

**COURSE: SOCL 240: GLOBAL SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**INSTRUCTOR: John Musalia**

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**COURSE DATES: JULY 11-29, 2022**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course presents a critical examination of social problems in different parts of the world within the context of a globalizing world. You will be exposed to the basic ways that sociologists use to analyze the social world known as the Sociological Imagination. Topics covered in this course will include but are not limited to the following social issues: Inequality, war, population, urbanization, health, ecology, terrorism, crime and energy. At the end of the course, you will understand the interrelatedness of the causes of these problems from an internal perspective, which examines forces operating within a community/country and an external view that consider factors operating at the global level.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course you should:

1. Explain how sociologists approach the study of global social problems.
2. Identify how social problems in our society (and others) are connected to larger global issues.
3. Apply sociological theories that vary in how they define the source of the underlying problem, including the structural functionalist perspective and the conflict perspective.
4. Critically evaluate current interventions and proposed solutions to specific global social problems and assess the consequences for various actors at the local and global levels.

**REQUIRED TEXT/MATERIALS:**

**Sernau, Scott (2012) “Global Problems: The Search for Equity, Peace, and Sustainability.” Revised 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pearson Education ISBN 0205841775**

This book is NOT available at the WKU store. Please purchase it from any of the online outlets.

**COMPUTER**

You should have a modern computer with consistent internet access. You should also have storage like USB or other storage media that you can use to store your class documents.

**TEACHING METHODS:**

1. Lectures: PowerPoint’s slides are provided to guide you as you go through the book chapters.
2. Review guides are also provided with practice questions to help you prepare for the exams. I will not provide the answers to practice questions because they are supposed to help you study.

**Exams:** You will have a total of THREE tests in the course. Exams will be completed using the testing capabilities of the Blackboard learning management system and will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions. Exams will be timed for 50 minutes and are scored immediately upon completion – no waiting in suspense to see how well you did. Considering that this is a three-week class, you should expect to digest a lot of information within a short time. You will be examined after every four chapters. To be clear, Test 1 will cover materials from Chapters 1-4; Test 2 will cover materials from Chapters 5-8; Test 3 will cover materials from Chapters 9-12. See the schedule below for details. Be sure to master the material before taking the test.

**Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor**

You must use a special Internet Browser called Respondus Lockdown Browser to take the exams. **For the first test, you will be required to use both Respondus Lockdown and Respondus monitor to take the test.** The rest of the tests you only need the Lockdown browser. Remember you CANNOT use Explorer, Firefox, Safari or Google Chrome to open the tests. If you do so, you will be prompted for a password that does not exist. In fact, if for some reason you are asked for a password know that you have made a mistake. ONLY Respondus Lockdown Browser has access to the tests on Blackboard. It is FREE and can be downloaded from the following link <http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/information.pl?ID=476234332>.

**Internet:** All material will be distributed on the Internet: instructional material, and exams will be posted on Blackboard. Students are responsible for their own Internet access. Your professor cannot troubleshoot connections or computer problems for you. The class website can be found at <https://blackboard.wku.edu>.

**Grading:** Your grade is earned through your performance on exams. As the instructor, I only record the grade that you have earned.

The following will be your grade distribution:

- Exams (3 of them) 100 points each.
- Grade distribution will be as follows:  
A = 90.00 – 100.00% C = 70.00 – 79.99%  
B = 80.00 – 89.99% D = 60.00 – 69.99%, Else F

**Class Attendance/Participation:** There is limited “class attendance” in the traditional sense of the word. Students are free to manage their own schedules within the due-dates of the various deliverables.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will result in an F for the course. For more information, refer to the "Academic Dishonesty" policy in the University Catalog.

**Class Schedule:** For your convenience, a tentative class schedule has been prepared and is located at the end of this document. It is recommended that you save, print and/or post a few copies in

places where you will logically refer to them (e.g., your smart phone, on the refrigerator, at the office, a copy in your car, etc.). Deliverables are noted in red. Changes to the calendar may be made to accommodate the class. Such changes will be formally announced on Blackboard. If a change is made, please immediately update your schedule(s).

**E-Mail Formatting:** E-mail is the most common way for students to contact me. For ease of identification, your email should be formatted as:

Subject: Socl 240, YourLastName, A Brief Subject Statement

Example: Soc 240, Musalia, A question about next week's deliverable

### **THE LEARNING CENTER**

Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center (located in the Downing Student Union, 2141) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. The Learning Center at Downing Student Union offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects and eight academic skill areas by appointment or walk in. Online tutoring is offered to distance learners. TLC is also a quiet study area (with side rooms designated for peer-to-peer tutoring) and a computer lab to complete academic coursework. Please call TLC in the Downing Student Union at (270) 745-5065 for more information or to schedule a tutoring appointment. [www.wku.edu/tlc](http://www.wku.edu/tlc)

### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. The phone number is 270.745.5004 [270.745.5121 V/TDD] or email at [sarc@wku.edu](mailto:sarc@wku.edu). Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation (LOA) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

### **TITLE IX, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY**

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at [https://wku.edu/policies/hr\\_policies/2040\\_discrimination\\_harassment\\_policy.pdf](https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf).

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159

**ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

This is a 200-level online course, concentrated into 3 weeks. Research indicates that learners prefer focusing upon subjects within short time frames. This can facilitate a strong immersion into the material, but there are costs. By more than “doubling up” on the schedule, you must be willing to devote a lot of your time and energy to this concentrated course during these weeks. This schedule indicates the days each chapter is covered and exam dates. You may have questions about the schedule, the tests, or other things relating to this concentrated Online Socl 240 course. I will be glad to respond to you via email: [john.musalia@wku.edu](mailto:john.musalia@wku.edu)

**KEY to the Schedule**

“Ch” stands for Chapter - indicating that you need to read that chapter. I strongly advise you to read ahead considering the compressed nature of the course.

JULY 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	11 Read introduction and Ch. 1	12 Read Ch. 2	13 Read Ch. 3	14 Read Ch. 4	15	16 Test 1
17 Read Ch. 5	18 Read Ch. 6	19 Read Ch. 7	20 Read Ch. 8	21	22 Test 2	23 Read Ch. 9
24 Read Ch. 10	25 Read Ch. 11	26 Read Ch. 12	27	28	29 Test 3	

Caveat: Just so you know, there's a chance I'll need to make modifications to this syllabus, and if that happens, I'll notify you by putting a notification under ANNOUNCEMENTS on our Blackboard site.