

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY 401.39
UNDERSTANDING GLOBALIZATION
(SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION)

FALL 2010

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CLASS TIME : M-W-F 1:00 pm -1:50 pm
CLASSROOM : ES054

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course covers an area that is conventionally known as “globalization”. Globalization is a hotly contested concept due to several arguments. First, the term “globalization” has been used to describe a process, a condition, a system, a force, and an era; the result being different meanings for the same term. Second, some scholars argue that economic processes lie at the core of globalization. Others privilege political, cultural, or ideological aspects. Still others point to environmental processes as the essence of globalization. While each scholar is right in identifying one important dimension of this phenomenon, more and more scholars have begun to take a more multidimensional approach to globalization. For example, Stager (2003) argues that globalization has become the buzzword of our time – a term that describes the variety of changing economic, political, cultural, ideological, and environmental processes that are alleged to have accelerated and intensified in the last few decades. Giddens (2003) sees globalization as the intensification of worldwide social relationships which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa.

- ✓ We will introduce students to the field of globalization through the multidisciplinary study of its economic, political, social, cultural and ideological dimensions. (We will apply the analogy of “The Globalization Scholars and the Elephant”)
- ✓ The course will help students to understand the different processes and the different periods or waves of globalization, as well as some related historical and contemporary issues, such as poverty, colonialism, dependency and neo-liberalism.
- ✓ We will explore the role of key international organizations, such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, as well as aid and development INGOs, and how the focus of globalization has gradually been shifting from the advantages of economic integration to the loss of sovereignty, the erosion of local cultural identities, the destruction of the environments and the climatic catastrophe.

- ✓ We will review the pro-globalization and anti-globalization perspectives. Through the help of a specific film we will analyze the impact economic globalization can have on a developing country. The film, investigates the "mechanism of debt" that is destroying local agriculture and industry while substituting sweatshops and cheap imports. The film takes a critical look at the "new world order," from the point of view of citizens, workers, farmers, government and policy officials who see the reality of globalization from the ground up. It also presents the views of IMF top bureaucrats who explain the role of the IMF and other international organizations on the benefits of globalization.

The course is structured within approximately 13 weeks in a very compressed structure. In order to cover effectively all the materials presented, two weekly lecture days (W & F) will be followed by a workshop (M) in which, the issues approached during the lectures, as well as in the assigned readings and other course material, will be further debated through group discussions. Your participation in all lectures and especially in the workshops is important both to your self-improvement and your partial and final grades.

3. TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS

3.1 Required Reading:

- ✓ Hebron Lui & John F. Stack, Jr. 2010 (2011). *Globalization, Edition No.02*. Longman: Pearson Education. (Available at the University Bookstore)

3.2 Supplemental Readings:

- ✓ Other readings – chapters or excerpts from books, and selected articles - to supplement the topics covered in the main reading and to be discussed in the lectures, will be posted on Blackboard (PDF files) as the term progresses.

4. ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

This is a highly participatory and “hands on” course. There will be no formal partial or final examinations, instead, you will write a Take-Home Final Paper, complete a Research Project, and write and discuss four reaction papers. The description of each one of the above course evaluation components is as follows:

4.1 Take-Home Final Paper

There will be an individual **Take-Home Final Paper** (10 pages in length plus references). This Paper will count for 30% of your final grade. The guidelines for this final Paper will be posted on Blackboard four weeks before the **due date of December 10, 2010.**

4.2 Group Work

Students will be assigned to working teams (“**triads**”) and will undertake the course work (Research Project, Short Reaction Papers and Workshops) as team members. It is the student’s responsibility to organize and equally contribute to all team work. All members of a team are assigned a team grade except in situations where individual team members have not contribute equally to the research efforts in which case the instructor will evaluate the individual student’s

work. It will be at the instructor's discretion to attend to situations (and possible penalties) where some team members are not fully attending to their team responsibilities.

4.2.1 Research Project

One group Research Project (Poster & Essay - 10 pages in length plus references) will be assigned around week three; you (your team) will have four weeks to complete this assignment (**due on October 25, 2010**). This Research Project will count for 30% of the course grade (20% Poster and Essay and 10% oral defense and presentation in class on **October 25 & 27**). Details regarding the subject (s) and methodology for the Research Project will be discussed as the term progresses.

4.2.2 Short Reaction Papers

There will be FOUR short reaction papers (five pages in length plus references) throughout the term (**due on weeks 2, 4, 8 & 10 – Mondays**). These short reaction papers will have to be completed in teams and presented in class during the workshops. A specific question/issue will be posted on blackboard one week prior to the due date (weeks 1, 3, 7 & 9). Each short reaction paper will count for 10% of the total grade.

