

SOCIOLOGY 15

World Society

Summer 2018

Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00 pm. to 9:00 p.m.

Earth and Marine B214

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 pm (or by appointment)

Course Description:

This course examines *globalization*. In popular discourse, “globalization” is often treated as a contemporary buzzword, synonymous with the world’s technological advances and economic integration. What is globalization? How can it be understood historically? How is it related to growing social opportunities *and* rising insecurities? This introductory course is designed to examine such questions within a sociological framework.

We cover a range of topics, including the origins of global capitalism, the role of colonialism in shaping present-day global inequalities, and environmental history from a global perspective.

Through lectures, readings, films, videos, and discussions, students will be better able to make critical assessments about globalization. The course will also prepare students for more advanced courses in political economy, politics, social inequality, environmental studies and international development.

Course Goals:

1. Introduce students to social science approaches that examine the origins, processes, outcomes and debates about globalization.
2. Expose students to a socio-historical and non-Western view of the world.
3. Develop students’ critical thinking and analytical skills to better understand contemporary social issues such as inequalities, international governance, geopolitics, and social justice struggles across the globe.

Course Readings:

Some course readings are available on Canvas in PDF, but all books are available at the Literary Guillotine.

Marks, Robert. 2015. *The Origins of the Modern World*. 3rd Edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc. ISBN: 978142212398.

Hochschild, Adam. 1999. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Heroism and Terror in Colonial Africa*. Houghton Mifflin.

Foster, John Bellamy. 1999. *The Vulnerable Planet*. Monthly Review Press.

Requirements and expectations:

To pass this course, students must attend lectures, complete the assigned reading before coming to class, turn in reading responses, and participate in classroom activities. Here is how your final grade breaks down:

Mid-Term and Final (40%)

Midterm Exam (20%): on August 15th, covering readings and lectures through the first five class meetings. The midterm exam will include multiple choice, short answer, and an essay.

Final Paper (20%): due by September 1st by 11:59 pm. We will discuss paper guidelines during class.

Reading Response Papers (40%)

There will be eight, 2-page reading response papers. A grading rubric will be posted on Canvas. Note that you may be asked to read from your response paper during class discussion, so you will always need to bring them to class whether in print or on a laptop.

Attendance (20%)

Attendance is mandatory. During class, we may do small-group activities, which will count toward your attendance points. I reserve the right to take points away for arriving late or leaving early. If you cannot attend class, you must let me know in advance. During class discussion, please be courteous to your classmates and remain quiet when someone is speaking. There is no section/lab for this class. Please note that missing more than two classes (every 3-hour class counts as *two* full classes) will result in your overall grade being lowered by 10% for each additional (1.5 hour) class missed.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Students should be aware that we will be especially vigilant in responding to academic dishonesty and plagiarism in this class. Students must properly cite sources of all work that is not their own. A good rule of thumb is that anything more than 3 consecutive words from another source should include a

citation to source. Consult the instructor in case of uncertainty. For a good overview on citing and documenting sources, please see: <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf>
Students should be aware that penalties for plagiarism are outlined in The Navigator (<http://reg.ucsc.edu/navigator/>) and the UCSC Student Policies and Regulations Handbook (<http://deanofstudents.ucsc.edu/student-conduct/student-handbook/index.html>).

Disability Resource Center:

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to your instructor in a timely manner, preferably by the end of the first week of Summer Session. Contact DRC at 831-459-2089 or drc@ucsc.edu for further questions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

[reading schedule may be subject to change]

Week 1

July 30: The Sociology of Globalization

- 1) Cohen & Kennedy- Ch. 2 Thinking Globally
- 2) Sen- How to Judge Globalism?

Aug 1: The Origins of Globalization

- 1) Marks- (Ch. 1) The Material and Trading Worlds, circa 1400
- 2) Marks- (Ch. 2) Starting with China
- 3) Marks- (Ch. 3) Empires, States, and the New World 1500-1775
- 4) Graeber- "There Never was a West" (from the book *Possibilities* by David Graeber).

Week 2

Aug 6: Colonialism

- 1) King Leopold's Ghost, Chapters: Intro, Prologue, 2, 4, 5

Aug 8: Colonialism

- 1) King Leopold's Ghost, Chapters: 8, 10, 11, 15, 19
- 2) "DR Congo: Cursed by its natural wealth" at <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-24396390>

Week 3

Aug 13: The Global Economy

- 1) Marks, Chapter 4: The Industrial Revolution and its Consequences
- 2) Cohen and Kennedy, Chapter 7: Class, Income and Wealth
- 3) Cohen and Kennedy, Chapter 4: Work, Production and Finance

Aug 15: The Global Economy

- 1) Mid-term exam during first half of class
- 2) Cohen and Kennedy, Chapter 5: Political Sociology, Changing Nation-States
- 3) McMichael, Chapter 3: The Development Project

Week 4

Aug 20: Development and Inequality

- 1) Chataway and Allen: Industrialization and Development: Prospects and Dilemmas
- 2) Chang: Kicking Away the Ladder
- 3) Bernstein: Colonialism, Capitalism and Development

Aug 22: Globalization and Inequality

- 1) Cohen and Kennedy, Chapter 10: Corporate Power and Social Responsibility
- 2) McMichael, Chapter 5: Instituting the Globalization Project
- 3) In-class Film: *Roger and Me* (1988), Michael Moore

Week 5: The Global Environment: The Vulnerable Planet

Aug 27:

- 1) Foster, The Vulnerable Planet, Chapters: Preface, 1, 2, 3, 4

Aug 29:

- 1) Foster, The Vulnerable Planet, Chapters: 5, 6, 7, Afterward

****Your final paper is due Sunday, September 1st, by 11:59 pm on Canvas****

