

~SOCIOLOGY 2690
INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION
WINTER 2002

JAN 17 2002

Instructor: Oswald S. Warner

Time/Place: Mons. 1-2.20pm
Frids. 11.30am-15.50pm Room: D208

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 3-5pm Room C404
Phone: 539-2995
email: owarner@gprc.ab.ca

Prerequisite: Sociology 1000: Introductory Sociology

Description:

This course adopts a global (international) perspective by examining contemporary local, national, and international processes and issues of globalization. It considers sets of global relations, economic, social, and political and their profound implications for the dynamics of communities and the identities of their members. A decided focus will be on how these processes impact Canadian economy, society, and polity.

Overview of Course Objectives:

Since Canada, as elsewhere, is very much imbedded within this still-emerging global world or to be more apt, this globalizing world, it is subject to profound economic, social, and political changes. One question we need to address, therefore, is: What are the implications and effects of globalization to Canadian and other world societies? As a result, it seems important to provide perspectives on the emerging shape, nature, and role of Canadian, as well as other, societies, influenced as they are by globalization as well as their influences on the globalization process itself. This course, then, will provide a global perspective on how to understand the economical, social, and political changes within and between world societies.

In addition to acquiring specific knowledge, learners should gain some specific skills in this course. All courses you have been exposed to so far have a built-in bias, as does this course. Having an alternative way to analyze events helps learners to build their critical thinking skills. In this course, we would therefore challenge common assumptions by formulating questions, identifying and weighing appropriate evidence, and reaching reasoned conclusions.

However, you do not have to believe everything you read or hear in this course. But, you do need to learn the perspectives and learn the strengths and weaknesses of the ideas and

arguments. Disagreement is therefore welcomed, so long as it is educated disagreement. We all have opinions, but we need to find out how they stack up against social data. Feel free to debate points, but recognize that debates will ultimately be won based on empirical facts, rather than feelings.

Format:

In supplementing the readings, most lectures will adopt a discussant format. Students are therefore encouraged to bring questions about the readings, issues raised by the readings, etc. to the attention of the class for answer, discussion, and/or debate. Additionally, some class sessions will include sessions where students will meet in small groups to discuss readings and create answers to discussion questions given. These sessions are designed to bring a large class down to human scale and allow all students to participate in active discussion and thought about the course issues and materials. Each group will also present a verbal report to the class. Discussions may also center on some videos or movies that may be shown from time to time.

This class will be taught from a largely critical perspective in order to provide students with an alternative to the structural functionalist perspective that pervades both social discourse and much sociological teaching. This perspective will be new and different to some students. You do not have to believe anything you read or hear in this class. You do have to learn the perspectives and learn the strengths and weaknesses of these ideas. All classes you have been taught so far have a built in bias, as does this class. Having an alternative way to analyze events helps students to build their critical thinking abilities. Disagreement is welcomed, so long as it is educated disagreement.

Readings:

The readings for this course are contained in one required text available for purchase at the school bookstore, from a list of supplementary readings, and from handouts provided by me from time to time.

Watson, William. 2000. *Globalization and the Meaning of Canadian Life*. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.

Supplementary, recommended reading material and short handouts.

Learners are expected to read assigned readings in advance of the dates they are listed for. Generally, readings are less than 100 pages per week. This is a very manageable amount for a 3 credit course and is less than the expected 125 pages per week for junior classes.

Course Requirements:

Examinations: There will be two (2) research paper exams and a final exam which will amount to 75% of your grade.

Research Theme Papers (RTPs): You will have to submit five (5) research theme papers based on the readings. You will pick a theme from the week's reading, research the theme based on the readings, and submit a ONE PAGE paper. This paper must be wordprocessed either single-spaced or double-spaced but MUST ONLY BE ON ONE SIDE OF A PAGE. The purpose of this assignment is to provide you an opportunity to think critically about the course readings and to write an essay which synthesizes aspects of a week's reading.

Grade Format

Research Paper Exam 1	20%
Research Paper Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	35%
Five (5) RTPs	20%
Attendance	05%
Total	100%

Course Policies:

Attendance: is important not only to your final grade but also for your understanding of what is being discussed. Therefore, I will from time to time give simple quizzes and these would be used as a measure of attendance.

Research Theme Papers (RTPs): due dates are fixed (unless they are changed by me). NO exceptions will be granted unless in the case of crises or emergencies. Should a crisis or emergency arise that would prevent you from submitting your theme paper on time or not at all, I must be informed of said situation as early as possible.

Reconsideration of Research Paper Exam and Theme Research Paper Grades: Students who are not satisfied with their grades have the option of having their paper re-evaluated. However, the following stipulations apply:

- a. Requests for reconsideration must be made within one week from the date that the graded paper was returned.
- b. I will consider your arguments and re-evaluate your paper. The grade will remain the same or it may go up. It will never be reduced but more times than not it will remain the same.