

Biography for Arthur N. Gilbert

If I can continue teaching at what is now the Josef Korbel School of International Relations until 2011, I can quietly proclaim that I have been on the teaching front lines for fifty years. I can say without hesitation that I have never suffered burn out or even considered retiring. As long as I can honestly say that on the first day of retirement, I would look for another teaching job, I have no reason to change my life. I truly love my profession and, as Josef Korbel, who hired me many years ago, used to say, "Arthur, this is the greatest job in the world." Given his life as a diplomat, scholar, and refugee from both the Nazis and Communists in mid twentieth century Europe, I feel that he knew much better than I what a great job was all about.

My own journey has been driven by great curiosity about the world around me. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, to two hard working parents who were part of what we used to call the respectable middle class (this meant modest means), I attended public schools and then went to the University of Rhode Island where I majored in English and Political Science, with a minor in history. The latter was and remains my first love. I worked under Ruhl Bartlett in American Diplomatic History and on completing my PhD at age 24 was hired by Joe Korbel to teach that subject along with many others. One of the joys of finishing a PhD is that you are free to explore other areas of interest and I continue to do so to this day. In my first year of teaching, all of my graduate students were older than me.

Reflecting on my long career, I realize that academe and, in particular, the University of Denver and the School of International Studies, allowed me to build on my training in diplomatic history and to treat teaching as a continual act of creation. Today, I teach courses which I never dreamed of during my graduate years. They include Contagious Diseases and IP, Apocalyptic Religion and IP, Understanding IP by studying Organized Crime, Drugs and the Drug War, Genocide and the Human condition and The Outbreak of War among others. I am very student centered and enjoy the company of students from Freshman entering DU to the PhD Graduates I have been close to over the years. I feel that whatever I give to them after a lifetime of study, they return to me something equally important which is a fresh perspective on many topics and a certain amount of joy at being in contact with individuals whose lives are in front of them.

My sense of enjoyment in being in the company of students is reflected in what is one of the University of Denver's longest running programs which I have been directing for nineteen years. This is the Costa Rica experience which is designed for people who do not have a great deal of money or time but still want to learn something about another country and receive credit for their undergraduate or graduate degrees. Over the years I have taken hundreds of students in the winter term break not only to learn about Central America but to reflect on our country by seeing through the eyes of others.

In earlier times when our graduate and undergraduate programs were small, I could easily meet everyone who went through our program. Because of the growth of the program this is no longer possible. Still, I hope that many of you will drop in, even for a moment or two to introduce yourselves. You will receive a warm welcome.

VITAE

Arthur N. Gilbert

Citizen: United States

Date of Birth: April 24, 1936

Marital Status: Married

Academic Degrees: B.A. University of Rhode Island, 1958
M.A. The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, 1959
Ph.D. The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, 1961

Dissertation: International Organization and the Election of 1924

Teaching Experience:

Josef Korbel School of International Studies (formerly GSIS)
Associate Professor, 1969-present
Assistant Professor, 1961-1969

Haile Selassie I University, Department of Political Science, 1965-66
NDEA Institute, Colorado State College, Summer, 1967
NDEA Institute, Colorado College, Summer, 1968
University of Colorado, Fall, 1985
University of Tubingen, Summer, 1987

Many other short term teaching assignments.

Grants:

Rockefeller Foundation Grant to serve as consultant at Haile Selassie I University,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1965-66
Social Science Foundation Grants, summers: 1968, 1974-1977.
National Endowment for the Humanities, Younger Humanist Fellow, 1971-72
University of Denver Research Grants, summers: 1973, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1982

Travel:

Africa, Middle East, Europe

Research:

Author of forty articles and many conference papers (see me for a list)