

S101: Contemporary Global Social Problems

Summer 2014 – Section 9535

Monday through Thursday 10:20 – 11:50 am in Ballantine Hall 217

Instructor: Ms. Tamara van der Does

Office: Weatherly 138

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 12pm to 1pm in Ballantine Hall 748 (Weatherly Lounge),
or by appointment

Email: tvanderd@indiana.edu (when sending emails, **start subject line with "S101"**)

Mailbox: Ballantine Hall 744 box **under** "van der Does" (office is open Monday-Friday 8:30am-4pm)

Course Description

This course examines similarities and differences in social problems experienced around the world. We will consider topics around globalization, challenges in migration, gender inequality, ethnic and racial variation, religious extremism, and health. Through articles, books, films and music, students will gain an understanding of current global issues and how these vary across cultural contexts. We will explore and compare how different countries approach and seek solutions to these social problems, and how sociologists today research global social problems.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand globalization and its consequences on inequality
- Compare and contrast issues across cultural contexts
- Apply the sociological perspective to social problems
- Examine and analyze current global social problems

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Texts

There are no required textbooks. **All readings will be available on Oncourse** and in some cases the **web page link** will be provided. Because we will discuss current events, **news articles might be added to the syllabus** throughout the session.

Exams

There will be **two in-class exams** in this course (**July 9th and July 29th**). These will be closed books and may include multiple choice, short-answer and essay. The exams will cover the lectures and the readings.

Final Paper

There will be one final research project where you will analyze a current global issue. You will choose a contemporary social problem, relate it to class lectures and readings, and discuss it in the context of at least two countries in a paper of 3 to 5 pages. The **paper is due at the beginning of the last day of class (Thursday July 31st at 10:20 am)**. You will turn in one paper copy in class and one on Oncourse through Turnitin. That day, you will also **present your paper in class**. Before the paper is due, you will turn in a **research proposal (July 22nd)** and receive feedback on your ideas. The proposal will be worth 50 points, the paper 150 points, and the presentation 100 points. More detailed information about the paper will be given later in the semester.

Quizzes and Participation

Regular and enthusiastic participation is mandatory for all students. This class is discussion-oriented so it is important that all students keep up with the readings and come to class ready to talk. In order to make sure everyone keeps up with the readings, there will be a total of **15 unannounced quizzes**. Each quiz will be worth 20 points and your five lowest grades will be dropped. They will test your understanding of the readings for that day. Regardless of your excuse for being absent, **you cannot make up a quiz**.

Class **participation will count as 10%** of your final grade. Your class participation grade will take into account coming to office hours, sending me e-mails with reflective comments/questions, and sharing thoughts/ideas during class. We will be discussing a variety of potentially sensitive topics including race, class, gender, religion, immigration and politics. Be aware that **each person comes to class with a unique background and perspective** and I expect you to be respectful and open-minded when listening to viewpoints other than your own. A lack of courtesy will not be tolerated.

Attendance

I expect all students to come to class regularly and to be on time. I will cover information in my lectures that is not covered in the assigned and not on the powerpoints. **If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from another student**. I realize that sometimes we all face legitimate reasons for absence over the course of the semester (such as illness, family emergencies etc). For this reason, **you are allowed to miss three classes (regardless of the reason) without being penalized**. Once you miss three classes, **I will deduct 3% (30 points) off your final grade for EACH additional class that you miss, regardless of the reason**, with the exception of university sanctioned excuses such as religious holidays. Please note that arriving to class late or leaving class early counts as an absence.

Final Grade Calculation

Exam 1:	200	20%
Exam 2:	200	20%
Final Paper:	300	30%
Quizzes:	200	20%
Participation:	100	10%
Total Possible	1,000 points	100%

Final Grading Scale

97-100%	(970-1000 points)	A+	73-76.9%	(730-769 points)	C
93-96.9%	(930-969 points)	A	70-72.9%	(700-729 points)	C-
90-92.9%	(900-929 points)	A-	67-69.9%	(670-699 points)	D+
87-89.9%	(870-899 points)	B+	63-66.9%	(630-669 points)	D
83-86.9%	(830-869 points)	B	60-62.9%	(600-629 points)	D-
80-82.9%	(800-829 points)	B-	0-59.9%	(0-599 points)	F
77-79.9%	(770-799 points)	C+			

COURSE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

Academic Integrity

I do not tolerate academic misconduct, and will take appropriate university action if it is discovered. The Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct's definition of academic misconduct includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, interference, and violation of course rules. For more information, please see the Student Code of Rights, Responsibility and Conduct (<http://indiana.edu/~code/code/index.shtml>).

Special Needs

In compliance with the Americans and Disabilities Act (ADA), IU seeks to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibilities to inform the instructor and to contact the Disability Student Service Office (855-7578; <http://studentaffairs.iub.edu/dss/>) so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Communication

There are multiple ways to contact me with your questions and concerns:

- **Email** (tvanderd@indiana.edu): If you choose to email me, please do so using **my email address and not through Oncourse**. Please include S101 in the subject line. I check my email at least once a day; however, please allow at least 24 hours for my response. I will answer weekend emails by the end of day on Mondays. As a participant in this class **it is your responsibility to check your Indiana University email on a regular basis** (especially if you miss class).
- **Office Hours:** My office hours are set aside specifically to meet and talk with students (Mondays and Wednesdays from 12pm to 1pm.) If you are not able to come at the times listed on the syllabus, please let me know either by email and we will set up an appointment.

