SOCIETY 225: Sociology of Globalization
Course Syllabus 2014

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: What is globalization? Is it an ancient or relatively new phenomenon? Does it move the world towards homogenization or does it accentuate differences between people and places? What kinds of cultural, economic, state institutions and ideologies shape global change? This course addresses these and other questions through an examination of the diverse, intersecting dimensions of globalization, from the economic and political to the social and cultural. The course grounds these dimensions in the history of capitalist development and change, providing a framework for students to understand the processes and consequences that shape aspects of globalization. We consider the relationships between macro and micro changes shaped by globalization, from the changing nature of states and corporations to questions of culture and consumption. We ground globalization with the study of they ways it directly affects peoples’ lives on the ground around the world.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
• Other course readings are available through the moodle page “e-reserves” link.

AIMS: This course will provide students with a solid understanding of the social, political, cultural, and economic processes that shape globalization.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and content
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
• Identify and define key debates and approaches to globalization and development.
• Situate globalization within the 20th-century capitalist development and its key trajectories.
• Understand and explain various social, political, cultural, and economic aspects of globalization and their impacts on society at both the ‘local’ and ‘global’ levels.

Skills
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
• Evaluate theoretical arguments and evidence.
• Apply sociological theories of globalization to specific examples and case studies.
- Clearly convey abstract concepts as well as illustrative examples in a written fashion.
- Critically consider as well as integrate information from diverse sources so as to communicate relevant ideas and arguments.

**COURSE ORGANIZATION:** The course is in lecture format, where lectures cover theories relevant to understanding globalization and development and their application to case studies or examples.

**EVALUATION**
- **Midterm (in class):** 25%
- **Research Paper (9-10 pages):** 35%
- **Final Exam:** 40%

**GRADING METHOD**
All components of this course will receive letter grades which, for purposes of calculating your course average, will be translated into numerical equivalents using the Faculty of Arts and Science approved scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment mark</th>
<th>Numerical value for calculation of final</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>93</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>78</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>68</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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<td>F48 (F+)</td>
<td>48</td>
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<td>F24 (F)</td>
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<td>F0 (0)</td>
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All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade received for the course will be derived by converting the student’s numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen’s Official Grade Conversion Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
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<td>49 and below</td>
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**POLICY ON DEADLINES:** Missed exams will be marked “0”. The research paper will receive a late penalty of 15 percent per day unless accompanied by certified documentation. Please use the official medical certification form supplied by the Faculty of Arts & Science:

http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/facstaff/guidelines/academic/medical.htm

If your reason for missing classes, submitting assignments late, and so forth is nonmedical in nature, you will still need to provide certification/official documentation, e.g., Queen’s Counselling Services.

**POLICY ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES (LAPTOPS, PHONES, ETC)**

Electronic devices are not banned from the classroom. However, one key goal for the semester is to maintain a focused learning environment during the duration of the lecture. To accomplish this, please turn off your cellphones (including vibrate) and refrain from surfing the web, playing online games, or using social media during class time. The lecture hall will be full and these forms of device use are proven to be distracting for those sitting around you. I ask that you respect your classmates and maintain the use of laptops or tablets for note-taking purposes only during class time.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/resources-2.php). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive (see http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/academic-integrity). Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the “freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas” essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities at http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html). Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1) on the Arts and Science website (see http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1), and from the instructor of this course.
Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen’s. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the University.

ACCESSIBILITY/ACCOMODATIONS
Queen’s University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office (DSO) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the DSO website at: http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/

A NOTE ON COPYRIGHT
This course syllabus as well as all course lecture PowerPoint’s are copyrighted and for the sole use of students registered in SOCY 225. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in SOCY 225. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate’s Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1. Introduction: Defining and Studying Globalization
Cohen and Kennedy
  - Introduction
  - Chapter 2 “Thinking Globally”

Week 2. Understanding Global Society
Cohen and Kennedy
  - Chapter 3 “Modernity and the Evolution of World Society”
  - Chapter 4 “Work, Production, and Finance”


Week 3. The State
Cohen and Kennedy
  - Chapter 5 “Political Sociology: changing nation states”


**Week 4. The Corporation**

Cohen and Kennedy
- Chapter 10 "Corporate Power and Social Responsibility"


Of interest (not required):


Film (in Class)
*No Logo*

**Week 5. Neoliberalism and Global Financial Institutions**


Film (in class)
*Life and Debt.* Produced and Directed by Stephanie Black. Tuff Gong Pictures Production. (86 minutes).

Of interest:
World Trade Organization. “10 Benefits of the World Trading System,” Available at: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/whatis_e/10ben_e/10b00_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/whatis_e/10ben_e/10b00_e.htm)
Week 6 Globalization and Global Inequalities

Cohen and Kennedy
- Chapter 7 “Class, Income and Wealth”
- Chapter 6 “Global Inequalities”

Davis, Mike. 2004. “Planet of Slums” New Left Review 26, Mar-Apr, pp. 5-34

Of interest:


Week 7. Midterm (in class)
- In class on Tuesday
- No class on Friday

Week 8. Culture and Globalization


Cohen and Kennedy
- Chapter 14 “Consuming Culture”
- Chapter 15 “Lifestyle and Leisure”

****GET RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS APPROVED****

Week 9. Gender, Sexualities, and Rights

Cohen and Kennedy
- Chapter 8 “Gender and Sexualities”


Week 10. Security, Surveillance, and War


Film (in class): *The Lab*

### Week 11. Contesting Globalization I: Anti-Globalization and Countermovements

Cohen and Kennedy
Chapter 19 “Global Civil Society and Political Activism”


*Of Interest:*


*** RESEARCH PAPERS DUE ***

### Week 12. (a) Contesting Globalization II: Environment, Agriculture, and Livelihoods
(b) Course wrap up


(b) Cohen and Kennedy
   - Chapter 22 “Conclusion: global uncertainties and ways forward”

Course Wrap UP

**FINAL EXAM DATE TBD**