



Power, Inequality, and Globalization

Sociology: 3435; Section: 060
Spring Semester 2014

Instructor:

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Course Content and Organization:

This course will be an exploration of the intersection of power, inequality, and globalization. Overall, this course will seek to understand both the historical and contemporary global processes which cause inequality and underdevelopment throughout the world. We will do so through a combination of engaging with both theoretical and empirical works. Furthermore, this course seeks to address issues associated with economic growth and development in a relational context. To put it differently, we will explore different conceptualizations of power and how power is organized throughout the contemporary world to better understand global inequality. Social and economic factors associated with growth and power and their effects on society are discussed with special attention to: the historical development of uneven development through colonial expansion; global labor arbitrage; slavery in the contemporary global economy; agriculture and inequality; gender and inequality; urbanization; privatization. In understanding these issues we will place them within the context of various political-economic theories of development. Finally, through our understanding of power, inequality, and globalization we will end with a discussion of potential solutions to global problems.

Required Texts:

Bunker, Stephen G. and Paul S. Ciccantell. 2005. *Globalization and the Race for Resources*. Johns Hopkins University Press. **ISBN-10:** 0801882435.

Murray, Anne Firth. 2008. *From Outrage to Courage: Women Taking Action for Health and Justice*. Common Courage Press. ISBN-10: 1567513905.

Barlow, Maude and Tony Clark. 2005. *Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water*. New Press. ISBN-10: 1565848136.

Davis, Mike. 2007. *Planet of Slums*. Verso. ISBN-10: 1844671607.

Bales, Kevin. 2012. *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*. University of California Press. ISBN-10: 0520272919.

(Potential) Course Requirements:

Participation (20%): Active participation in class discussions is required. In order to participate actively you will need to come to class having completed the readings. Your grade for participation will be based on both quality and quantity of participation in class discussion.

Quizzes (10%): There will be 5 reading quizzes spread throughout the semester.

Reflection Papers (35%): You will be asked to write a 2-4 page double spaced reflection paper for each topic of the course. This assignment will ask you to **briefly** summarize the major points of each set of readings. Then, you will be asked to critically engage with the text with any sort of reflections or questions that you have. These assignments are open-ended.

Lead Discussion (15%): You are required to lead discussion once during the term. Discussion will entail a brief summary of the sections of the readings you sign up for that summarizes and critically assesses the readings. Additionally, you will be asked to formulate questions with the intent of generating discussion. Focus should be placed on establishing the logic of an argument, assessing the strengths and weaknesses for specific theories/research, reflecting on research questions, and considering potential avenues of future research.

Current Event Papers (20%): Students will submit two papers that respond to events in the news. Papers will be 4 pages in length. They will summarize the event and then analyze it using concepts from the readings, films, lectures, and class discussions.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

Faculty and Student Responsibilities

“All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.”

“Faculty...must strive in the classroom to maintain a climate conducive to thinking and learning.” PPM 8-12.3, B.

“Students have a right to support and assistance from the University in maintaining a climate conducive to thinking and learning.” PPM 8-10, II. A.

-Undergraduate Council Syllabus Guidelines 2008

(Tentative) Course Schedule:

Week 1: Syllabus week/Intro Lecture

Week 2: **Power**

-Lukes, *Power: A Radical View* (PDF)

-Gramsci, *Hegemony* (PDF)

-Mills, *Power Elite* (PDF)

Week 3-4: **Colonial Expansion**

-Bunker and Ciccantell, *Globalization and the Race for Resources*

-Christopher Chase-Dunn (PDF)

-Galleano, *Open Veins of Latin America* (PDF)

Week 5: **Global Labor Arbitrage:**

-John Bellamy Foster, *Global Labor Arbitrage* (PDF)

-Jon Smith, *Imperialism and the Globalization of Production* (PDF)

Week 6-7: **Privatization**

-Barlow and Clark, *Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water*

-The Lauderdale Paradox (PDF)

-Longo and Clausen, “The Tragedy of the Commodity” (PDF)

Week 8-9: **Agriculture and Technology**

-Vandana Shiva, *The Violence of the Green Revolution* (PDF)

Week 10-11: **Women and Inequality**

-Murray, *From Outrage to Courage*

-Dunaway, “The Shrimp Eat Better Than We Do” (PDF)

Week 12: **Urbanization and Inequality**

-Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums*

Week 13-14: **Slavery and Global Economy**

-Bales, *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*

Week 15: **Resistance**
-TBD