

**SYLLABUS: SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION**  
**SOCIOLOGY 130SG, SPRING 2018, T., 5:00-7:50 BUCHANAN 1940**  
**PROFESSOR: WILLIAM I. ROBINSON**  
**OFFICE HOURS: W, 2:30 – 4:30 (OR BY APPOINTMENT), SSMS, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**  
**TAs: DAVID FELDMAN, [dfeldman@umail.ucsb.edu](mailto:dfeldman@umail.ucsb.edu), T. 2:30-4:30, SSMS 3013**  
**HOAI-AN NGUYEN, [hnguyen00@umail.ucsb.edu](mailto:hnguyen00@umail.ucsb.edu), T. 10:00-12:00, SSMS 3021**

### **Course Description and Overview**

Globalization, it is widely recognized, is profoundly remaking social structure and transforming the lives of people in every corner of the planet. Our personal biographies are linked to increasingly dense networks of global interrelations, as the integration of societies, economies, and cultures fundamentally transforms human life. The concept of globalization is contested, meaning that there are different and competing understandings of what the term means and how to assess the process. One of the most basic definitions is provided by sociologist Roland Robertson: “Globalization as a concept refers both to the compression of the world and the intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole...both concrete global interdependence and consciousness of the global whole in the twentieth century.”

Regardless of how we conceive globalization, the concept has taken academia by storm over the past two decades. It occupies an increasingly prominent place in the social sciences and humanities, and even in the natural and applied sciences, and for a very good reason: it is impossible to understand the world in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century without understanding globalization and its consequences.

With this in mind, the objective of this course is to explore what has come to be known as **globalization studies**, and in particular, to survey the distinct themes sub-areas that make up the **sociology of globalization**. These include: globalization studies and theories of globalization; the global economy; political globalization; globalization and culture; transnational civil society/transnational social movements; globalization and gender/race/ethnicity; globalization and the environment, transnational migration; global conflicts; local-global linkages; global supernumeraries: the new global inequalities. **Note:** there are several other major sub-themes in globalization studies, such as (for example) globalization and religion, which we will not cover due to time constraints. However, the sociology department, among others, offers a number of other courses on globalization.

This course will require hard work and a lot of reading. It will be an eye-opener for those willing to work hard and to **think critically**. The course attempts to help students develop the critical thinking analytical skills, and the historical perspective necessary, to examine their own deeply held assumptions regarding the social world and to apply sociological inquiry in an attempt to provide explanations for phenomena associated with globalization. If you are looking for an easy four units then this course is definitely not for you and I advise you to drop. If you are prepared to work hard you will come away with greatly enhanced knowledge of the contemporary globalized world and how we go about understanding it.

**Please note: you should hold on to this syllabus and bring it with you to class, as it is a week-by-week guide to the course, readings, assignment due dates, and so forth.**



Students are expected to arrive on time to class and to not leave early unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. ***Please note that attendance is not voluntary; it is required. You will lose two points for each absence. I may take attendance at any time....first five minutes, last five minutes, etc. Even if you are present for all of the class you will be counted as absent if you are not present when I take role. The only excused absences are medical and family emergencies, with proper documentation, including for deaths.***

We will use **IClickers** for attendance and for other in-class exercises. If you do not bring your IClicker you will be unable to receive credit for attendance.

You are responsible if you miss class announcements about the course, your assignments, extra-credit, and so on, because you are absent. In addition, the exam and other assignments will be based on both class lectures and the readings. If you do not come to class or if you do not read the assigned material you should not expect to do well in this course.

**THIS IS AN ELECTRONICS FREE CLASS. YOU MAY NOT TAKE OUT YOUR COMPUTERS AND YOU MUST TURN OFF CELL PHONES AND PUT THEM AWAY WHILE IN CLASS. ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT IS DISRUPTIVE TO THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN MY CLASS. IF YOU TAKE OUT ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT YOU *WILL* BE ASKED TO LEAVE.**

For most class meetings, the first half will involve a lecture and class discussion. Powerpoints will be posted on Gauchospace. The powerpoints are for educational purposes, not for your entertainment. The second half of the class meeting is set aside for documentaries and follow up discussion, occasional guest speakers or special activities.

A comment on your privilege and our collective time in this course: **Your education is *not* a commodity. You are *not* a “consumer” in this classroom. If you are terribly concerned about leaving at *exactly* 7:50 pm then please dis-enroll.**

On Spanish, English, and multiple languages in a globalized world.

