

Professor Manfred B. Steger
M, W 12:00-1:15 /
Office: Saunders 236; Tel.: 956-7117
Email: manfred@hawaii.edu

SOC 413: ANALYSIS IN ECONOMY AND SOCIETY
SPRING 2017: CAPITALISM & GLOBALIZATION

Course Description and Structure

The primary objective of this course is to acquaint undergraduate students with major capitalist processes and dynamics in modern society from the industrial revolution to the global age. The course will be divided into two parts. In Part I, we will study the historical development and social impacts of industrial capitalism as well as explore classical theories of economic change. Part II will focus on the prominent role of globalization in shaping contemporary, postindustrial societies in the 21st century. We will analyze global social structures and flows as they relate to changes in the nation-state, the rise of global governance, the power of international economic institutions and transnational corporations, and the growing influence of transnational cultural dynamics. We will also debate crucial global issues emerging from social and economic globalization such as global inequality and new forms of individual and collective identity. The course will end with a consideration of possible futures of globalization, including the importance of new social movements that are challenging the dominant neoliberal form of globalization.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

The SLOs for this course are closely aligned with the Mānoa Institutional Learning Objectives for undergraduate students as well as the Sociology Department's posted Student learning outcomes for sociology majors. These can be found here:

<http://www.sociology.hawaii.edu/undergraduate/index.html#slo>

The four major SLOs of this course are:

- *To understand the historical development of capitalism and evaluate major perspectives on the subject offered by classical social thinkers;*
- *To acquire the knowledge and skill to analyze the social relevance of globalization with a critical eye toward the workings of asymmetrical power relations in contemporary societies;*
- *To appreciate the crucial role of globalization in shaping economic ideas and practices in contemporary societies;*
- *To produce written work and make oral presentations that demonstrate a critical understanding of the economic dynamics affecting contemporary societies.*

Required Texts

The following books are available for purchase in the UH bookstore:

- 1) James Fulcher, *Capitalism: A Very Short Introduction* 2nd ed. (Oxford UP, 2015). ISBN: 978-0198726074
- 2) George Ritzer and Paul Dean, *Globalization: A Basic Text*, 2nd ed. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2015). ISBN: 978-1118687124.

The following required readings are available as free downloads:

- 4) John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 1-5 & 9. Free download from: <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/locke1689a.pdf>
- 5) Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*. (Excerpt on “Division of Labor;” posted on Laulima).
- 6) David Ricardo, *On the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation* (excerpt on “comparative advantage”). Free download at: <http://phase1.nccr-trade.org/images/stories/mira/comparative%20advantage.pdf>
- 7) Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*. Free download at: <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/index.htm>
- 8) Karl Marx, “Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy”: <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1859/critique-pol-economy/preface.htm>
- 9) Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1-38). Free download at: <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/jhamlin/1095/The%20Protestant%20Ethic%20and%20the%20Spirit%20of%20Capitalism.pdf>

Requirements & Written Work

It is important to me to encourage you to maintain an exploratory mind and create your own “active learning environment”—not solely interacting with me, but with each other as well. I EXPECT REGULAR STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION. You must be willing to engage in class discussions. I will facilitate student discussions by creating a safe context that allows you to speak up freely. But I do not accept the equation of subjective experience with “truth.” You must be able to confront the questions I ask, regardless of your own preferences. Most of all, I am interested in preparing you for independent research which requires a tolerant, reflective mind, best summarized by Immanuel Kant’s dictum: “*Sapere aude*”—“Have the courage to use your own understanding!”

You are expected to complete the weekly reading assignments and attend class prepared to discuss the texts. The format of this course will consist of lectures with plenty of opportunity for discussion. We will also view some video clips and other visual materials in class. Since it is imperative for a well-educated person to articulate his/her ideas in public, you will also engage

regularly in small and large group interactions, including formal presentations of your reactions to the readings. Indeed, your active participation in the discussion will contribute to your final course grade.