Electronics

Please turn off cell phones and other small electronics during class time. If there is any reason your phone or other electronic device needs to be left on during class, let me know before class. If you are texting, playing games, etc on a phone or other small electronic device during class time, you will be asked to leave and counted as absent for the day. Laptops and tablets may be used in class, but only for class related tasks. This policy is enforced out of respect for your classmates. **Students using computers for anything unrelated to class will be asked to leave and will be asked not to use computers during subsequent classes.** Neither laptops nor tablets will be allowed during examinations.

Make-up Exams

Typically, there will be no make-up exams; the exceptions to this policy are extreme circumstances or religious holidays. If you miss an exam for one of these reasons, you must provide me with the proper documentation. In addition, make-up exams will be graded to reflect the extra time that students had to study and will be different from the exam given in class.

Late Policy

Papers that have not been submitted to me by the beginning of the class in which they are due will be considered late. **Late papers will be penalized by a 10% deduction of the assignment grade for each day they are late** (including weekends).

Religious holiday accommodation

In accordance with University policy, **religious holiday accommodation forms must be turned in during the first two weeks of the semester.** You can find the "Request for Accommodations for Religious Observances" form at the following link: <http://www.indiana.edu/~vpfaa/forms/index.shtml#religious>

Incompletes

In accordance with departmental and university policy, I will not grant an incomplete unless extremely unusual and documented circumstances are present.

CLASS SCHEDULE

This is a tentative schedule for the course that **may need adjustments** as we move through the semester. Any changes will be announced in class prior to the effective date and you are responsible for keeping up with those changes.

You must **complete readings before the class** for which they are listed. Unless I provide you with the web page link, **all the assigned readings will be posted on Oncourse.**

Week 1:

Monday 6/23: What is a Social Problem

Read: Mills, C Wright. 1959. "The Sociological Imagination." *Introduction to Sociology*.

Tuesday 6/24: Capitalism

Read: Marx and Engels. 1848. "Manifesto of the Communist Party". *Marx-Engels Reader*.

Wednesday 6/25: Globalization

Read: Sen, Amartya. 2002. "How to Judge Globalism." *The American Prospect*.

Thursday 6/26: Economic Inequality

Read: Eglitis, DS. 2004. "The Uses of Global Poverty: How Economic Inequality benefits the West." *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*.

Week 2:

Monday 6/30: Health Inequality

Read: Farmer, Paul, David Walton and Laura Tarter. 2000. "Infections and Inequalities." *Global Change and Human Health*.

Tuesday 7/1: Health Care Worldwide

Read: Peterson, Chris and Rachel Burton. 2007. "U.S. Health Care Spending: Comparison with Other OECD Countries." *CRS Report for Congress: Domestic Social Policy Division*.

Wednesday 7/2: HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Read: Tucker, J.D., et al. 2005. "Surplus Men, Sex Work, and the Spread of HIV in China." *AIDS*

Thursday 7/3: Gender Inequality and Socialization

Read: Armstrong, Elizabeth, Laura Hamilton and Paula England. 2010. "Is Hooking Up Bad for Young Women?" *Contexts*

Week 3:

Monday 7/7: Sexual Violence and Exploitation

Read (2):

- Leeder, Elaine. 2004. "Domestic Violence: A cross-cultural view" *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*.
- Leuchtag, A. 2003. "Human Rights, Sex Trafficking, and Prostitution." *The Humanist*.

Tuesday 7/8: Global Feminism

No readings.

Wednesday 7/9: Exam 1

Thursday 7/10: Discussion Final Paper

No readings

Week 4:

Monday 7/14: Diversity Worldwide

Read: Bowen, John r. 1996. "The Myth of Global Ethnic Conflict." *Journal of Democracy*.

Tuesday 7/15: Race and Ethnic Relations

Read: Lamont, Michèle. 2003. "Who Counts as "Them?" Racism and Virtue in the United States and France." *Contexts*

Wednesday 7/16: Why people migrate

Read: Poros, Maritsa V. 2011. "Migrant Social Networks: Vehicles for Migration, Integration, and Development." *Migration Policy Institute*.

Thursday 7/17: Policies and Border Control

Read: Cornelius, Wayne A. 2005. Controlling 'Unwanted' Immigration: Lessons from the United States, 1993-2004. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 31(4): 775-794.

Week 5:

Monday 7/21: Attitudes toward immigrants and migration - **NO CLASS**

Tuesday 7/22: Assimilation and Discrimination - **Paper Proposal Due**

Read (3):

- Brown, Susan K. and Frank D. Bean. 2006. "Assimilation Models, Old and New: Explaining a Long-Term Process" *Migration Policy Institute*.
- Stokes, Bruce. 2013. "Americans Divided over Immigration Reform." *Pew Research Global Attitudes Project*.
- Wike, Richard. 2014. "In Europe, sentiments against immigrants, minorities runs high on the Right." *Factank*.

Wednesday 7/23: National Security and Terrorism

Listen: "60 words" Radiolab. <http://www.radiolab.org/story/60-words/>

Thursday 7/24: Religious Extremism

Read (2):

- Juergensmeyer, Mark. 2001. "The Global Rise of Religious Violence." *Current History*.
- Kurzman, Charles. 2002. "Bin Laden and Other Thoroughly Modern Muslims" *Contexts*.

Week 6:

Monday 7/28: Review

Tuesday 7/29: Exam 2

Wednesday 7/30: Work on Final Papers

Thursday 7/31: Presentations (Final Paper Due)