

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for SOC 5

GLOBAL CHANGE

Effective: Spring 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

SOC 5 — GLOBAL CHANGE — 3.00 units

This course looks at the economic and political forces that have led to rapid changes in global interaction and culture over the past century, with special emphasis on the last twenty years. It explores the issues of nationalism, global citizenry, state violence, terrorism, the global economy, migration, the threatened environment, technology, and the role of multinational media industries on culture.

3.00 Units Lecture

Strongly Recommended

SOC 1 - Principles of Sociology
with a minimum grade of C

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

- Sociology

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. SOC1

1. Outline multiple social theories
2. Apply social theory to world events
3. Explain how identities such as gender and race are socially constructed.
4. Outline the impacts of modernization and globalization on social institutions
5. Develop an argumentative research-based term paper
6. Explain the workings of global economic and political systems
7. Outline the symbiotic relationship between culture and social structure

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Compare perspectives of globalization
- B. Explain how the state's role in the economy has transformed over the past few centuries and how it is transforming now;
- C. Identify the role of global political bodies and how they support the concept of a "global citizen"
- D. Outline the relationship between interstate and state violence in expanding globalization
- E. Explain why terrorism is a response to accelerating globalization
- F. Outline the current global division of labor and its social consequences in the core, periphery and semi-periphery
- G. Project the outcomes of current trends in global middle class consumerism and its impact on the environment
- H. Identify the ways on which increased migration is transforming national culture
- I. Critique the theories of global media culture and its impact on national culture

V. CONTENT:

A. Perspectives on Globalization

1. Good? Bad? Sustaining? Self destructive? Inevitable?
2. World systems theory (Hobswam, Wallerstein)
3. Recent changes in scale, scope, and speed of changes of integration
4. Resistance to globalization e.g. old business, old powers

B. The Nation-State, Nationalism and the Changing Role of the State

1. Role of the nation-state in developing capitalism (Polanyi, Marx)
2. 20th century nationalism – the role of ethnicity and the concept of "citizen" – the emergence of new states
3. The emergence of international organizations monitoring economies – GATT, WTO, World Bank, IMF – and the role of states

4. The emergence of multinational corporations and the changing roles of states
5. Perspectives on the changing roles of states – is the state becoming obsolete? Is the state becoming more important? Is the state transforming?
- C. Democracy, Global Political Bodies and the Global Citizen
 1. Does globalization challenge the concept of “citizen” (Barber)
 2. The creation of a global ethic?
- D. International and National Violence as Vehicles for Globalization
- E. The Emergence of Terror as the Response to Globalization
 1. “Jihad” as response to unsettling tradition (Barber)
 2. The “Olive Tree” as a symbol of tradition (Friedman)
 3. Growth of organized terror organizations
 4. The role of fascism
- F. The Emergence of the Modern Global Economy
 1. History of global economic ties – the role of technology
 2. 19th and early 20th century markets
 3. Late 20th century markets, finance, and “liberalization” of the periphery
 4. The global division of labor
 5. The rise of multinational corporations and transnational practices
 6. The rise of global elites – the capitalist class
 7. Supply chain connections – complex interdependence
 8. The emergence of the global middle class and consumer culture
 9. Current economic trends – outsourcing, insourcing, etc.
 10. The role of China and India
 11. Who is left out? Who is vulnerable?
 12. The role of education in the future
- G. Migration and Integration
 1. Negotiating “self”
 2. Transforming boundaries of ethnicity
 3. “Authenticity” and tourism
- H. The transformation and retention of culture
 1. “Americanization” “McDonaldization” – pervasive or over-stated?
 2. Reactionary regionalism
 3. Cultural diffusion
 4. Globalism and identity
 5. Simultaneous destruction/creation homogeneity/heterogeneity of culture (Cowen)
- I. The transformative role of the media
 1. The history of transmitters and dominant ideologies (Abercrombie)
 2. Role of media in creating consumer culture
 3. Globality – the global becomes local
 4. The role of the internet
- J. Our Planet – Absorbing the Costs of Change?
 1. Global warming and other crises

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. Video/web page visitation
- C. Simulation
- D. **Discussion** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading assignments
 1. Weekly readings consisting of sociological research and/or theoretical articles accompanied by relevant sections of the assigned textbook.
- B. Web visitation
 1. Go to www.worldbank.org Answer the following questions: what are social indicators? How are they measured? Why would a global financial institution be interested in social indicators of development?
- C. Ten page research-oriented term paper focusing on the role of global economic, political, social and cultural relations of one or more nations, projecting the possible futures this nation or group of nations may face.

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
 1. Exams/Tests
 2. Papers
- B. **Frequency**
 1. Exam: 2-3 times in a semester
 2. Term paper: end of semester

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Lechner and Boli, . (2015). *The Globalization Reader* (5th ed.). MA: Blackwell Publishing .
2. Martell, . (2016). *The Sociology of Globalization* (2nd ed.). Malden, MA: Wiley.
3. Ritzer , . (2015). *Globalization: A Basic Text* (2nd ed.). Malden, MA: Blackwell.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: