# Sociology 2G: Introduction to Global Change and Inequality

**Location**: WAT 1000

**Time**: MWF, 12:10 to 1pm

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Sections: M: 2:10-3, 3:10-4, and 4:10-5

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Sections: M 11:10-12, 1:10-2; Fri, 10:10-11

**Course Content:** Globalization is an increasingly prevalent determinant of the life experiences of a significant share of the world’s population. Yet, many Americans are unaware of what globalization is, where it came from and why it is so prevalent. In this course, students will learn about the history of globalization, the structures on which it is built, and the various effects globalization has on different parts of the world. While many would like to believe that globalization is either a great thing (globophilia) or a horrible thing (globophobia), we will explore the reasons why these perceptions probably vary by where a person lives in the world and the kinds of relationships s/he has to the global economic and political order.

**Course Goals:** The goal of this course is to introduce students to basic concepts and perspectives in the macro-comparative study of social change and inequality at the global level. We will explore both the causes and consequences of globalization in the arenas of the economy and politics with an emphasis upon their impacts on various forms of inequality worldwide.

**Course Requirements and Grading:** This is an introductory course to issues of global change and inequality. Given that globalization is a large concept encompassing many particular issues, the breath of covered material is quite wide. Moreover, discussions of globalization and its role in generating / alleviating inequality cannot be adequately covered without addressing the normative dimension—its impact on real people in real places. Thus, most of the components of the class will end with a discussion of the normative aspects of the issue that will include multi media presentations and expert guest lecturers. A large component of your grade will come in the form of quizzes that gauge the extent to which you prepared for a given day’s material by completing the assigned readings. You will generally have quizzes on the first day a given reading is assigned, and will therefore be required to have read and taken notes on the reading before the start of class. I will drop your lowest quiz score. In short, you will be unable to achieve more than a C in this class if you do not read (assuming you achieve perfect scores on exams 1, 2 and the paper).

**We will have three major types of assignments, as follows:**

Pop Quizzes: 10%

Section Attendance: 10%

Current Event Paper: 20%

Exam 1: 30%

Exam 2: 30%

**Ethical Conduct:** Be warned—cheating will not be tolerated on any level. All cases of academic dishonesty will be pursued vigorously and punished with the most severe sanction possible. You are responsible for knowing what constitutes academic dishonesty, and you must abide by the University’s academic dishonesty policies.

**Classroom Decorum:** I have an obligation to maintain a classroom environment that allows each student to learn to the best of his or her capabilities. Students are encouraged to ask questions during lecture, and to provide a hospitable climate to learning for their colleagues. In my classes, the only stupid question is the one that is left unasked, and any student who discourages any other student from asking questions in any way will be dropped from the class on their first offense. This also applies to any student who engages in disruptive, distracting or demeaning conduct during class. Finally, students are required to silence their cell phones before class.

**Required Materials:** There is no textbook for the class. Required readings will be posted on the course website. You can access the course reader here: <https://ishare.ucr.edu/mattm/Reader_Final_Rotated.pdf> and the course website. You will need to enter your ucr id and password. Please download the reader and save it to your hard drive on your first download—technical difficulties can crop up from time to time.

You need to have 1 scranton form 882-E (in bookstore) every day you come to class.

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The California Education Code (Part 40, Chapter 6.5) states that "no business, agency, or person, including, but not necessarily limited to, an enrolled student, shall prepare, cause to be prepared, give, sell, transfer, or otherwise distribute or publish, for any commercial purpose, any contemporaneous recording of an academic presentation in a classroom or equivalent site of instruction by an instructor of record. This prohibition applies to a recording made in any medium, including, but not necessarily limited to, handwritten or typewritten class notes."

California law forbids anyone from making use of class lecture notes for commercial purposes, and such activity is expressly forbidden without the instructor's written permission. No one may make recordings of lectures in this course in any media (audio, video, or still photography) without the instructor's permission.

**Weekly Outline and Required Readings (reader pages in parentheses)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | | **Content** | **Reading** |
| **Sept** | 27 | Intro |  |
|  | 30 | Concepts and History | Chase-Dunn and Babones 2006: 59-78 **(1-12)** |
| **Oct** | 2 | Economic Globalization 101 |  |
|  | 4 | The World is Flat (?) |  |
|  | 7 | Global Econ, Past and Present |  |
|  | 9 | The architecture of the global economy | Ravenhill 2008: 346-372 **(13-40)** |
|  | **11** | Is Walmart Good For America? |  |
|  | 14 | Globalization in North and South |  |
|  | 16 | Income Inequality: What is it? |  |
|  | 18 | Maquila: A Tale of Two Mexicos |  |
|  | 21 | Income Inequality in North, **study guide distributed** |  |
|  | 23 | Global Income Inequality | Ravenhill 2005: 291-316 **(41-67)** |
|  | 25 | Globalization: Winners and Losers, Richard Freeman |  |
|  | 28 | Review |  |
|  | 30 | Exam 1 |  |
| **Nov** | 1 | **No Class** |  |
|  | 4 | Intro to Political Globalization | Ravenhill 2005: 235-262 **(68-95)** |
|  | **6** | Globalization and the Nation-State |  |
|  | **8** | Bolivia on the brink |  |
|  | 11 | **Veterans Day, no class** | Ravenhill 2005: 344-369 **(98-123)** |
|  | 13 | World-Society and the Nation State |  |
|  | 15 | Carly Fiarino: Business vs Government |  |
|  | 18 | Global Civil Society |  |
|  | 20 | Strike | Ravenhill 2005: 370-393 **(166-192)** |
|  | 22 | Global Trade Debate |  |
|  | 25 | Globalization and the Environment |  |
|  | 27 | Globalization and Labor | Kay 2005 **(124-165)** |
|  | 29 | **Thanksgiving Break** |  |
| **Dec** | 2 | Globalization and Labor 2, **study guide distributed** |  |
|  | 4 | Review 1 |  |
|  | 6 | Review 2; Current Events Papers due |  |
|  | 9 | Exam 2, 7-10pm |  |