

Introductory Sociology of Globalization
SOC 269 (Section A1), Spring 2018
University of Alberta

Lecture	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 – 11:50 am Bus 1-5
Instructor	Andrew C. Patterson acpatter@ualberta.ca
Office	Tory 6-15
Office hours	8:00 – 8:30 am Tue/Thu and immediately after class

Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces the sociological approach to the study of economic globalization, of which economic (“neo”) liberalism is a component. The course will help students develop a basic understanding of this broad-scale social movement. Additional objectives are to introduce them to professional research on globalization and to offer opportunities to devise creative solutions.

Evaluation

Participation	5%	
Take-home quiz	5%	Due: May 17
Midterm	20%	May 24
Written assignment 1: Term paper	25%	Due: May 31
Written assignment 2: Reflection paper	10%	Due: June 7
Final exam	35%	Date and time: TBA

Prerequisites

SOC 100 or consent of the instructor

Required readings

Ritzer, George. 2011. *Globalization: The Essentials*. West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

Course requirements

Exams (55%). The midterm exam will occur at the start of the class session specified on the date specified in this syllabus. The date, time, and location for the final exam will be determined by the University. All exams will consist of a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Sample questions for the exams will be provided in advance.

Take-Home Quiz (5%). The take-home quiz will test your knowledge of fact-based reasoning in the social sciences. You will be asked to assess examples of arguments according to whether they are

based on facts or rhetoric. Additional tasks will involve identifying the particular form of the argument, including but not limited to the premises that they assume.

Written Assignments (35%). The written assignments are intended to help students make reasoned contributions to discussions of globalization. Doing so involves thoughtful engagement with the academic literature, but also some imagination about what is possible.

Term paper (25%). This assignment ask you to present an evidence-based argument about the impact that economic globalization has had. The paper will be in the style of a short review of the empirical literature (6 pages double-spaced), not unlike those published in professional, peer-reviewed academic journals. Further detail will be provided early in the course.

Reflection paper (10%). What can be done to address the challenges of economic globalization? In 2 pages (double-spaced), reflect upon opportunities for positive social change. Offer a solution that appreciates the logistics of navigating a global political environment. Further detail will be provided.

Participation (5%). Your participation mark will be determined by attendance, respectful attention to the lectures, contributions to class discussions, and participation in group activities. Students must maintain a respectful demeanour at all times (see the section ‘etiquette and decorum’ under the Rules and Procedures section below), as well as allow others to speak without interrupting or dominating the conversation. Students who suffer from social anxiety or who prefer to remain silent during class may work with the instructor to devise their own solutions for participating. Those who miss class must follow university procedure for missed term work as discussed below.

Grades

For each assignment and exam a numeric score, expressed as a percentage up to 100%, will be given to assess performance. The final score for the course will be a weighted sum based on the relative worth of each as specified in this syllabus. Letter grades will be attached to the scores as follows:

Descriptor	Percentage	Grade	Value
Excellent	95-100	A+	4.0
	90-94	A	4.0
	85-89	A-	3.7
Good	80-84	B+	3.3
	75-79	B	3.0
	70-74	B-	2.7
Satisfactory	66-69	C+	2.3
	62-65	C	2.0
	58-61	C-	1.7
Poor	54-57	D+	1.3
Minimal Pass	50-53	D	1.0
Fail	0-49	F	0.0

Rules and Procedures

Policy about course outlines can be found in Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading of the University Calendar.

Etiquette and Decorum. In every way students must use a professional and respectful demeanour during class discussions, verbal exchanges, and written communications. This includes any and all communication with the instructor, teacher assistants, and fellow students before, after, and during class sessions. Students are also expected to give their respectful attention during lectures and to eliminate any disruption of the attention of their classmates. The use of cell phones and internet during class is distracting to your fellow students and—importantly—yourselves! Students who choose to use their laptops for personal reasons during the lectures may do so provided that they sit at the back of the classroom. Please otherwise restrict laptop use to the lecture material and stow away your cell phones after turning them off or to ‘silent’ mode before class starts.

Academic Integrity. The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Students commit **plagiarism** when they include phrasing, ideas, findings, images, or any other content in their own submissions for graded coursework that someone else has created, or that they previously submitted for another course, while representing it as their own original contribution. An example is when students fail to note the details of the source (author, year of publication) where they had discovered information they are using to support an argument in their term papers. Plagiarism also occurs when using the word-for-word text of another author, but without identifying it as a quote *and* citing both the page number and source where it was found. A related problem, **cheating** is when students find out the content that their fellow students are writing on exams or on other assignments, then write the same for their own submissions. Similar may be said about any other kind of attempt to misrepresent your performance or that of another student, such as acknowledging attendance for someone on a day she or he was in fact absent. These are serious offenses that could result in a grade of zero for the respective component of the course, an ‘F’ in the course overall, and/or expulsion from the university.