This is a family (broadly defined) and child-friendly classroom

This classroom is a safe space. But this does not mean our discussions will be censored or that you will not be “triggered.” In addition, you should realize that the only way to create truly safe space is to radically transform society. The world is a deadly serious place. Take your education seriously.

This course is *absolutely* “one sided”. You have already been socialized into the dominant worldview – its values, logic, sensibilities, and ways of understanding global society. You are daily inundated with the “other side.” You may watch CNN or any corporate media, simply attend public school, or listen to what spokespeople from governments and ruling political

parties have to say, to get the “other side” on the global affairs we will examine in this course.

### **Reading Questions/Reflections:**

On seven separate occasions you will upload to the course Gauchospace your questions/reflections on the week’s readings. These reflections will include your name and a sub-heading for each reading. For each reading you will write one paragraph (you are welcome to write more if you wish), in which you will answer the following questions:

- What did you not understand or find new and challenging from the reading?
- What questions for class discussion did it raise?
- What did you find most useful in the reading?
- What new terms and concepts were contained in the reading?

Note that these reading questions/reflections should *not* be a summary of the readings. The purpose is: 1) that you demonstrate you have done the reading and given thought to it; 2) to identify what you did not understand and what you think is important to discuss in class, in relation to the course. **These reflections must be uploaded the evening before our class meeting, no later than 10:00 pm. Note that Reflection #5 is of an entire book. For that reflection you should write one page single spaced (or two double spaced). The assignment is for 5 points, but if you do an outstanding job you can earn up to 5 extra credit points built into the assignment.**

### **Take Home Essays**

You will have to turn in three written essays as indicated on the syllabus (and more details and prompts to be discussed in class). Each brief should be approximately 3-4 double-spaced typed pages (name and perm number on top). Each brief should develop an *analytical* discussion on the particular topic assigned, mentioning the readings for that topic, lectures, videos and discussions. Please refer below to the week-by-week schedule, which will indicate the topic you are to write on and due dates. I will provide more details as dates draw nearer.

### **Final Assignment: Report on Websites**

The final graded assignment out of class will be to explore several globalization websites. You should explore at least five websites from the following list. You should read at least one article or essay from each website and you must attach to the report the name of each article and the full web site address/link to the article. Your report should be some 8-10 pages approximately, double-spaced. You should identify each website you visit and provide a brief description. You should as well discuss how the content of each website relates to the sub-themes of the course and what new or insightful things you learned from each website to round

out your perspective and knowledge of globalization studies. As well, you should discuss specifically and in more detail at least one article or essay from each site, and attach a printout of that essay to your report.

The Global Exchange, <http://www.globalexchange.org/>  
Zianet, <http://www.zmag.org/ZNETTOPnoanimation.html>  
International Forum on Globalization, <http://www.ifg.org/>,  
Alternative Information and Development Center, <http://aidc.org.za/>  
Center for Research on Globalization: <http://globalresearch.ca/>  
Transnational Institute: <http://www.tni.org/>  
Institute for Policy Studies: <http://www.ips-dc.org/>  
World Trade Organization: <http://www.wto.org/>  
Open Society Institute (George Soro's website) [http://www.soros.org/about/bios/a\\_soros](http://www.soros.org/about/bios/a_soros)  
Globalization Research Center: <http://www.cio.com/research/global/>  
The Globalist: <http://www.theglobalist.com/>  
World Economic Forum: <http://www.weforum.org/>  
BBC World Service, Globalization:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/programmes/globalisation/>  
Global Research: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/about>  
Global Policy Forum: <http://www.globalpolicy.org/globaliz/websites.htm>  
Focus on the Global South: <http://focusweb.org/>  
Globalization Guide: <http://www.globalisationguide.org/index.htm>  
The Globalization Website: <http://www.sociology.emory.edu/globalization/index.html>  
Yale Global Online: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/index.jsp>  
LSE Center for Global Governance: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/global/>  
The Global Sociology Blog, <http://globalsociology.edublogs.org/>  
Sociologists Without Borders Think Tank, <http://www.ssftthinktank.org/> (you have to register to gain access but it is free, easy, and quick)  
Center for the Study of Global Power and Politics, <http://www.trentu.ca/globalpolitics/>  
The Bretton Woods Project, <http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/index.shtml>  
The Global Site: <http://www.theglobalsite.ac.uk/press/>  
World Trade Organization [not the real WTO web site, but cleverly prepared as a critique of the WTO, highly recommended), <http://www.gatt.org/>  
CorpWatch, <http://www.corpwatch.org/>  
Alternative Information and Development Center, <http://www.aidc.org.za/>  
Citizens Trade Campaign, <http://www.citizenstrade.org/etc/>  
Globalization 101, <http://www.globalization101.org/>  
Mint Press, <https://www.mintpressnews.com/>  
Indigenous Environmental Network, <http://www.ienearth.org/>

