

GS/Soc 316: THE POLITICAL-ECONOMY OF GLOBALIZATION

Mondays & Wednesdays 8:45am-10am, Coppee Hall 105

Professor:
Dr. Kelly F. Austin
Price Hall; Room 8G
kellyaustin@lehigh.edu

Office Hours:
Thursdays
11am – 12pm &
by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Our personal lives are increasingly linked to dense networks of global interrelations, as the integration of societies, economies, and political structures fundamentally transforms human life on the planet. This course explores diverse themes and aspects of emergent global society; however the key focus will be on the global political-economy, or the economic and political dimensions of globalization. This course will attempt to put the economic issues the world is currently facing into context. In the popular press and media, the term “globalization” has been used to largely characterize the cultural changes taking place in our world today, but this class will take a critical look at the term “globalization” and the evolution and integration of global political and economic structures.

We will review recent theories and research in the field of global political-economy, with special emphasis on the rise and characteristics of the global economy and of transnational capitalism. Other topics include developments in world systems theory, global commodity chains, unequal exchange, the environment, health, and global cities. In so doing, a key themes of the course will include critical perspectives on international development, the state of world inequality, and North-South relations. At the conclusion of the course, you should have a more critical understanding of what has been called “globalization” and the political and economic institutions that shape our lives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By completing this course you will obtain broad knowledge of the sociological study of globalization and development. You will learn about various sociological concepts including the modern world system, dependency, neo-colonialism, and sustainability. By acquiring the above knowledge, you will gain a more refined and sophisticated understanding of global society as it relates to American society and yourself.

In addition to learning content and perspectives, you will develop and sharpen your critical thinking skills. This course is designed so that much of the work you do will involve reflectively thinking about, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating the ideas in the materials you encounter. You will learn make critically reasoned judgments grounded in the sociological content of the course. You will be expected to demonstrate the ability to support logical arguments and conclusions, based on empirical evidence presented. All of these expectations and goals are part of learning to be a critical thinker. By this, I mean that you will learn how to think sociologically about knowledge, and evaluate such knowledge based on observed evidence that you or others have gathered.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Understand the basic concepts, terminology, and theories of political-economy, development, and globalization.
- Improve analytical skills through reading books, articles, and primary research.
- Improve writing skills through synthesis and critical reflection of course material.
- Acquire statistical literacy to be able to properly interpret and summarize the findings presented in graphs, charts, and tables.
- Foster the ability to think critically about globalization and development, including information gleaned from scientific and media reports.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Development and Social Change, 5th Edition. By Philip McMichael. Pine Forge Press.

Additional online readings are provided through Course Site.

RULES & REMINDERS:

Readings and other assignments are due on the date listed in the schedule.

No electronic devices are allowed during class including laptops and cell phones!!!

Use only respectful language and do not talk while the professor OR other students are talking.

ONLINE COURSE MANAGEMENT:

All announcements, assignments, grades, feedback, and additional readings will be posted on Course Site. All required papers will be submitted via Course Site.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Global Development Data Project (15%): For this assignment, students will collect cross-national data for various indicators for a sample of six nations. Students will obtain measures of economic and social well-being, and then evaluate the results of their findings relative to the 3 theories of development and social change examined in the course (modernization theory, dependency theory, and world-systems theory). More explicit instructions for this assignment are posted on Course Site. This assignment is due on February 23rd at 11:55pm via Course Site.

Final Paper – Research Paper (20%): Each student will complete a research paper, which examines the influence of one aspect of political-economic globalization/development on an outcome of the student's choice (such as a health, environment, or social measure). Student will engage the theories and concepts of political-economy and globalization examined in the course to explain the patterns and trends evidenced across the variables of interest. More explicit instructions for this assignment are posted on Course Site. This assignment is due on May 6th at 11:55pm via Course Site

Midterm (20%) & Final Exam (20%): The exams will consist of a set of essay questions, to be answered in class, closed note, closed book. You will be given a larger set of essay questions 1 week prior to the exam from which the exam questions will be drawn.

Quizzes (10%): Class discussions and activities are much more insightful and fun when students have completed the required readings! To help ensure that students are prepared for class each

session, 6 pop-quizzes will be offered randomly throughout the semester. The quizzes will only test reading material due that day in class. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped; thus only your five best quizzes will count towards your final grade. The quizzes could consist of a set of multiple choice/true-false questions, or 1-2 short response questions. The quizzes will be taken closed note/closed book, and there will be **no make-up quizzes**. Do not be late, or you might miss a quiz.

Attendance (7.5%): Attendance will be graded daily through various means, such as the administration of short in-class assignments. Responses of good quality will earn a full point, responses of mediocre quality will earn half a point for the day, and inadequate responses (i.e. not grounded in course material) will earn a zero for the day. If absent, attendance points can be made up for excused absences only by coming in to make up the day's activities with the professor during office hours or by scheduled appointment. Absences are excused if you contact the professor **before** the class that the student intends to miss and the student provides a legitimate record for the absence. **Students are only allowed 2 excused absences** over the course of the semester.

Participation (7.5%): Participation is measured based contributions to large and small group discussions. Be sure to be prepared for class so that you can contribute in meaningful ways.

