

**SOC 248-01K: Social Problems in a Global Prospective**  
**Fall 2014**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 10-11:20am**  
**Location: Earth and Space Sciences (ESS) Room 131**

Professor Tiffany Joseph  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-5p.m. or by appt.

Office: Sociology Department SBS-N449  
Email: [tiffany.joseph@stonybrook.edu](mailto:tiffany.joseph@stonybrook.edu)\*

Graduate TA: Sophia Boutilier  
Email: [sophia.boutilier@stonybrook.edu](mailto:sophia.boutilier@stonybrook.edu)  
Office: SBS-N402  
Office Hours: Thursdays 12-2pm

Undergraduate TA: Charisma Ward-Spivey  
Email: [charisma.wardspivey@stonybrook.edu](mailto:charisma.wardspivey@stonybrook.edu)  
Office: SBS-S422  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 5-7pm

**Course Overview: What has been the impact of globalization on various social processes?**

Globalization has had a huge impact on our world with regard to the economy, culture, and social relations, among other things. This course examines contemporary social problems in various countries and how those problems are connected to global processes or institutions. Specifically, we will explore development, trade, gender, race and ethnicity, crime, war, democracy, urbanization, education, health, technology, and climate change. While there will be some focus on the U.S., the primary goal is to explore these topics in a global context. Understanding the connections between these various social problems around the world will be relevant for developing potential solutions to these pressing issues.

**Learning Outcomes**

This course is geared towards advanced students and engages global issues (SBS+, GLO). As such, students should plan to do about 3 hours of reading for each class. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- (1) Understand the major concepts and phenomena of global social problems from a sociological perspective and provide concrete examples of such concepts.
- (2) Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interconnectedness of the world, past and present, as well as of societies outside of the United States.
- (3) Skillfully interpret and form educated opinions on social science issues related to global social problems.

**Instructional Methods and Classroom Etiquette**

Please arrive to class on time and come prepared to actively participate by asking questions about material and contributing your thoughts about how global social problems affect your life. While attendance is not mandatory, it will be taken each class. Should you have a borderline grade, your attendance and participation will be considered when calculating your final grade.

This course will rely on lecture, discussion, and some activities since these are the best ways to make sure students are engaging with course material. Additionally, these various instruction methods will accommodate the diverse learning styles of students in the class. Relevant films

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\* Email etiquette: When sending emails, please put SOC248 in the subject line. We will try to respond to your email within 48 hours during weekdays. During weekends, we may not respond to class-related emails.

will also be screened in-class so students can make connections to course material and see real world implications of what is being studied. The topics covered in the course allow for debate and disagreement, but all classroom discussion and behavior should remain respectful and civil.

To create a dynamic learning environment, please be sure to silence cell phones before class starts and refrain from answering phone calls or texting during class. I also ask that you limit your laptop use to notetaking, as non-course related web-surfing during class may be distracting for your classmates and me.

### **Required Texts**

#### **Textbooks:**

Sernau, Scott. 2012. *Global Problems: The Search for Equity, Peace, and Sustainability*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Boston: Pearson.

Jackson, Robert. 2013. *Annual Editions Global Issues, 13/14*. 29<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: McGraw Hill.

Others are available on Blackboard and indicated as such in the syllabus. Please do the readings for the day indicated on the syllabus.

### **Assignments and Grading**

There will be three exams this semester, which will be based on lectures, assigned readings, in-class videos, and other supplemental materials. You will be asked to demonstrate your comprehension of the different global social problems discussed each week in class. The exams will take a variety of formats, including multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. The third exam will take place during finals week and focus primarily on the last third of course material. A small portion of this exam will be cumulative as it will require you to connect all the themes of the course.

Make-up exams will not be allowed without prior arrangements or documentation of extenuating circumstances. Please speak with me about any known absences or emergency situations to avoid any problems regarding exams. Should an unlikely situation affect your ability to be successful in the course, contact Ellen Driscoll in Student Affairs. After I receive verification from Student Affairs, we can discuss how to best proceed.