Written work will consist of a midterm exam and a final exam (non-cumulative). Both examinations are 48-hour take-home essay exams. The midterm exam will be given to you on **Monday, March 6**, and must be returned during the class meeting on **Wednesday, March 8**. You will be asked to respond to two essay questions drawn from a list of six questions, provided to you at the end of our exam review session two days before the exam is due. You have to write a three-page response essay for each question (font 12, standard margins) for a total of six pages (not counting the cover page). Each essay must respond to the question and carefully explore the themes and topics of the question. Your response essay should reflect your own analysis and understanding of the course material. You should draw on a careful textual analysis of selected course readings and cite appropriate, short textual passages according to ASA style:

http://lib.trinity.edu/research/citing/ASA_Style_Citations_4.pdf.

No extensions. Late exams will not be accepted.

Moreover, each student will be responsible for a 45-minute *in-class group presentation* (2-4 students per group) on particular course readings. This includes leading class in an ensuing discussion of 15-20 min (as part of the total 45-minute presentation). Rather than offering a “book report,” you are expected to present to class what you consider important themes or topics from the readings and then generate questions for discussion. You will be asked to sign up for a presentation on a topic of your choice at the latest in the third week of class (see course schedule for topics). Assignments will be made on first-come first-serve basis. In addition to the assigned readings, your presentation may include additional supportive (brief) materials (for example, handouts, charts, and/or visual materials like PowerPoints, video clips, or other web-based materials).

Regular class attendance is required. You are responsible for signing the attendance sheet at the beginning of each class. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you may not sign in. Please inform the instructor *in advance* if you have to miss class for really important reasons!

Course Assessment

You must complete all assigned written and oral work in order to pass the course. Any student found guilty of plagiarism is in danger of failing the course (see academic conduct and plagiarism section below). Your in-class group presentation will count for 20%, your two response exam essays for 70% (35% each), and your attendance/participation for 10%. More than THREE absences per semester will result in a 5% penalty per missed class. In order to be considered “legitimate,” absences must be documented and they must clearly reflect cases of emergency. It is not acceptable to simply cite “other commitments.” Thus, your course grade will reflect your presentation, your participation in class discussions, class attendance, and the overall quality of your written work. Students who distinguish themselves during our class discussions will receive *extra credit*—meaning that if you find yourself between two grades at the end of the semester, you will receive the *higher grade*.

A Note on Grading

1) In-Class Presentations:

An “A” will only be given to presentations that are clearly superior in form as well as content. Typically, such presentations are coherent, well organized, and adhere to the given time frame. “A” students show their thorough and careful reading of the text(s), bring in outside and/or online materials for reference, and generate genuine interest and excitement for their presented strengths and weaknesses. They lead discussions effortlessly, distribute speaking time fairly, and stay focused on their theme.

2) Response Essay Exams:

Much of the above pertains to your response essays as well. In addition to treating the subject in a sophisticated and creative manner, “A” papers exhibit elegant and clear prose. Such papers draw comparisons and connections between selected themes; they are well organized and furnish adequate citations of primary and secondary sources without losing their own unique and distinct voice and perspective. If this grade is to mean something, just doing a “good job” is not good enough for an “A.” You must demonstrate your ability to go *beyond* the expected.

Course and Classroom Protocols

Our goal is learning, through the sharing of ideas about a complex and rich subject of great intellectual and aesthetic value. The classroom is for comments, questions, and clarifications about the assigned reading. To help us achieve that goal:

- Reading assignments are to be completed in advance of the class meeting when they are scheduled to be discussed; you are expected to bring the book, and your insights as well as puzzlements to share with the rest of the class;
- Be on time; do not go out and come back during class (except for real emergencies); do not leave early;
- No eating during class;
- Turn off and put away your cellphones/electronic devices;
- No private conversations;
- Laptops or tablets are permitted for occasional note taking use only; you may not withdraw from the group into your laptop/tablet;
- Participation in class discussions is a required component of the grade for classwork;
- To sum up: we want to keep the heat in the system for 150 minutes and maximize our learning experience.

