

**SYLLABUS: SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION**  
**SOCIOLOGY 130SG, WINTER 2017, W. 5:00-7:50 LSB 1001**  
**PROFESSOR: WILLIAM I. ROBINSON**

**OFFICE HOURS: T & W, 3:30 – 4:30 (OR BY APPOINTMENT), SSMS, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**  
**TAs: SALVADOR RANGEL, SSMS 3021, W. 2:30-4:30, salvadorrangel@umail.ucsb.edu**  
**ROBERTO DANIPOUR, T. 3-5 pm, SSMS 3011, danipour@umail.ucsb.edu**

### **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.**

## Required Readings

- 1) Reading Packet of Selected Articles and Book Excerpts (available at SBprinters at UCEN)
- 2) Manfred Steger, *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*
- 3) Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums*
- 4) Danny Katch, *Socialism....Seriously*

Note: the general rule with regard to reading material is 100 pages per week for undergraduate courses and 200 for graduate courses. This course involves approximately 800 pages of written material, or 80 pages per week.

## Grading, Assignments, and Related Issues

As with all my courses, there are no formal exams, but you WILL be expected to WORK HARD and to prepare several written assignments.

Twenty-five points will derive from five in-class “pop quizzes” on the readings (five points per quiz). Forty-five points will derive from three “briefs” you will write on course readings and videos. The final 30 points will derive from a report based on your exploration of websites on globalization. There will be at least one opportunity for extra credit (TBA). ***PLEASE NOTE: I DO NOT EXCEPT ASSIGNMENTS BY EMAIL. THE TA’S WILL DETERMINE IF ASSIGNMENTS ARE TO BE POSTED TO GAUCHOSPACE OR TURNED IN HARD COPY. ANY ASSIGNMENT SENT BY EMAIL WILL NOT BE COUNTED.***

You are expected to do ALL the assigned readings and to come to class prepared to discuss these readings. Please bring each week’s reading to class with you. You are encouraged to ask questions, debate, and provide critical commentary on the readings and the lectures.

Students are expected to arrive on time to class and to not leave early unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. I also ask that you turn off cell phones while in class.

***Please note that attendance is not voluntary; it is required. I may take spot attendance checks at any time. 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.***

You are responsible if you miss class announcements about the course, your assignments, extra-credit, and so on, because you are absent.

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.

**Pop Quizzes:** There will be five pop quizzes, administered in the first few minutes of class or the first few minutes after the break. Each of these five quizzes will be on the readings for the week due on the day the quiz is given. If you have done the readings you will have no problem answering the question and receiving all five points. You will receive a zero if you are not present for the quiz. If you have a documented/excused absence you will be allowed a makeup.

**Briefs:** You will have to turn in three written briefs on the assigned readings, videos, class lectures and discussions. 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.

**Report on Website:** 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 print up at least one article or essay from each website and attach it to your report. 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 [note 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/ctc/>  
 Globalization 101, <http://www.globalization101.org/>

## Outline of Course

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

**Jan. 11: 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>

**Jan. 18: Theories/Discourses of the Global System, Conclusion**

**Readings:**

- “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”

**Jan. 25: The Global Economy**

Readings:

- Steger, chapter 3.
- “International Institutions and Trade Agreements” (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)
- “Transnational Capitalism: An Interview with William I. Robinson” (in reading packet)

**Excerpt from Video: Manufactured Landscapes**

**Film: Mardi Gras: Made in China**

**Feb. 1: 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)
- Manuel Castells, “The New Public Sphere: Global Civil Society, Communication Networks, and Global Governance” (in reading packet)
- Jackie Smith and Marina Karides, et. al., “Globalization and the Emergence of the World Social Forums” (in reading packet)
- **Film: Mickey Mouse/Disney**

**First Brief:** 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 Feb. 8.

**Feb. 8: Transnational Migration, Transnational Families and Communities, Race/Ethnicity**

**Readings:**

- Robinson, “Transnationality” (in reading packet, encyclopedia entry)
- Portes, “Transnational Communities: Their Emergence and Significance in the Contemporary World-System” (in reading packet);
- 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”

**Film: Wetback (or: Harvest of Empire)**

**First Brief Due Today**

**Feb. 15: Globalization and the Environment**

**Readings:**

- *Capitalism and Climate Change: The Science and Politics of Global Warming*, may be accessed and downloaded to any device from Amazon, for \$2.99, at <https://www.amazon.com/Capitalism-Climate-Change-Science-Politics-ebook/dp/B010TKWNUA>. It will also be posted as a pdf at the course gauchospace site.

Youtube: “Dear Future Generations: Sorry,”  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vkq\\_srFGW5I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vkq_srFGW5I)

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

**Film: Cowspiracy**

**Feb. 22: 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)

### **Film: Maquilapolis**

**Second Brief: 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 March 1.**

### **March 1: The New Global Inequalities**

#### **Readings:**

- Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums*

Youtube: “Global Wealth Inequality,”

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

**Second Brief Due Today.**

### **March 8: 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”

### **Film: Loose Change**

**Third Brief: 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.

**March 15: 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.**