### **Calculation of Final Grades**

Exam 1: Tues (10/7)	30%
Exam 2: Tues (11/4)	30%
Exam 3: Fri (12/12-during finals period)	40%

### **Grade Scale:**

95-100 = A	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
94-90 = A-	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	61-66 = D
	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	0-60 = F

**Any final grade below a C- will result in a course failure.**

### **Additional Information**

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC(Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128, (631)632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

<https://web.stonybrook.edu/newfaculty/StudentResources/Pages/DisabilitySupportServices.aspx>.

**Academic Integrity:** Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

**Critical Incident Management:** Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

**This syllabus is subject to be changed. If modified, I will post an updated syllabus on Blackboard, let you know about this in class, and send an email notification.**

### **Course Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Tues 8/26	Welcome to the Course	
Thurs 8/28	Inequality & Development	Text: Sernau Introduction and CH 1
Tues 9/2	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>LABOR DAY WKND</b>
Thurs 9/4		Text: Global Issues Article 1 Blackboard: Sachs
Tues 9/9	Labor & Trade	Text: Sernau CH 2
Thurs 9/11		Text: Global Issues Article 24 Blackboard: Stiglitz
Tues 9/16	Gender	Text: Sernau CH 3 Global Issues Article 25, 44
Thurs 9/18		Blackboard: Sen CH 8
Tues 9/23	Migration	Blackboard: Kasinitz; Vermeulen
Thurs 9/25		Blackboard: Lucas pp. 127-141, 149-156
Tues 9/30	Race & Ethnicity	Text: Sernau CH 8, pp. 199-203 Blackboard: Omi & Winant; Sanders pp. 327-335

Thurs 10/2		Blackboard: Lee and Bean pp. 561-569, conclusion (required, rest is optional); Marx; Ashikari; Exam Review
<b><u>Tues 10/7</u></b>	<b><u>EXAM 1</u></b>	Topics: Inequality & Development, Labor & Trade, Gender, Migration
Thurs 10/9	Crime	Text: Sernau CH 5; Blackboard: Reiman
Tues 10/14	Conflict & War	Text: Sernau CH 6 Global Issues Article 31, 32, 36
Thurs 10/16		Blackboard: Collier; Goldstein and Pinker
Tues 10/21	Democracy	Text: Sernau CH 7; Global Issues Article 19
Thurs 10/23		Blackboard: Sen CH 6
Tues 10/28	Education	Text: Sernau CH 4
Thurs 10/30	Education	Blackboard: Lucas pp. 141-149 Website Articles: <a href="http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2013/12/american-schools-vs-the-world-expensive-unequal-bad-at-math/281983/">http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2013/12/american-schools-vs-the-world-expensive-unequal-bad-at-math/281983/</a> <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/11/oecd-education-at-a-glance_n_1874190.html">http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/11/oecd-education-at-a-glance_n_1874190.html</a> Exam Review
<b><u>Tues 11/4</u></b>	<b><u>EXAM 2</u></b>	Topics: Race & Ethnicity, Crime, Conflict & War, Democracy
Thurs 11/6	Population & Health	Text: Sernau CH 10; Text: Global Issues Article 6, Article 7
Tues 11/11	Population & Health	Blackboard: Castro & Farmer; Global Issues Online: <a href="http://www.globalissues.org/article/588/global-health-overview">www.globalissues.org/article/588/global-health-overview</a>
Thurs 11/13	Technology & Energy	Text: Sernau CH 11; Global Issues Article 27, 28
Tues 11/18	Ecology & Climate Change	Text: Sernau CH 12 Blackboard: Kaimowitz et al
Thurs 11/20	Ecology & Climate Change	Text: Global Issues Articles 11, 13 Blackboard: Brown
Tues 11/25	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>
Thurs 11/27	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>
Tues 12/2	Connecting the dots	Text: Global Issues Article 45
Thurs 12/4	<b>LAST CLASS</b>	Exam Review
<b><u>Fri 12/12</u></b>	<b><u>EXAM 3 (FINAL)</u></b>	<b>11:15am-1:45pm</b> ; Topics: Education, Population & Health, Technology & Energy, Ecology & Climate Change