactive:

1. World in Balance (NOVA): <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/worldbalance/>

2. NASA climate change: <http://climate.jpl.nasa.gov/>

3. The Nature Conservancy:

<http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/strategies/art21202.html>

Other Valuable Resources for Information:

1. New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/>

2. Al Jazeera: <http://english.aljazeera.net/>

3. Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

4. The Economist: <http://www.economist.com/>

5. Google News: <http://news.google.com/>

6. CSIS Global Strategies Institute Blog: <http://gsi.csis.org/index.php>

7. The New Atlantis: <http://www.thenewatlantis.com/>

Provides great articles about the future of technology.

8. Global Issues: Social, Political, Economic and Environmental Issues That Affect Us All:

<http://www.globalissues.org/>

9. The Better World Handbook: Small Changes that Make a Big Difference

<http://www.betterworldhandbook.com/2nd/>

This web site provides information about actions that individuals can take to positively influence the global issues raised by the 7 Revs. It summarizes some of the material from the 2007 book by Ellis Jones, Ross Haenfler, and Brett Johnson.

Specific On-Line Video and Audio Programs

Because 7 Revs deals with current issues and future trends, it is important to continuously bring up-to-date information into classes. There are a number of great on-line resources for videos and radio programs. Some programs work well as out-of-class assignments while others are short clips that can add to lectures.

TED.com

The annual TED (technology, entertainment, design) conference brings together the world's most fascinating thinkers, doers, and leaders in their fields. They are challenged to give the talk of their lives in 18 minutes. These are often very dynamic speakers who emphasize innovation, insight, and commentaries on the future. These talks have been used effectively in class or as assignments.

Hans Rosling: Debunking third-world myths with the best stats you've ever seen

- http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/hans_rosling_shows_the_best_stats_you_ve_ever_seen.html
- Filmed: February 2006
- Running time: 19.50 minutes
- Description: This talk describes the changes that have occurred and are predicted to occur in wealth distribution, fertility rates, population growth, and health within and between countries. Hans Rosling displays statistics using extremely interesting and unique graphics of changing trends. He breaks down several myths relating to difference between economically less developed and more developed countries.
- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions Section: Population, Economic Integration, Technology

Al Gore: 15 ways to avert a climate crisis

- http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/al_gore_on_averting_climate_crisis.html
- Filmed: February 2006
- Running time: 16.18 minutes
- Description: This talk describes current issues related to global climate changes. His talk has a good deal of humor and is quite entertaining. He provides practical ways to reduce the effects of global climate change.
- Rating: Very Good
- 7-Revolutions Section: Resources

Al Gore: New thinking on the climate crisis

- http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/al_gore_on_averting_climate_crisis.html
- Filmed: March 2008
- Running time: 27.54 minutes
- Description: In this talk, Al Gore updates his thinking on laws, policies and global efforts necessary for environmental challenges including global climate change, acid rain, etc.
- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions Section: Resources

Kevin Kelly: Predicting the next 5,000 days of the web

- http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/kevin_kelly_on_the_next_5_000_days_of_the_web.html
- Filmed: December 2007
- Running Time: 19.34
- Description: Kevin Kelly describes what the Internet is today and predicts where it is going. He begins with interesting statistics about how the Internet is used today and then makes some predictions of how the Internet will change in the next 10, 20 and 30 years.
- Rating: Good: Interesting stats but it's a bit slow at times.
- 7-Revolutions Sections: Technology, Information Processing.

Nicholas Negroponte: The vision behind one laptop per child

- http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/nicholas_negroponte_on_one_laptop_per_child.html
- Filmed: August 2006
- Running Time: 17.38
- Description: Nicholas Negroponte discusses his work to provide cheap (\$100), portable, self-charging laptops to developing countries. He talks about how these laptops can change education and ultimately reduce poverty.
- Rating: Good
- 7-Revolutions Sections: Technology, Information Processing.

Jeff Han: Unveiling the genius of multi-touch interface design

- http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/jeff_han_demos_his_breakthrough_touchscreen.html

- Filmed: August 2006
- Running Time: 8:48
- Description: A short lecture demonstrating cutting edge technology for human-computer interface showing an innovative touch screen. This is an interesting example of the future of technology.
- Rating: Very Good
- 7-Revolutions Section: Technology

Christopher deCharms: Looking inside the brain in real time.

