

Survey of Social Change

Instructor: Kiran Sagoo
Contact: sagoo@hawaii.edu

Office hours: By appointment

Course description

For every cup of coffee bought, coffee farmers in Ethiopia, home of the coffee bean, receive only three percent of the price paid, while ninety percent of the price paid goes to retailers and cafés in developed economies. Why is global inequality so wide? How did the world become so unbalanced? This course focuses on developing countries and studies the social changes occurring from colonialism to industrialization that has resulted in the present world system. It will also address issues of worker's rights, environmentalism and counter-movements that have emerged to address global inequality. Lectures will be supplemented with video presentations, and is hoped to spark lively discussions in class. This course intends to provide students with an overview of social change and an understanding of the major issues relating to development in present day society.

Grading:

The grading for this class is as follows:

Class attendance and participation:	25%
Research project:	25%
Midterm exam:	25%
Final exam:	25%

Class attendance and participation

Students are expected to come to class, have knowledge of assigned readings, complete assignments and participate in class discussions. Assignments will be based on website research on particular issues, such as concerns with coffee/tea/ production and alternatives available; abuses of multinationals and steps taken to address it. Assignments will be presented in class to enable everyone learn from each other.

Research project

Students are required to select a developing country and discuss any situation involving social change. For example, this could be the impact of the HIV/AIDS crisis on labor in South Africa; the use of child labor in cocoa production in Ivory Coast. Assessment for this will be based on a 10-15 minute presentation given in class. The research project should address the following points:

- (1) Provide an overview of the country being studied – its location, climate, social and economic indicators.
- (2) Address the social change the country has undergone.
- (3) Relate it to the theories learnt in class.

Students should use credible internet sources, journals and books to prepare for their assignments / research project. The textbook has a list of reliable websites to obtain information.

Note: Do not use wikipedia as a source of information.

Midterm and final exams

There will be two course examinations, consisting of essay questions. You must notify me in advance if you are unable to take an examination.

Required text: Philip D McMichael (2003), *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective*, 4th Edition, Pine Forge Press

Week 1: Development and Globalization (May 26 – 29)

Readings: Chapter 1

Assignment 1: Select an article on a developing country (that was previously colonized), which is currently undergoing a social change

Useful sources: www.bbc.com, www.newint.org

Week 2: Colonialism, Decolonization and the Development Project (June 1 – 5)

Readings: Chapters 2 and 3

Assignment 2: Choose a cash crop – coffee, tea, cocoa, pineapples, bananas, etc and:

- Address the concerns surrounding the production of this crop
- What measures can be taken to overcome the problems?
- How has fair trade improved the lives of producers – share a personal story.

Useful sources: www.fairtrade.org.uk, www.newint.org

Week 3: Globalizing the National Economy (June 8-12)

Readings: Chapters 4

Assignment 3: Select a multinational – Nestle, Walmart, Glaxosmithkline, PhilipMorris, etc and:

- State what this multinational produces
- What are the abuses with this multinational cooperation?
- What actions have social groups taken to address the abuses?

Useful sources: www.multinationalmonitor.org

Week 4: Revision, mid-term exam, and the debt crisis (June 15-19)

June 15 - Revision, June 16 - Mid-Term exam

Readings: Chapters 5

Week 5: Instituting the Globalization Project and Case-studies on Social Change (June 22-26)

Readings: Chapters 6 and 8

Assignment 4: Select a foundation – Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, etc, and

- Provide an overview on the projects this foundation supports
- Select one project and enlighten the class on the project.

Week 6: Presentation of research project, revision and final exams (June 29 – July 2)

June 29 & 30 – Presentation of research project

July 1 – Revision, July 2 – Final exam