I. Overview:

How are your personal problems related to larger issues in society and the world? To what extent is your trajectory as a college student in the US shaped by global economic and socio-political forces? In this course, you will come to understand sociology as a unique set of tools with which to interpret your relationship to a global socio-political landscape. By integrating classic readings in the discipline of sociology with the principles of global political economy and development studies, we will analyze and contextualize a range of social, economic, and political phenomena at the scales of the global, the national, the local, and the individual.

Because the course surveys a wide-ranging set of topics in sociology, drawing from a diverse set of readings, a key aim of this course will be to learn to read social science texts critically, making connections between them and learning to formulate critical questions. To this end, classtime and assignments will ask students to delve into the readings deeply to formulate better-informed questions about the world we live in and our place in it.

II. Grading and Assignments:

Students will be graded according to the following written assignments:

1) **Weekly reading responses** (<500 words): In these assignments, you will reflect upon the readings for the week and connect them with material covered earlier in the class. Although these are not summaries, you must touch briefly upon the key arguments for each reading in these responses. Each student must post one response to the course conference per week and I encourage you to read one another’s responses.

2) **Participation/Attendance:** Discussion, exchange, and participation is a critical part of this class and classtime will be important in facilitating your understanding of the readings. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. More than two absences during the course of the term will dramatically affect your participation grade.

3) **3 Thinkpieces** (750-1000 words or 3-4 pages double-spaced): Thinkpieces flesh out the key themes of the class in the form of short essays. You will respond to prompts to be handed out in class. These papers are formal and must be constructed around a central argument in response to a selected prompt. You are also free to come up with your own topics, but they must be approved in advance.

4) **2 Exams (Midterm & Final):** Exams will include several identifications (to be described in a 1-3 sentences), short essays (outlining the key aspects of a specific topic in a paragraph), and one essay (an analytical question that will ask you to draw upon the readings to analyze a specific issue). Exam questions will always offer choice (i.e. identify 4 of the following 6 terms or answer 1 of the following two essay questions).
Assignments will be weighted in the final grade as follows:

- Reading responses/participation: 20%
- Thinkpieces: 40%
- Exams: 40% (20% each)

III. Course Outline and Readings (on e-reserve unless otherwise noted):

September 6, Week 1: Introductions

September 10-13, Week 2: The Sociological Imagination
- Emile Durkheim. Suicide. pp 208-215, 217-223

September 17-20: Conceptualizing Global Inequality

September 24-27: Sociology of Class
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. “Manifesto of the Communist Party” (pp 473-491) and selections from The German Ideology (pp 155-163) in Robert Tucker (ed.), The Marx-Engels Reader.
- Veblen, Thorstien. The Theory of the Leisure Class.

October 1-4: Sociology of Gender
- Cynthia Enloe. Bananas, Beaches and Bases.
- Ehrenreich, Barbara. Nickel and Dimed. (selections)
October 11-15: Sociology of Race (no class on October 8th, Fall Break)
  • THINKPIECE I DUE ON OCTOBER 15TH

October 18-22: Sociological Perspectives on Intersectionality

October 25: Sociology of the Global Political Economy
  • Reich, Robert. *The Work of Nations.* (selections)

October 29: Midterm Review In Class

November 1: MIDTERM

November 5-8: Social Institutions I: The Family/The Household
  • Hochschild, Arlie. *The Time Bind: When Work becomes Home and home becomes work.*
  • Wolf, Diane. *Factory Daughter.* (selections)

November 12: Social Institutions II: Education
  • McLeod, Jay. *Ain’t No Makin’ It.* (selections)

  • THINKPIECE II DUE NOVEMBER 15
November 26-29: Social Institutions IV: The State (no class on 11/22, Thanksgiving)
- Evans, Peter et al. (1985) *Bringing the State Back In. Introduction*.

December 3-6: Agents of Change
- Margaret E. Keck & Kathryn Sikkink. *Activists Beyond Borders*. (selections)
- Evans, Peter. Counterhegemonic Globalization. *Contemporary Sociology*

December 10: Wrap-up
- THINKPIECE III DUE DECEMBER 10TH
- Review for final