## **Outline of Course**

### **Week-by-Week Schedule of Readings and Topics (subject to change as per class**

announcements):

**April 3: Introduction and Overview of Course  
Theories and Discourses of the Global System, start..../**

No readings required.

Youtube: “World Without Walls”,  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=As3pWXoq\\_as](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=As3pWXoq_as)

Youtube video: “Hidden Faces of Globalization”, parts I and II  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Bhodyt4fmU&list=PLm4RGa6Hu1YmUXG4Ub5IjjIoWdZ4Dybmp>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0IBM7\\_BvTw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0IBM7_BvTw)

Youtube: “Black Friday Shopping Chaos”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xL8rE9DT4g>

**April 10: Theories/Discourses of the Global System, Conclusion**

**Readings:**

- “Why I Asked My Students to Put Their Laptops Away” (in reading packet)
- “Thinking Globally” (in reading packet)
- Robinson, “Critical Globalization Studies” (in reading packet);
- Steger, chapters 1 and 2
- Robinson, “Theories of Globalization” (in reading packet)
- “Global Cities” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)
- “Global History” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)
- “Connectivity” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)
- “Networks” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)
- “Time”

**Reading Reflection due 10 PM Monday (1 of 7)**

**April 17: The Global Economy**

**Readings:**

- Steger, chapter 3.
- Robinson, “Globalization as Epochal Change in World Capitalism” (in reading packet)

- “Free Trade Zones” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)
- “Fordism/Post-Fordism” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)
- “Transportation” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)

**Reading Reflection due 10 PM Monday (2 of 7)**

**Excerpt from Video: Manufactured Landscapes**

**Film: Mardi Gras: Made in China, or another documentary (TBA)**

**April 24: Political Globalization, Global Governance and the State  
Cultural Globalization, Global Communications, Global Social Movements,  
Transnational Civil Society**

**Readings:**

- Steger, chapter 4, 5, and 6.
- Keniche Ohmae, “The End of the Nation State” (in reading packet);
- “Global Governance” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)
- Jan Nederveen-Pieterse, “Globalization and Culture: Three Paradigms” (in reading packet)
- Appadurai, “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy (in reading packet).
- “News Channels, Global” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)
- Jackie Smith and Marina Karides, et. al., “Globalization and the Emergence of the World Social Forums” (in reading packet)

**Reading Reflection Due 10 PM Monday (3 of 7)**

**Film: Mickey Mouse/Disney**

**First Take Home Essay: Access the website of the International Organization from Migration (an inter-governmental agency affiliated with the United Nations system), at <http://www.iom.int/>. Summarize what this website is about – what kinds of information does it offer, etc? – *and discuss how the readings for May 23 help you to explore this website and gain insight into its contents.* This assignment is due May 1**

**May 1: Transnational Migration, Transnational Families and Communities,  
Race/Ethnicity**

**NOTE: THIS IS *INTERNATIONAL WORKERS’ DAY***

**Readings:**

- Robinson, “Transnationality” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)
- Robinson and Santos, “Global Capitalism, Immigrant Labor, and the Struggle for Justice”
- Robinson, “Globalization and Race in World Capitalism”
- Dunaway and Clelland, “Challenging the Global Apartheid Model”
- Oyogoa, “Cruise Ships: Continuity and Change in the World System”

**Reading Reflection Due 10 PM Monday (4 of 7)**

**Film: Harvest of Empire**

**First Brief Due Today**

**May 8: Globalization and the Environment**

**Readings:**

- Patel and Moore, *A History of the World in Seven Cheap Things*

Youtube: “Dear Future Generations: Sorry,”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vkj\\_srFGW5I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vkj_srFGW5I)