<u>Final Grading Scale:</u>					
100-94	A	83-80	B-	69-67	D+
93-90	A-	79-77	C+	66-64	D
89-87	B+	76-74	C	63-60	D-
86-84	B	73-70	C-	59-0	F

OTHER POLICIES:

Scholastic Dishonesty: You will not be permitted to cheat yourself, or the other students in this class, by engaging in scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, any effort to seek assistance during an exam or quiz from persons or sources other than the professor. It is also scholastic dishonesty to represent someone else's work (words or images) as your own; **this includes cutting and pasting and/or extreme paraphrasing** from websites, journal articles, or other sources. **Your words must be your own.** Do not cheat. If you are caught you will fail the assignment and most likely the course. The Department of Academic Integrity, the Chair of the Soc/Anthro Department, the director of Global Studies, the Dean of the college, and a bunch of other important people will be notified and you will be brought before a formal review process. It will be a BIG mess and it will make all of us feel very uncomfortable – so don't cheat! Policies on academic integrity can be found in your student handbook. The instructor reserves the right to use Turn-It-In to detect plagiarism on any assignment.

Harassment: Lehigh University upholds policies to prevent harassment which include anything that creates a threatening learning environment. This means students are not permitted to do or say anything that will make our classroom threatening or uncomfortable to anyone.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both the professor and the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center C212 (610-758-4152) as soon as possible. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted.

Equal Treatment: Lehigh University endorses The Principles of Our Equitable Community (<http://www4.lehigh.edu/diversity/principles>). We expect each member of this class to acknowledge and practice these Principles. Respect for each other and for differing viewpoints is a vital component of the learning environment inside and outside the classroom.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic	Readings (Due on date listed!!!)
January 19	Introductions & Welcome!	
January 21	What is Globalization?	Online: "Globalization: A World-Systems Perspective" – By Chase-Dunn McMichael: Chapter 1
January 26	Globalization: Early Beginnings	McMichael: Chapter 2 Online: "Foundations of Third World Poverty" – By Isbister (For additional reading, see: Sheppard Chapter 3)
January 28	Modernization Theory	Sheppard: Chapter 4, pages 68-81 Online: "The Stages of Econ. Growth" – By Rostow
February 2	Dependency Theory	Sheppard: Chapter 4, pages 81-89 Online: "The Dev. of Underdevelopment" – By Frank
February 4	World-Systems Theory	Sheppard: Chapter 4, pages 89-94 Online: "World-Systems Theory" – By Wallerstein
February 9	The Development Project	McMichael: Chapter 3
February 11	Unequal Exchange	Online: Sheppard, Chapter 16, pages 393-409 "Trade, Unequal Exchange, and Global Commodity Chains" – By Smith
February 16	Peripheral Industrialization	McMichael: Chapter 4 Online: Sheppard, Chapter 17, pages 431-440
February 18	Export Processing Zones	Online: "Job on the Line" – By Adler Online: "...Export Processing Zones of the Periphery..." – By Frey
February 23	The Globalization Project	McMichael: Chapter 5 *** <i>Global Development Data Project due at 11:55pm</i>
February 25	The Globalization Project	McMichael: Chapter 6 (For additional reading, see: Sheppard Chapter 5)
March 2	Globalization in Crisis	McMichael: Chapter 8
March 4	Globalization in Crisis	Online: "Globalism's Discontents" – By Stiglitz
March 9	No Classes	Spring Break
March 11		
March 16	Review	
March 18	Midterm Exam	
March 23	Environment	Online: Sheppard, Chapter 7
March 25	Unequal Ecological Exchange	Online: "The Hamburger Connection" – By Austin

Date	Topic	Readings (Due on date listed!!!)
March 30	Ecological Footprints of Nations	Online: "The Political Economic Causes... Ecological Footprints of Nations" – By Jorgenson & Burns
April 1	Hunger & Agriculture	Online: "Hunger and the Political Economy of the World Food System" – By Scanlan Online: "Agricultural Trade Dependency & the Threat of Starvation" – By Austin et al.
April 6	Climate Change	McMichael: Chapter 9 Online: "Globalization, Vulnerability to Climate Change & Perceived Injustice" – By Parks & Roberts
April 8	Urbanization	Online: Sheppard, Chapter 19 Online: "Planet of Slums" – By Davis
April 13	Health	Online: "Health, Wealth, and Poverty" – By Obeng-Odoom Online: "World Bank Structural Adjustment... Child Mortality" – By Shandra et al.
April 15	Gender	Online: "Gender and the Global Economy" – By Moghadam Online: "Gendered Vulnerabilities to a Neglected Disease" – By Austin et al.
April 20	Transnational Social Movements	McMichael Chapter 7
April 22	World Polity / NGO Networks	Online: "The World Polity & Deforestation" – By Shandra Online: "Gendered Dimensions of the HIV Pandemic" – By Noble & Austin
April 27	Rethinking Development & Globalization	McMichael: Chapter 10 Online: "Counterhegemonic Globalization" – By Evans
April 29	Review	
May 6	Final Paper	*** <i>Final Research Paper due at 11:55pm</i>
TBA	Final Exam	