- <http://www.ted.com/talks/view/id/236>
- Filmed: February 2008
- Running Time: 4:03
- Description: This talk gives a short description about how Function MRI and neuroimaging techniques will soon enable us to control a greater part of our brain and could replace, in part, the need for psychotherapy and drugs for depression and pain. Has a good “future” feel to it.
- Rating: Very Good (It’s short so it good for showing during class)
- 7-Revolutions: Technology

Ray Kurzweil: How technology's accelerating power will transform us

- http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/ray_kurzweil_on_how_technology_will_transform_us.html
- Filmed: February 2005
- Running Time: 22:56
- Description: Ray Kurzweil is an entrepreneur and inventor and has a unique perspective on the future merging of medicine, neuroscience, and computers. He claims that by the 2020s, we will have reverse-engineered the human brain and nanobots will be operating your consciousness. His talk has great graphics, videos and imagery.
- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions: Technology

Juan Enriquez: Decoding the future with genomics

- http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/craig_venter_is_on_the_verge_of_creating_synthetic_life.html
- Filmed: February 2003
- Running time: 22:20
- Description: Juan Enriquez talks about the future of genomics and genetically modified organisms. He discusses why it will be important for everyone to have an understanding of genetics.
- Rating: Good (It’s a bit dry)
- 7-Revolutions: Technology

Craig Venter: On the verge of creating synthetic life

- http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/craig_venter_is_on_the_verge_of_creating_synthetic_life.html
- Filmed: February 2008

- Running time: 15:54
- Description: Craig Venter discusses creating new organisms with bioengineering. Altered and new organisms, like bacteria, may serve an important role in the future of medicine and energy.
- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions: Technology

E.O. Wilson: TED Prize wish: Help build the Encyclopedia of Life

- http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/e_o_wilson_on_saving_life_on_earth.html
- Filmed: March 2007
- Running time: 22:36
- Description: E. O. Wilson discusses biodiversity and the need to think about and protect the many varieties of life.
- Rating: Very good
- 7-Revolutions: Resources (Biodiversity and conservation)

Rives: "If I controlled the Internet" (a poem)

- http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/rives_controls_the_internet.html
- Filmed: November 2006
- Running Time: 4:07
- Description: Short humorous poem about the Internet. Good way to break up a lecture.
- Rating: Very good
- 7-Revolutions: Information.

National Public Radio (NPR.org)

Ethanol Takes A Hit Amid Falling Oil Prices

- <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=99083936>
- Aired: January 2009
- Running time: 5:27
- Description: Provides information about energy prices and ethanol.
- Rating: Good. Used during a lecture on biofuels.
- 7-Revolutions Section: Resources, Technology

Wired For War Explores Robots On The Battlefield

- <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=99663723>
- Aired: January 2009
- Running time: 38:47
- Description: A Fresh Air interview with P.W. Singer, the author of the book, *Wired For War*. He discusses how some military tasks previously assigned to humans are now being handled by machines, the technology behind the machines, how soldiers are affected by using these machines as weapons, and the future of war.
- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions Section: Conflict, Technology

***This American Life* Episode 355: The Giant Pool of Money**

- http://www.thislife.org/Radio_Episode.aspx?sched=1242
- Aired: May 2008
- Running time: 54:00
- Description: An episode of “This American Life” that tackles the housing crisis, subprime loans, and the turmoil on Wall Street. Why did banks make extremely large loans to people without jobs or income?
- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions Sections: Economic Integration, Governance

Study shows that Europe’s Population Falling.

