SYP 3456
Societies in the World

Instructor: Professor Percy C. Hintzen
SIPA 330 phintzen@fiu.edu 305-348-4419

Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 11.00 am – 12.15 pm
Place: Charles E Perry (PC) 426

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday: 1 pm – 3 pm or by Appointment
SIPA 330

Course Description and Objectives
The purpose of this course is to demonstrate, explore, and examine the ways in which the local, the global, and the international are connected through processes of globalization. It does so through engagement with forms of inequality, disempowerment, marginalization, exclusion and denial of rights. We will examine the relationship between these outcomes and how they are conditioned by policies and practices of development and modernization. Strategies used by various communities in response to these processes are examined. The course is framed around references to issues of morality, ethics, and rights.

Students will be expected to grasp the interconnected processes as they affect different societies and communities and the manner in which people and communities respond to them through critical engagement. Students will also be required to demonstrate their understanding of globalization, rights, and inequality through practical application at the local level in the form of a research project that will provide the basis for the Final Research Paper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
3 Mid Term Examinations 30%
Final Research Paper 25%
Class Participation 10%
Reading Summaries 10%

Grade Assignments
A 100 - 93
A- 92.9 - 90
B+ 89.9 - 87
B 86.9 - 83
B- 82.9 - 80
C+ 79.9 - 77
C 76.9 - 73
C- 72.9 -70
D+ 69.9 - 67
D 66.9 - 63
D- 62.9 - 60
F 59.0 - 00
Grading Policy and Practice
All assignments will be graded out of 100 and weighted according to their assigned value. No late assignment will be accepted nor will make up exams be administered without valid, documented justification related to illness, personal and family emergency, or the accommodation of a religious holiday.

Class Attendance
Students are expected to be early for class and to attend every class unless their absence is excused, with documentation, because of personal illness, personal and family emergency, or the accommodation of a religious holiday.

Only three (3) unexcused absences are allowed without penalty. One percentage point will be deducted for each subsequent absence after the initial three up to a total of 10 percentage points. These deductions will show up on the marks for class participation.

Mid-Term
There will be three mid-term examinations. Each exam will count for 10 percent of the grade. Two of the exams will be in-class essays that test familiarity with the reading and one will be a take home examination to test capacity for critical reflection.

Final Examination
There will be a final examination covering the entire course.

Research Project
There will be no further prompt for this project. Students must select an organization, group, or institution engaged with issues of rights, representation, inequality, marginalization and identity. You will be required to design a strategy for data collection from the group or organization of your choice and to spend the semester doing so. You must then analyze the data using conceptual, analytical, and theoretical frameworks around which the course is organized. You are required to write a 6-10 page paper describing the project and the methods of data collection; presenting and analyzing the data; and formulating conclusions. The paper is to be handed in on the last day of regular class (December 3rd). A decision on the selected entity must be made by the second week of class and posted on Blackboard. Students will be expected to work with the instructor on project design and implementation. The best way to accomplish this is to come to the instructor’s office hours. Please ensure that the project is not too ambitious. It needs to be doable given the time and resource constraints. You may want to explore on-campus groups organized around issues of race, culture, sexuality, gender, and national origin (including campus centers, programs, and departments). Or you may choose similar groups organized in South Florida that deal with similar issues.

Reading Summaries
Each student is required to post a two-paragraph synopsis of the week’s readings on Blackboard by midnight Friday of each week. There will be a one percentage point deduction each time a student fails to submit a reading summary.

Class Participation
Students will be expected to participate in class discussion. The basis for participation is attendance. Students who do not participate will be given the opportunity to do so by the instructor in the form of answers to questions specifically directed to them.
Required Course Readings


Reading and Class Assignments

August 25th.
Introduction To Class

August 27th
The Struggle for Development
Reading:
Class Discussion

September 1st
Introduction to World Poverty
Reading:

September 3rd
Documentary: Life and Debt.

September 8th
Discussion of Documentary, The Crisis of Development
Paper Topic and target group/organization posted on Blackboard.

September 10th
Challenging Authority and Defending Community For Economic Justice

September 15th
Human Flourishing and Universal Justice for the Poor
Reading:

September 17th
Development for Whom: Fighting for a Place

Sept. 22nd
What are Human Rights

September 24th.

1st MID-TERM IN CLASS

September 29th
Is Education Really the Answer?

October 1st
Ethics, Morality and Justice

October 6th
Environmentalism and local knowledge

October 8th
Morality and Global Economic Justice

October 13th
The Market vs. Democracy

October 15th
Human Misery and the Extremes of Nationalism
October 20th
Is Corporate Agriculture the Answer?

October 22nd
Realizing Genuine Democracy
TAKE HOME MID-TERM HANDED OUT

October 27th
The People against Militarization
Readings: Ch. 8. “Teaching against Neoliberalism in Chiapas Mexico: Gendered Resistance via Neo-Zapatista network Politics”
Ch. 12. “Demilitarizing Sovereignty: Self Determination and Anti Military Base Activism in Okinawa, Japan”.
TAKE HOME MID-TERM DUE

October 29th
Rights and a New Global Order: The Problem of the State

November 3rd
The Paradox of Local Support for Globalization

November 5th
Poverty, Inequality, and Responsibility

November 10th
Strategies of the Poor: Resisting Criminalization

November 12th
3rd MID-TERM, In Class

November 17th
Medicines against the Poor
Reading: Ch 9, “Pharmaceutical Innovation: Must We Exclude the Poor?” Pogge, Thomas, World Poverty and Human Rights: Cosmopolitan Responsibilities and Reforms, 2nd ed. Polity Press

November 19th.
Alternative Paradigms for Development

November 24th
Struggling Against Exclusion: A Call for Cultural Justice

December 1st
Towards a New Cosmovision

December 3rd
Development, Poverty, and Justice.

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE

December 10th (Thursday)
9.45 – 11.45 AM
FINAL EXAM
Charles E. Perry (PC) 426