

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
SOC 3436-001 - Global Social Structure
Fall 2012: M,W,F / 9:40 AM - 10:30 AM M Lib 1150

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change at any time.

Instructor: David M. Fields, PhD Candidate.

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Office Location: BEH S 422

Office Hours: TBA

Class Website: WebCT

Course summary (3 credit hours, no prerequisites):

Global institutions are expanding (both in number and size) and growing increasingly complex. In this class we will explore the process of globalization in order to better understand its meaning, temporality, and impacts on development, human well being, and the environment and modern society in general. Macro- and micro-level structures will be examined, including nation-states, economic systems, corporations, cultures, individuals, etc. These structures will help us to critically interpret and analyze the social forces that impact processes of globalization and how globalization impacts society.

Course Objectives (Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to):

- 1) Identify and differentiate between the economic, political and cultural dimensions of globalization;
- 2) Critically evaluate competing perspectives of the causes and consequences of globalization; and
- 3) Apply competing perspectives and concepts of globalization to social, economic and political events associated with contemporary life.

Required Texts :

1. Philip McMichael. 2011. Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective. 5th Edition. Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1412992077
2. Polanyi, K .2001 , The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our
3. Time, New York: Beacon Press., 1944. ISBN: 080705643X
4. William I. Robinson. 2004. A Theory of Global Capitalism: Production, Class, and State in a Transnational World. The Johns Hopkins University Press. ISBN: 978-0801879272

Course Requirements:

1. Response Papers (4) 40%

- **Current Event Response (2)**
- **Film Response (2)**

2. Exams (2) 20%

3. Final Project 20%

4. Participation 20%

- **Discussion Lead**
- **In class participation**
- **Quizzes**

Additional details and expectations for all assignments will be discussed in class and posted on the class website. Formats for paper one and two are described in the class policies.

Grading Scale

- A 94%-100%
- A- 90%-93.9%
- B+ 87%-89.9%
- B 84%-86.9%
- B- 80%-83.9%
- C+ 77%-79.9%
- C 74%-76.9%
- C- 70%-73.9%
- D+ 67%-69.9%
- D 64%-66.9%
- D- 60%-63.9%
- E 0%-59

Teaching and Grading Style

This class will generally consist of 35% lecture, 35% discussion and 30% other activities. Other activities will include group work, self-directed learning, viewing films, etc. Grading will reflect an emphasis on critical thinking and engagement with the readings. Understanding of basic concepts is a precondition to critical thinking, however, in general, memorization is not required, and use of reference material is encouraged. Occasional closed-book quizzes may be given in class to test understanding of key foundational concepts. All papers will be graded for content and organization, with special attention to the student's critical analysis (e.g. discussion and conclusions).

Course Outline and Reading Schedule

- Readings must be completed prior to the date listed.
- All readings are listed in the order they should be read.
- Materials listed to skim should be read for main concept definitions. The more technical aspects (e.g. economic models and equations) can be skipped.

This schedule is tentative and subject to change at any time. Please check Canvas regularly.

Tentative Course Structure:

Introduction

1 Introduction

1.1 International, Global or Transnational?

1.2 Globalization and Power

1.3 Global Society

- What is society?
- How do we approach social structure at the global level?
- Is there a global society?

2 Theoretical Perspectives

2.1 What is social structure?

- How do we stratify?

2.2 Globalization

- What is Globalization? Dimensions and Debates
- What is Globalization? Nothing vs. Nothing New

2.3 Theories of Global Social Structure

- Economic Structure: World Systems Theory & Dependency Theory
- Political Structure: World Polity Theory & Military Structures of Power
- Global Culture: Imagined Communities, Cultural Idioms & the Clash of Civilizations

3 Historical Foundations

3.1 History of International Relations

3.2 History of the State

3.3 History of Globalization and Modernization

4 Economic Structure

4.1 Modernization and Dependency

4.2 Economic Globalization

4.2.1 Dependency and the World System

4.2.2 Globalization: Natural Process vs. Project

4.3 Inequality

5 Political Structure & Political Globalization

5.1 States in the Global Structure

5.2 Power and Politics

5.3 Political Interactions on the Global Scale

6 Culture and Social Structure

7 Intersections and Issues

7.1 Non-State Actors

7.2 Organized Violence

7.3 Global Cities

7.4 The Environment

7.5 Globalization and Gender

8 Social Mobility in the Global Context

8.1 Physical Mobility: Migration

8.2 Social Mobility

8.3 Social Movements

Class Policies:

- Attendance is strongly encouraged but not required; however, students are accountable for all information covered in class. Please do not ask the instructor to make up missed lectures.
- Cell phones are to be turned off during class.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): 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.
- All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom, 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 IX) 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, and I will do so, 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.
- Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that may conflict with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience. For more information, please consult the University of Utah's Accommodations Policy, which appears at: www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.pdf.
- Should the instructor be late for class due to weather or other unforeseen reasons, the department will be notified and a departmental representative will meet with the class to inform students of when the class will begin.