- <http://www.npr.org/templates/player/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=93995083&m=93995042>
- Aired: August 2008
- Running time: 4:51
- Description: This short program is about how population in European countries is dropping dramatically and discusses some of the related problems.
- Rating: Very good (Good as link during lecture)
- 7-Revolutions Sections: Population

Radio Lab Program: (So-Called) Life

- <http://www.wnyc.org/shows/radiolab/episodes/2008/03/14>
- Aired: March 2008
- Running time: 58:58
- Description: This is a very entertaining and informative program on research in biotechnology and bioengineering. It talks about present research and makes some interesting predictions about the future.
- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions Section: Technology

Journalist Michael Pollan

- <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=100755362>
- Aired: February 2009
- Running time: 24:00
- Description: Michael Pollan is Professor of Science and Environmental Journalism at University of California at Berkeley and author of several best-selling books such as *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. He discusses a new way of thinking about how we subsidize agriculture and suggests ways of changing food policies.
- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions Sections: Resources (food)

Insurers eye savings from treatment overseas

- <http://www.npr.org/templates/player/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=90268099&m=90268052>
- Aired: May 2008

- Running time: 7:37
- Description: This program discusses how medical tourism is becoming more and more common and is a good example of outsourcing.
- Rating: good
- 7-Revolutions Sections: Economic Integration

Do Trees Worsen Droughts

- <http://www.npr.org/templates/player/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=88984769&m=88984744>
- Aired: March 2008
- Running Time: 5:35
- Description: This short program discusses how countries might deal with the increasing occurrences of drought with climate change. It focuses on Panama and how the Panama Canal requires a large amount of water to function and how a local rainforest affects the water flow.
- Rating: Good
- 7-Revolutions Sections: Resources (water)

YouTube.com

The list below reflects some of the relevant video resources available on resources available by June 2009. Since new videos are being added all the time, one can search for additional relevant videos of the YouTube site.

The Truth According To Wikipedia

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMSinyx_Ab0
- Aired: April 7, 2008
- Running Time: 48 minutes
- Description: Google or Wikipedia? Those of us who search online -- and who doesn't? -- are getting referred more and more to Wikipedia. For the past two years, this free online "encyclopedia of the people" has been topping the lists of the world's most popular websites. But do we really know what we're using? Backlight plunges into the story behind Wikipedia and explores the wonderful world of Web 2.0. Is it a revolution, or pure hype?
- Rating: Good – especially if students think Wikipedia is the one source for everything
- 7-Revolutions: Information dissemination

P.W. Singer: Military robots and the future of war

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1pr683SYFk>
- Running time: 16:06 minutes
- Aired: April 03, 2009
- Description: In this powerful talk, P.W. Singer shows how the widespread use of robots in war is changing the realities of combat. He shows us scenarios straight out of science fiction -- that now may not be so fictitious.
- Rating: Excellent +

- 7-Revolutions: Conflict

Types of Government, Explained

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4r0VUybeXY>
- Aired: January 12, 2009
- Running time: 10:35 minutes
- Description: This video explains the different types of government, what they mean, and what they stand for.
- Rating: Good for basic information
- 7-Revolutions: Governance

Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-4)

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoIp9yeC78k>
- Running Time: 7:44
- Description: This short video discusses the pressing problem of environmental changes including pollution, global climate change, and depleting biodiversity. This discusses the United Nations Environment Program GEO-4.
- Rating: Very Good
- 7-Revolutions Section: Resources

Unnatural Selection - A Documentary

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmYoi2QqoqE>
- Running Time: 9:59
- Description: This program discusses the current problem of declining primate population around the world. This heart-wrenching program drives home the importance of the threat facing great apes and monkeys.
- Rating: Very Good
- 7-Revolutions Section: Resources.

Lake Chad Under Threat

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTZUCy8tkgI>
- Running Time: 3:35
- Description: This short program shows how lake Chad (one of the largest lakes in Africa) has shrunk to 10% of its size only a few decades ago.
- Rating: Excellent (very good for link in lectures)
- 7-Revolutions: Resources (water)

Google books

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8vKFz09ric&feature=related>
- Running Time: 0:39
- Description: Shows how Google Book scanners work. Google is making the attempt to scan in millions of books
- Rating: Good (very short)
- 7-Revolutions: Information

The Myth about Ethanol

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9QQcP_Y1II

- Running Time: 4:45
- Aired: May 2007
- Description: John Stossel from ABC 20/20 discusses the myths and problems that come from using ethanol as fuel.
- Rating: Good
- 7-Revolutions: Technology, Resources.

