

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**SOCIOLOGY 401.39
SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION**

FALL 2011

INSTRUCTOR : Dr. Adolfo E. Peters
OFFICE : SS 903
OFFICE HOURS: M-W-F 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
PHONE : TBA
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CLASS TIME : M-W-F 10:00 am - 10:50 am (No lectures on Oct 10 and Nov 11)
CLASSROOM : ST 064

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. On the one hand, we will analyze the impact economic globalization can have on a developing country. On the

other hand, we will discuss the arguments presented by scholars, politicians and international bureaucrats 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, every two 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.

TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS:

Required Reading:

Steger, B. Manfred. 2009. *Globalization – A Very Short Introduction*. 2nd Edition. London: Oxford University Press. (Note: It will be available at the University bookstore by the end of the second week of classes)

Supplemental Readings:

Other readings 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 or left on reserve at the Circulation Desk, MacKimmie Library.

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 Short-Reaction papers. The description of each one of the above course evaluation components is as follows:

Take-Home Final Paper:

The Take-Home Final Paper (8 pages in length plus references) 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 9, 2011**.

Research Project:

A Research Project (Poster & Essay - 6 pages in length plus references) will be assigned around week four; you will have three weeks to complete this assignment (**due on October 24, 2011**). This Research Project will count for **30%** of the course grade distributed as follows: 20% Poster and Essay, and 10% oral defense and presentation in class on **October 24 & 26**. Details regarding the subject (s) and methodology for the Research Project will be discussed as the term progresses.

Short Reaction Papers:

There will be FOUR Short-Reaction papers (four pages in length plus references) throughout the term (**due on Sep 26, Oct 7, Nov 7 & Nov 21**). These short reaction papers will be presented in

class during the workshops. A specific question/issue will be posted on blackboard one week prior to the due date. Each short reaction paper will count for **10%** of the total grade.

COMPOSITION OF FINAL GRADE:

| Component | Due Date | Weight (%) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Take-Home Final Paper | December 9 | 30 |
| 4 Short-Reaction papers (10% each) | Sep 26, Oct 7, Nov 7, Nov 21 | 40 |
| Research Project Report | October 24 | 20 |
| Oral defense of Research Project | October 24 & 26 | 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).

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES:

Section One: Understanding Globalization

- Posing the problem
- Globalization: A contested concept
- The different faces of globalization: The good, the bad and ugly
- The multiple dimensions of globalization
- Globalization: A powerful force and un-stoppable process?

Section Two: The Many Waves of globalization

- Is globalization a new phenomenon?
- A historical approach to globalization
- From colonization to the twenty-first century

Section Three: The Economic Dimension of Globalization

- Growth, and development
- Poverty and global inequality: The Development Agendas and the Millennium Development Goals
- The new global economic order

- Neoliberalism and the Washington Consensus
- MNCS and foreign direct investment
- International aid and development cooperation
- The non-profit sector going global
- The crises of Capitalism

Section Four: Globalization and Its Discontents

- The ideological frameworks
- Revolts against globalization
- The Argentina Consensus
- The Sao Paulo Forum

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

- The end of the Nation State?
- Sovereignty under siege?

Section Six: The Cultural Dimension of Globalization

- Homogenization, harmony, resistance and discord
- The non-Western views of globalization
- The causes and effects of global migration
- The role of the media and the social media
- The globalization of languages

Section Seven: Globalization and the Environment

- Sustainable development
- Participatory development
- The green economy

Section Eight: Globalization for All?

- The Future of Globalization: Expectations versus reality
- Moral and ethical considerations

NOTE: A detailed schedule of lectures and description of the contents of each section, supplemental readings and 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/videos, material from workshops and guest lectures. Students are responsible for reading the assigned chapters 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 immediately after a section has been completed. Please do not ask me to post lectures notes in advance, logistically this is not feasible.

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% |

NOTE: The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

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.

EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS:

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the ICT Court (Primary assembly point) or to the Professional Faculties Food Court (Alternate assembly point). For more information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

DEFERRALS:

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component 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. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology.

Deferred Final Exam Form:

Please note that requests to defer a Registrar-scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar’s Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form:

Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It’s available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

ETHICS RESEARCH:

Students are advised that any research with human subjects—including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct:

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

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. Written 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 s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

"SAFEWALK" Program:

The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, phone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades:

- ✓ When students are unable to submit papers in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.
- ✓ Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor's office, the department office etc.) Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will be available for pick-up only during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.
- ✓ Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

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, 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 the other persons in the classroom. Please be courteous to your classmates and Instructor and **turn off all such devices before the class starts**. Laptop computers can be used **exclusively** for the purposes of taking notes during class previous permission from the Instructor.

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