5. COMPOSITION OF FINAL GRADE

Component	Due Date	Weight (%)
Take-Home Final Paper	December 10	30
4 group short reaction papers (10% each)	Weeks 2,4,8 & 10	40
Group Research Project	October 25	20
Oral defense of Research Project	October 25 & 27	10
TOTAL		100

NOTES:

- ✓ Students must complete all components of this course to receive a passing grade.
- ✓ It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.
- ✓ All assignments will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. All assignments must be properly documented (ASA Format).

6. SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

Section One: Understanding Globalization

Section Two: Demystifying Globalization

Section Three: The Many Waves of globalization

Section Four: The Economic Dimension of Globalization

Section Five: Globalization and Its Discontents

Section Six: The Political Dimension of Globalization (Guest Lecture)

Section Seven: The Cultural Dimension of Globalization

Section Eight: Globalization and the Environment

Section Nine: Globalization for All?

NOTE: A detailed schedule of lectures and description of the contents of each section, weekly readings and course assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

During the majority of class days (Wednesdays and Fridays), lectures will be presented on topics that complement the readings assigned on those days. Questions or issues for the Short-Reaction Papers will be derived from the assigned readings, lectures, films, material from workshops and guest lectures. Students are responsible for reading the assigned readings whether or not the topics are fully covered in lectures. I will endeavour to have a summary of my lecture notes (Power Point slides) posted on Blackboard once a week – Saturdays. Please do not ask me to post lectures notes in advance, logistically this is not feasible.

7. GRADING SYSTEM

Grades are entered as raw scores (percentages) into the grading system. Your final letter grade is computed based on the weighted sum of your raw scores. The following grading system will be used in this course:

Category	Letter Grade	Percentage
Outstanding	A+	95%-100%
Excellent, superior performance	A	90%-94%
	A-	85%-89%
Good, above average performance	B+	80%-84%
	B	76%-79%
	B-	72%-75%
Satisfactory, basic understanding	C+	67%-71%
	C	63%-66%
	C-	59%-62%
Minimal pass, marginal performance	D+	54%-58%
	D	50%-53%
Fail, unsatisfactory performance	F	0%-49%

NOTES:

- ✓ **The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.**

- ✓ Final grades will not be posted by the Sociology Department. They will be available on your Student Centre after they have been reviewed and approved by the Head of Department.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

8.1 Academic Accommodation:

- ✓ Students with a disability may provide the instructor with an academic accommodation no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

8.2 Assignments and Workshop Policies:

- ✓ You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to complete or hand in your assignments, or to participate in the workshops. All requests for deferral of a Paper, Research Project, Take-Home Final Paper or absence to a workshop due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred assignments or absences to workshops may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an assignment or not attended a workshop for a legitimate reason, you will be able to complete a make-up assignment as close to the original due date as possible.
- ✓ Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred assignment or absence to a workshop. Deferred assignments and permissions will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.
- ✓ Please note that requests to defer a final term work (Take-Home Final Paper) past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U of C Calendar. You can find the forms you need online: *Deferred Term Work Form*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>
- ✓ When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor rather than at the Sociology Department main office.

8.3 Policy for Late Assignments: Please be fully aware of the following policies regarding late completion of course assignments:

- ✓ Due dates for all assignments are **not negotiable**.
- ✓ Assignments must be handed in to the Instructor on the date they are due. Assignments will not be accepted electronically under any circumstance.
- ✓ Research Project (Poster & Essay) and Take-Home Final Paper submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the **loss of 5 points** for each day late.

- ✓ Students who fail to make the in-class presentation of their Research Project (Poster & Essay) will automatically lose the 10% assigned to this part of the total evaluation.
- ✓ Short-Reaction Papers submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the **loss of 3 points** for each day late.

8.4 Ethics Research

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see the University of Calgary Research Ethics site: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/compliance/ethics/info/undergrad/>

8.5 Academic Misconduct

Cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, and other academic misconduct.

8.6 Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

8.7 The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)

FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment, she/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.

9. OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

- ✓ The instructor reserves the right to introduce changes to the course outline and to the schedule of readings as the term progresses. All changes will be announced in class and/or posted on Blackboard.

- ✓ Please e-mail the instructor for administrative concerns only. Substantive issues should be addressed in person, either in class, workshops, office hours, or making an appointment with the instructor. Therefore, do not expect the instructor to respond to e-mails unless there is a matter of urgency.
- ✓ Most information, readings, and assignments will always be posted on Blackboard, so be sure to log on at least twice a week to check for messages and course documents.
- ✓ Cell phones, pagers, internet surfing, watching videos, playing computer games, checking E-mail, text messaging, and listening to music are disruptive to other students in class. **Please be courteous to your classmates and Instructor and turn off all such devices before the class starts.** Laptop computers are to be used exclusively for the purposes of taking notes during class. Other electronic devices may be used only if you have permission from the Instructor.

Emergency evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point by the Food Court in the Professional Faculties Building.

"SAFEWALK" Program

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

For any other information of academic or administrative nature please consult the Sociology Web Page at: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>