P. W. Singer on the Daily Show

- <http://www.thedailyshow.com/video/index.jhtml?videoId=217010&title=P.W.-Singer>
- Aired: January 29, 2009
- Running Time: 6:07 minutes
- Description: A lighter approach to Military robots
- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions: Conflict

Biofuel backlash - World

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpf3C2EReVo&feature=related>
- Running time: 12:55
- Aired: January 2008
- Description: Discusses how biofuels (such as ethanol) is not very cost efficient or environmentally friendly. How using corn for fuels affects the food supply of the world is also discussed.
- Rating: Very Good
- 7-Revolutions: Technology, Resources

Top Gear - Vegetable oil for your Volvo diesel - BBC

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOFbsaNeZps&feature=rec-fresh>
- Running Time: 4:11
- Aired: March 2007
- Description: This is a short clip from a BBC program called Top Gear about using Bio diesel made from cooking oil to run a car.
- Rating: Very Good
- 7-Revolutions: Technology, resources

Why are plastic bags evil?

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i20tw5Gcjfg>
- Running Time: 1:46
- Aired: November 2008
- Description: This was a project created by a student in a 7 Revs class at CSU Fresno. In this "save the world" project students were asked to spend at least 5-hours enacting change related to one of the problems discussed in the course. It is an animated short film about the evils of plastics bags.
- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions: Resources, Technology, Introduction

Other On-Line Video

Minature-Earth

- http://www.miniature-earth.com/me_english.htm
- Aired: ?
- Running time: 3:45
- Description: Short streaming video providing power statistics about the worlds population in terms of economics, religion and healthcare. It asks the view to image the world's population is 100; then give world statistics relative to that number (e.g., 18 struggle to live a less than \$1.00 a day and 53 live on less than \$2.00 per day).
- Rating: excellent
- 7-Revolutions: Population, economic integration.

PBS Frontline Series : Black Money

- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/blackmoney/>
- Running time: Approximately 2 hours
- Aired: April 7, 2009
- As the global financial downturn continues and pressure for profits increases on corporations across the world, a small group of lawyers in the U.S. Justice Department is pursuing an aggressive crackdown against an international business tactic -- bribery -- which the [World Bank says](#) amounts to as much as a trillion dollars a year in payments.
- Rating: Good - Excellent
- 7-Revolutions: Governance

Aqua Colbert

- <http://www.comedycentral.com/colbertreport/videos.jhtml?videoId=164482>
- Running Time: 2:34
- Aired: March 2008
- Description: A very humorous short film on the comedy show, The Colbert Report. It is spoof on the how damaging and impractical plastic water bottles. Warning: it does have a couple of off-color reference.
- Rating: Excellent (very funny)
- 7-Revolutions: Resources, Technology

What about this fish

- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/harvest/etc/video.html>
- Running Time: 5:35
- Description: This gives a short report about genetically modified salmon and some of the concerns related to natural stocks of salmon.
- Rating: Very Good
- 7-Revolutions: Technology, Resources

Ground water

- <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/groundwater/education/animation.aspx>.
- Running Time: 3:40

- Description: This is an animated short film about groundwater. It provides good information, but is also very humorous.
- Rating: Very good
- 7-Revolutions: Resources, Technology

Map of changes in obesity level

- <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/obesity/trend/maps/index.htm>
- Description: This shows the change in obesity percentages for each state from 1985 to 2007. The increase in obesity is shocking.
- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions: Resources (food)

The Story of Stuff

- Running time: 20 minutes
- From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. *The Story of Stuff* is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. It exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever. Description directly from <http://www.storyofstuff.com/> web site, from which the animation can be played directly
- Rating: Excellent; used in class as an example of a systems perspective; related to "resource management" and "economic integration"

The Global Banquet: the Politics of Food

- Released January 2007
- Running time: 56 minutes
- *The Global Banquet* examines the ethical questions at the heart of the globalization debate including how food security and social development are related and how factory farming can lead to degradation of the natural environment.
- Available for download at <http://underdogcinema.com/politics/the-global-banquet-politics-of-food/>

Stolen Childhoods

- Released 2004
- Running time: 85 minutes
- The film places these children's stories in the broader context of the worldwide struggle against child labor. Stolen Childhoods provides an understanding of the causes of child labor, what it costs the global community, how it contributes to global insecurity and what it will take to eliminate it, available as a DVD <http://store.galenfilms.com/un.html> and, perhaps more useful, clips can be viewed on line, for example, this one about children working on an onion farm in Texas http://www.stolenchildhoods.org/mt/archives/videostories/texas_fields/index.php

Videos/DVDs

A wide selection of videos/DVDs could be used in a 7 Revs course, some of which are suggested below. When they are rated, it is the opinion of a 7 Revs instructor who has used a particular video.