Academic Conduct and Plagiarism

Students are expected to abide by the university's policies regarding academic integrity. Actions that are academically dishonest include, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, interfering with the education of another student. Violation of these policies will not be tolerated and will result in serious consequences including receiving no credit for the assignment, a failing grade, or, in serious cases, it might lead to suspension or expulsion. The university policy on academic dishonesty can be found at the UH Mānoa Student Conduct Code Policies Section IV Proscribed Conduct. For detail information, please consult the following website:

http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/proscribed_conduct.php

Disability Accommodation

If you have a disability for which you need an accommodation, please make an appointment with the UH Manoa KOKUA Program (Disability Access Services) at (808) 956-7511, or via email kokua@hawaii.edu. For more information please access its website:

<http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/>

Subject to Change Statement

This syllabus and schedule are provisional and are subject to change. It is at the discretion of the instructor to do so for the purpose of furthering the educational objectives of the course. While the instructor will notify students of any changes through class announcements and email communications, it is students' responsibility to check on the course syllabus periodically for changes.

Office Hours

Monday, 9:30-11:30pm; and by appointment.

Students are encouraged to see me during office hours on a regular basis. Please clarify difficult passages in your readings or other course-related problems with me as soon as possible; *don't wait until the last few weeks of the semester.*

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (Jan 9, 11): Introduction to the Course: What Is Capitalism?

Readings for week 2: 1) Fulcher, *Capitalism*, Chapters 1-3.

PART I: CAPITALISM: THEORIES AND PRACTICES

WEEK 2 (Jan 16 no class (MLK Holiday); Jan 18): Historical Development of Capitalism

Readings for week 3: 1) Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (required reading #4).

WEEK 3 (Jan 23, 25): Theorists of Classical Political Economy: John Locke

Readings for week 4: 1) Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (required reading # 5); David Ricardo, *On the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation* (required reading #6).

WEEK 4 (Jan 30, Feb 1): Theorists of Classical Political Economy: Adam Smith & David Ricardo

Readings for week 5: 1) Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto, Preface to the Critique of Political Economy* (required readings #7 & 8).

WEEK 5 (Feb 6, 8): Theorists of Classical Political Economy: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

Readings for week 6: 1) Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Chapter 2 (pp. 13-38; required reading # 9).

WEEK 6 (Feb 13, Feb 15: NO CLASS): Theorists of Classical Political Economy: Max Weber

Readings for week 7-9: 1) Fulcher, *Capitalism*, Chapter 4.

WEEK 7 (Feb 20: NO CLASS; Feb 22): Varieties of Capitalism: Sweden Student Presentations #1

WEEK 8: (Feb 27, Mar 1): Varieties of Capitalism: USA, Japan Student Presentations #2

Readings for week 10: 1) Ritzer and Dean, *Globalization*, Chapters 1 & 2.

PART II: GLOBALIZATION & SOCIETY: ASPECTS, DEBATES, ISSUES

WEEK 9 (Mar 6, 8): Midterm Exam Review (Mon) & Film on Globalization (Wed)

MIDTERM EXAM DUE ON MARCH 8 (IN CLASS). No late midterm exams will be accepted.

WEEK 10 (Mar 13, 15): Basic Ideas, Debates, and Structures of Globalization
Readings for week 11: 1) Ritzer and Dean, *Globalization*, Chapter 3 & 4.

WEEK 11 (Mar 20, 22): Globalization and Related Processes & Neoliberalism
Student Presentations #3
Readings for week 13: 1) Ritzer and Dean, *Globalization*, Chapters 5 & 6.

WEEK 12 (Mar 27, 29): NO CLASSES: SPRING RECESS

WEEK 13 (Apr 3, 5): Politics and the Structuring the Global Economy
Student Presentations #4
Readings for week 14: 1) Ritzer and Dean, *Globalization*, Chapters 7 & 8.

WEEK 14 (Apr 10, 12): Global Economic and Cultural Flows
Student Presentations #5
Readings for week 15: 1) Ritzer and Dean, *Globalization*, Chapter 9.

WEEK 15 (Apr 17, 19): High-Tech Global Flows
Student Presentations #6
Readings for week 16: 1) Ritzer and Dean, *Globalization*, Chapters 13 & 14

WEEK 16 (Apr 24, 26): Global Inequalities & the Global Justice Movement
Student Presentation #7
Readings for week 17: Ritzer and Dean, *Globalization*, Chapter 15.

WEEK 17 (May 1, 3): The Future of the Global Economy (Mon) and Final Exam Review (Wed)

FINAL EXAM DUE ON OFFICIAL FINAL EXAM DAY/TIME (deliver in person). No late final exams will be accepted.