Youtube: “The Story of Stuff,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eWBg8ojno4>

**Reading Reflection due 10 PM Monday (5 of 7 – with built in extra credit possibility)**

**Film: Cowspiracy**

**May 15: Globalization and Women/Gender.**

**Readings:**

- “Critical Globalization Studies and Gender” (in reading packet)
- Ehrenreich and Hochschild, *Global Woman* (excerpts in reading packet, includes several chapters);
- “The International Division of Reproductive Labor” (in reading packet)
- “Feminism” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)
- “Feminization of Poverty” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)

**Reading Reflection Due 10 PM Monday (6 of 7)**

**Film: Maquilapolis**

**Second Take Home Essay: Discuss Mike Davis' book. What does he mean by "planet of slums" and how is this related to the sociology of globalization? How have the topics we have covered in this course related to this book and its contents? Use the concepts and analytical insights you have gained from this course so far to develop a critical discussion on the book, that is, a critical book review using the tools of globalization studies (NOTE: "critical" in this case does not mean you need to "criticize" Davis; it means you should develop an analytically sharp discussion). This brief is due May 22.**

**May 22: The New Global Inequalities**

**Readings:**

- Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums*

Youtube: "Global Wealth Inequality,"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWSxzjyMNpU>

**If time allows, Film: Shadows of Liberty**

**Second Brief Due Today.**

**May 29: Global and Militarization, Globalization and War, Global Conflicts, "New War Order"**

**Readings:**

- Robinson and Barrera, "Global Capitalism and Twenty-first Century Fascism: A U.S. Case Study" (in reading packet)
- Robinson, "Sadistic Capitalism"

**Reading Reflection due 10 PM Monday (7 of 7)**

**Film: Loose Change**

**Third Take Home Essay: How will we resolve the myriad of problems in global society? With this question in mind, undertake a critical discussion of Katch's book,**

***Socialism...Seriously.*** What is your understanding of capitalism and socialism as distinct social systems for the future of our planet? How are the themes raised in the book related to the diverse topics on the sociology of globalization that we have covered in this course? Could socialism as described by Katch resolve any of the global problems we have reviewed in this course? If not, how may we resolve these problems and address what Robinson refers to as the “crisis of humanity?” As you write this final brief, you may want to reflect back on all the themes we have covered in the course.

**June 5: Global Capitalism and Ecosocialism: Alternative Futures**

### **Course Conclusions**

#### **Readings:**

- Danny Katch, *Socialism...Seriously*

**Third brief due today.**

### **REPORT ON WEBSITES DUE IN FINALS WEEK; EXACT DATE AND DROP-OFF DETAILS TBA.**

**APPENDIX: Here is a list of various student services available on campus. I encourage you to make use of them:**

- Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) <http://clas.sa.ucsb.edu>
- Campus Advocacy Resource and Education (CARE): <http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/care/home>
- Counseling & Psychological Services <http://caps.sa.ucsb.edu>
- Disabled Students Program <http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu/>
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) <http://eop.sa.ucsb.edu>
- Health and Wellness <http://wellness.sa.ucsb.edu>
- Little Big Engineer: <https://orgsync.com/129034/chapter>
- MultiCultural Center <http://mcc.sa.ucsb.edu/>
- Non-Traditional Student Resource Center <http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/nontrad/>
- Office of International Students and Scholars <http://oiss.sa.ucsb.edu/>
- Office of the Ombuds <https://ombuds.ucsb.edu/>
- Office of Student Life (OSL) <http://osl.sa.ucsb.edu/>
- Opening New Doors to Accelerating Success (ONDAS) Center <http://www.ondas.ucsb.edu/home>
- Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity: <http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/RCSGD/home>
- Transfer Student Center (TSC) <http://transfercenter.ucsb.edu>
- UCSB Alcohol and Drug Program: <https://alcohol.sa.ucsb.edu/>
- UCSB Social Work Services: <http://studenthealth.sa.ucsb.edu/behavioral-health/social-work>
- UCSB Student Health Services: <http://studenthealth.sa.ucsb.edu/>
- Undergraduate Mentorship Program <http://duels.ucsb.edu/academics/academic-success/mentor>
- Undocumented Student Services <http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/dreamscholars/home>
- Veterans' Resource Center: <http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/veterans/home>
- Women's Center <http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/WomensCenter/home>