Planet Earth

- Released April 2007
- Running time: Eleven 50 minute episodes
- According to multiple reviews, this is *THE* best nature and wildlife series ever made. The film covers the world's different habitats in 50 minute pieces, including mountains, caves, and desserts, ending with a three-part discussion of sustainability and the current environmental threats that our world faces. This series is not to be missed by anyone interested in natural resources, the environment, sustainability, and the future of our planet.

I.O.U.S.A.

- Released April 2009
- Running time: 80 minutes
- Description: Through the eyes of former U.S. Comptroller General David Walker, *I.O.U.S.A.* daringly examines the history and rapid growth of the U.S. national debt and the effects that it will have on U.S. citizens and the world. A thirty minute version of the movie can be seen online at <http://www.ioussathemovie.com/>.

On Our Watch

- Released January 2008
- Running time: 60 minutes
- Description: The entire 60 minute video of "On Our Watch," which addresses the humanitarian crisis in Darfur that has been labeled the first genocide of the 21st century, can be accessed at the following web site: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/darfur/view/main.html> This video examines the emerging crisis in Darfur beginning in 2003 and continues to examine the dynamics of this complex situation as a UN official presses the world to act, the United Nations makes numerous ineffective efforts to intervene, and flickers of hope emerge in 2007. This powerful and informative video is supported by web links to additional information about the crisis in Darfur. (DVD also available for \$30 from web site at <http://www.shoppbs.org/>)
- Rating: excellent ; used selected sections in class, related to conflict revolution

Bush's War

- Released May 2008
- Running time: 270 minutes
- Description: 9/11 and Al Qaeda, Afghanistan and Iraq, WMD and the Insurgency, Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, Fallujah and the Surge. For six years, FRONTLINE has been revealing those stories in meticulous detail and the

political dramas played out at the highest levels. Now, on the fifth anniversary of the Iraq invasion, the full saga will unfold in this special definitive documentary analysis of one of the most challenging periods in the nation's history. 270 minutes on one disc. (Description from web site at <http://www.shoppbs.org/>) Video available for \$30.

- Rating: excellent; used outside of class as an optional learning activity, related to conflict resolution

An Inconvenient Truth

- Originally released November 2006
- Running time: 96 minutes
- Description: Former Vice President Al Gore presents a compelling look at the state of global warming in the fascinating and startling documentary. Director Davis Guggenheim eloquently weaves the science of global warming with Al Gore's personal history and lifelong commitment to reversing the effects of global climate change in the most talked-about documentary of the year. An audience and critical favorite, *An Inconvenient Truth* makes the compelling case that global warming is real, man-made, and its effects will be cataclysmic if we don't act now. Gore presents a wide array of facts and information in a thoughtful and compelling way: often humorous, frequently emotional, always fascinating. In the end, *An Inconvenient Truth* accomplishes what all great films should: it leaves the viewer shaken, involved and inspired. Description from <http://www.climatecrisis.net/aboutthedvd/> and from amazon.com, where it is available for \$16
- Rating: excellent; used inside and outside class; directly related to climate change topic within "resource management" revolution

China from the Inside

- Released February 2007
- Running time: 240 minutes
- Description: *China from the Inside* is a series of four documentaries that survey China through Chinese eyes to see how history has shaped them and where the present is taking them. Episodes include Power and the People which deals with the governance of China, The Women which talks about the past and future for Chinese women, Shifting Nature, a look at China's environmental challenges, and Freedom, an exploration of China's conflict between personal freedom and governance. Produced in 2006 with 240 minutes on one DVD. Description from web site at <http://www.shoppbs.org/> Video available for \$30.
- Rating: very good
- Used outside class as optional learning activity; related to several revolutions

Flow: For Love of Water

- Released December 2008
- Running time: 84 minutes
- Description: This is a powerful documentary of the current state of freshwater ownership, privatization and distribution around the world. The film discusses the conflict between "predatory" corporations and engaged citizens over water

rights and usage. For example, it discusses how companies like Coke and Pepsi use of water in India and Nestles use of water in Michigan for bottled water. This film also documents water wars in Bolivia, privatization in Africa, and issues of pollution of freshwater around the world. It promotes lively and emotional discussion in class.

- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions Section: Resources, Technology, Economics, Conflict.

NOVA - World in the Balance: The Population Paradox

- Released June, 2004
- Running time: 120 minutes
- Description: This documentary discusses how regions and countries such as Africa, India and Japan are facing different problems related to their current and changing population demographics. It provides a number of good graphics (population pyramids) and statistics, but also relates these issues to individual, very personal, stories. The film discusses birth control and women's rights in India, how HIV/AIDS in Africa has resulted in tragic cases that change the role of extended families, and how modernization has caused dramatically decreased fertility rates in Japan.
- PBS.org has a great interactive site dealing with this issue:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/worldbalance/>
- Rating: Excellent
- 7-Revolutions Section: Population

NOVA - Car of the Future: Engineering for the Environment

- Released April, 2008
- Running time: 54 min
- Description: This documentary is hosted by the radio hosts for NPR's program, Car Talk. The hosts Tom and Ray visit several manufacturers and entrepreneurs who are creating more efficient, eco-friendly cars, such as new versions of hybrids, hydrogen fuel cells, and electric cars. The hosts add some humor that makes the documentary more enjoyable for students, while discussing serious issues.
- It can be viewed in six different parts at: PBS.org – specifically:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/car/program.html>
- Rating: Very good
- 7-Revolutions Section: Technology

The 11th Hour

- Released April, 2008
- Running time: 92 min
- Description: In this documentary several of the world's experts on climate change and sustainability are interviewed including: former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Cambridge physicist Stephen Hawking, progressive CEO Ray Anderson, and scientist and activist David Suzuki. It contains wonderful video footage and a very high production value. It is hosted by Leonardo DiCaprio and it appears to be intended for a younger, college-age, audience. In

this documentary they discuss both the science and philosophy of the future of our planet. It starts off a bit depressing, but ends with some practical ways for individuals to enact change.

- Rating: Excellent: Students rated *The 11th Hour* as their favorite video of the semester.
- 7-Revolutions Section: Resources, Population, Technology

Why We Fight

- Released June, 2006
- Running time: 98 min
- Description: *Why We Fight* features interviews and observations by experts on the military, including Senator John McCain, Gore Vidal, and Dan Rather. It begins with the prophetic speech by President Dwight D. Eisenhower's warning of the rise of the "military industrial complex." The film discusses the forces – political, economic, and ideological – that drive us to fight against an ever-changing enemy? This film won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival. Although it brings in experts from a number of different ideologies, the film does tend to have a left leaning viewpoint on the military and war.
- Rating: Very good.
- 7-Revolutions Section: Conflict

Commanding Heights

- Released July 2002
- Running time: 360 minutes
- Description: This three-part, six-hour documentary focuses on the history and impact of the new global economy, explaining macroeconomics and their current political and social importance without ever causing a loss of consciousness for the viewer. Segments include the history of economic thought, deregulation, and consequences of globalization. Interviews with several world leaders are featured.

6 Billion and Beyond

- Released 1999
- Running time: 60 minutes
- Produced by Berkeley Media and available through their website <http://www.berkeleymedia.com/>
- Educational discounts are available; be sure to ask. A review quoted on their site says: "This film manages, miraculously, not to fall into the simplistic trap of equating population growth with abstract numbers that count up doom and disaster. Rather, it reminds us that this is the most human of all subjects, and its future depends above all on the human lives of young women, who live in many different circumstances in many parts of the earth. It depicts these young women, appropriately, as looking ahead to lives very different from those of their mothers -- lives at a global turning point toward lower birth rates and population stabilization." -- Donella Meadows, Professor of Environmental Studies, Dartmouth University

Gattaca

- Released 1998
- Running time: 106 minutes
- In this science fiction film, being genetically engineered is an asset while those naturally born are considered flawed. It is part thriller, part futuristic drama and cautionary tale.