To avoid allegations of plagiarism, make sure your term paper follows proper protocols for citations, i.e., by citing the authors whose ideas you borrow, as well as the page number for text that you copy over verbatim. Far from detracting from a positive impression of your work, citing other authors shows diligence and even supports the credibility of your work, which can only strengthen your work. So there is no good reason not to cite content you are using in your assignments! Additional guidelines pertain to your own prior term work. Do not use material, in part or in whole, that you submitted as term work for another course. If you choose to cite material that you discovered from another course, please declare yourself as doing so by adding an in-text citation as “personal communication” as per ASA or APA formatting guidelines. If this occurs on more than a couple occasions, or constitutes a major part of your argument for the term paper, please use this material only with the permission of the instructor.

Intellectual property. Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or

any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Protocols for Written Assignments. For all assignments, you may not use work submitted to another course or work created in part or in whole by anyone other than yourself while posing it as your own original contribution. On all written submissions please identify your name, student number, the course and section number, name of the instructor, and the date. This should be in the upper-right corner of the page for the Term Paper Proposal. You may include a cover page with this information in the centre of the Term Paper, or you may again place it in the upper-right corner of the first page if you wish to save paper. Soft copies (unprinted documents sent via email) are not acceptable. In addition, the following guidelines are required:

- Times New Roman font.
- 12-point font
- Double-space text
- Margins no larger than 1.25 inches
- Page numbers at the top right of each page
- Any additional guidelines specified in the assignment packet to be distributed early in the course

Exams and Other Term Work. Exam times begin for everyone at the dates and times specified in this syllabus and will not be extended for those arriving late. As stipulated in the Academic Calendar, students who claim religious reasons for missing any scheduled exam must seek accommodation within two weeks of the start of a fall or winter term and within three days of the start of a spring or summer term. Instructors and Faculties are not required to excuse absences for unacceptable reasons that include, but are not limited to personal events such as vacations, weddings, or travel.

Missed Final Exams. Accommodations for absences from final exams are granted only at the discretion of the responsible Faculty. Please note that instructors do not have this authority. Students who do not take the final exam at the scheduled time and date can only seek accommodation by submitting an application to their home Faculty for a deferred exam. Students absent during a final exam must contact their Faculty office within two working days of the scheduled exam date or as soon as they are able as regards the circumstances of their absence. Deferred exams will not be approved for students who have not attended class regularly where attendance and/or participation is required, or who have completed less than half of the antecedent term work.

Missed term work. Unexcused absences from midterm exams will result in a mark of zero thereof and can seriously compromise a student's chances of passing the course. In cases of missed midterm exams, wherever possible students are asked to contact the Instructor in advance. Accommodations for missed midterm exams are granted only at the discretion of the Instructor. If you miss a midterm exam because of an incapacitating illness, you must contact me within two business days or as soon as you are physically able to do so. Students in the Faculty of Arts must also complete a Medical Declaration Form, whereas those from other faculties must submit a Statutory Declaration completed by their own Faculty office or by the Registrar. Supporting medical documentation, such as a University of Alberta Medical Statement signed by a doctor, may be submitted in lieu of or in addition to these. Accommodation for absences due to other reasons may

require other kinds of documentation that apply to the situation, such as a police report, an accident report, or juror summons. Students with excusable absences from midterms are asked to arrange as soon as possible a time and date for a make-up exam. The same rules apply with respect to regular attendance in class. Regarding your score for class participation, accommodations for absence from class, lateness, or early departures are granted only at the discretion of the Instructor upon submitting the abovementioned documentation.

Late assignments. Written assignments are due on the deadlines specified in this syllabus. However, a penalty of 10 points will be accorded for each day late, with Saturdays and Sundays together counting as a single day along with contiguous statutory holidays. This policy applies only to the Written Assignments 1 and 2. The Take-Home Quiz is in the spirit of an in-class quiz, but allows students to reflect upon their answers on their own time. No late submissions will be accepted. For exceptions to this policy, students must adhere to all of the same rules that apply to missed midterm exams as abovementioned. Make sure to notify me within two business days of a missed deadline and provide the appropriate documentation.

Lecture Schedule

May 8: Background and orientation

May 10: Introduction to globalization
Ritzer, Preface and Chapter 1

May 15: Theoretical and historical background
Ritzer, Preface and Chapters 2 and 3

May 17: Global economic flows and the politics thereof
Ritzer, Chapters 4 and 5
Due: Take-home quiz

May 22: Technology
Ritzer, Chapter 6

May 24: Culture
Midterm Exam, followed by lecture after break
Ritzer, Chapter 7

May 29: Migration and environment
Ritzer, Chapters 8 and 9

May 31: The corporation as a global political actor
Due: Written Assignment 1 (Term paper)
No readings due. In-class presentation of the movie, *The Corporation*.

June 5: Other negative outcomes
Ritzer, Chapter 10

June 7: Inequality
Ritzer, Chapter 11

Due: Written Assignment 2 (Reflection paper)

June 12: Looking Forward
Ritzer, Chapter 12

Final exam: Date, time, and location TBA. The final exam will occur on either of June 14 or 15.