Children of Men

- Released March 2007
- Running time: 110 minutes
- Based on the 1993 novel by P.D. James, the movie is a cautionary tale of potential things to come. Set in the crisis-ravaged future of 2027, humanity has become infertile, immigration is a crime, refugees are caged like animals, and the world has been torn apart by nuclear fallout, rampant terrorism, and political rebellion.

Outsourced

- Released: September 2008
- Running time: 103 minutes
- A phone sales manager must travel to India to train operators and his own replacement.

Other ideas for popular movies that could be useful include *Hotel Rwanda*, *Slum Dog Millionaire*, and *Blood Diamond*.

Background Reading

If you are considering adopting 7 Revs or preparing to teach 7 Revs, here are some suggestions for background reading.¹⁴⁴

Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet by Jeffrey D. Sachs

In this sobering but optimistic manifesto, development economist Sachs (*The End of Poverty*) argues that the crises facing humanity are daunting – but solutions to them are readily at hand. Sachs focuses on four challenges for the coming decades: heading off global warming and environmental destruction; stabilizing the world's population; ending extreme poverty; and breaking the political logjams that hinder global cooperation on these issues. The author analyzes economic data, demographic trends and climate science to create a lucid, accessible and suitably grim exposition of looming problems, but his forte is elaborating concrete, pragmatic, low-cost remedies complete with benchmarks and budgets. Sachs's entire agenda would cost less than 3% of the world's annual income, and he notes that a mere two days' worth of Pentagon spending would fund a comprehensive anti-malaria program for Africa, saving countless lives. Fortright government action is the key to avoiding catastrophe, the author contends, not the unilateral, militarized approach to international problems that he claims is pursued by the Bush administration. Combining trenchant analysis with a resounding call to arms, Sachs's book is an important contribution to the debate over the world's

¹⁴⁴ With the exception of the *Freakanomics* review, descriptions are adapted from the amazon.com website

future. (Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.)

The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century by Thomas L. Friedman

Thomas L. Friedman is not so much a futurist, which he is sometimes called, as a presentist. His aim in *The World Is Flat*, as in his earlier, influential *Lexus and the Olive Tree*, is not to give you a speculative preview of the wonders that are sure to come in your lifetime, but rather to get you caught up on the wonders that are already here. The world isn't going to be flat, it is flat, which gives Friedman's breathless narrative much of its urgency, and which also saves it from the Epcot-style polyester sheen that futurists--the optimistic ones at least--are inevitably prey to. (Reviewed by Tom Nissley)

Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty by Muhammad Yunus.

Banker to the Poor is an inspiring memoir of the birth of microcredit, written in a conversational tone that makes it both moving and enjoyable to read. The Grameen Bank is now a \$2.5 billion banking enterprise in Bangladesh, while the microcredit model has spread to over 50 countries worldwide, from the U.S. to Papua New Guinea, Norway to Nepal. Ever optimistic, Yunus travels the globe spreading the belief that poverty can be eliminated: "...the poor, once economically empowered, are the most determined fighters in the battle to solve the population problem; end illiteracy; and live healthier, better lives. When policy makers finally realize that the poor are their partners, rather than bystanders or enemies, we will progress much faster than we do today." Dr. Yunus's efforts prove that hope is a global currency. (Reviewed by Shawn Carkonen)

The Better World Handbook: Small Changes That Make A Big Difference by Ellis Jones, Ross Haenfler, and Brett Johnson. The book focuses on foundations for a better world, including 1) Economic Fairness, 2) Comprehensive Peace, 3) Ecological Sustainability, 4) Deep Democracy, 5) Social Justice, 6) Culture of Simplicity, and 7) Revitalized Community. It provides the 10 top actions and a shopper's guide.

The Singularity Is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology by Ray Kurzweil. Renowned inventor Kurzweil (*The Age of Spiritual Machines*) may be technology's most credibly hyperbolic optimist. Elsewhere he has argued that eliminating fat intake can prevent cancer; here, his quarry is the future of consciousness and intelligence. Humankind, it runs, is at the threshold of an epoch ("the singularity," a reference to the theoretical limitlessness of exponential expansion) that will see the merging of our biology with the staggering achievements of "GNR" (genetics, nanotechnology and robotics) to create a species of unrecognizably high intelligence, durability, comprehension, memory and so on. The word "unrecognizable" is not chosen lightly: wherever this is heading, it won't look like us. Kurzweil's argument is necessarily twofold: it's not enough to argue that there are virtually no constraints on our capacity; he must also convince readers that such developments are desirable. In essence, he conflates the wholesale transformation of the species with "immortality," for which read a repeal of human limit. In less capable hands, this phantasmagoria of speculative extrapolation, which incorporates a bewildering variety of charts, quotations, playful Socratic dialogues and sidebars, would

be easier to dismiss. But Kurzweil is a true scientist—a large-minded one at that—and gives due space both to "the panoply of existential risks" as he sees them and the many presumed lines of attack others might bring to bear. What's arresting isn't the degree to which Kurzweil's heady and bracing vision fails to convince—given the scope of his projections, that's inevitable—but the degree to which it seems downright plausible. (Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.)

Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. *Freakonomics* is a ground-breaking collaboration between Levitt and Dubner, an award-winning author and journalist. They usually begin with a mountain of data and a simple, unasked question. Some of these questions concern life-and-death issues; others have an admittedly freakish quality. Thus the new field of study contained in this book: *Freakonomics*. (<http://freakonomicsbook.com/>)

Course Texts

Some instructors rely exclusively on *Epsilon*, CSIS, and other online resources as course texts. Others use a mix that includes textbooks and periodicals, such as these:

Beyond Borders: Thinking Critically about Global Issues by Paula S. Rothenberg. At a time when events anywhere in the world have the potential to impact almost instantaneously on life in the most remote hamlet, village, or town, it is essential that students learn how to think globally. Paula Rothenberg's *Beyond Borders* is an interdisciplinary collection that brings today's most pressing global issues into the classroom. Designed to help prepare today's college students to assume their roles as members of an increasingly global community, this powerful collection includes 82 articles written by today's leading scholars, activists, and policymakers from around the world. In the tradition of Rothenberg's other widely acclaimed college texts, these highly readable, often gripping, articles are presented within a conceptual framework that encourages a thoughtful understanding of the complexities that have given rise to the issues they address. It has never been more important for students to learn to think critically about the world and their place in it. *Beyond Borders* is designed to help create such classroom conversations in courses across the disciplines. (Description from publisher at: <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/beyondborders/>)

Annual Editions: Global Issues 09/10 by Robert Jackson

Global Issues is one in a series of over 65 volumes, each designed to provide convenient, inexpensive access to a wide range of current articles from some of the most respected magazines, newspapers, and journals published today. *Global Issues* are updated on a regular basis through a continuous monitoring of over 300 periodical sources. The articles selected are authored by prominent scholars, researchers, and commentators writing for a general audience. The *Annual Editions* volumes have a number of common organizational features designed to make them particularly useful in the classroom: a general introduction; an annotated table of contents; a topic guide; an annotated listing of selected World Wide Web sites; and a brief overview for each section. Each volume

also offers an online Instructor's Resource Guide with testing materials. (Description from publisher at <http://catalogs.mhhe.com/>)

Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Global Issues (5th edition) by James E. Harf and Mark O. Lombardi

Taking Sides presents current controversial issues in a debate-style format designed to stimulate student interest and develop critical thinking skills. Each issue is framed with an issue summary, an issue introduction, and a postscript. An instructor's manual with testing material is available online for each volume. (Description from publisher at <http://catalogs.mhhe.com/>)

National Issues Forum: <http://www.nifi.org/>

National Issues Forum publishes pamphlets on topics such as education, energy and environment, government and politics, and other current issues. Available as class sets, they present multiple sides of an issue. Many include a moderator's guide and questions. An example is *The New Challenges of Immigration*
http://www.nifi.org/stream_document.aspx?rID=13784&catID=13&itemID=13780&typeID=8

Scientific American: Earth 3.0

This is a new periodical from Scientific American that is ideal for a 7 Revs class. It deals primarily with issues of our future planet including well-written articles on water, energy, green-technology, biodiversity, population and even conflict. The graphics, images and charts are easy to understand. Articles present scientific interpretations of problems, many with a future focus. Excellent for use in all course topics.

Worlds Apart: Globalization and the Environment by James Gustav Speth

Worlds Apart is a collection of essays by leading thinkers on the subject of globalization, and related environmental issues. Used in critiquing the 7 Revs framework