

*******NOTE: The information and due dates included in this syllabus may be amended/updated as the semester progresses.*******

Welcome to:	SOC 240 – Global Social Problems
Class type:	Online
Class meetings will be:	No class meetings are required for this course—all communication will be virtual, via email or Blackboard messages.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor:	Jeremy Hickman
Email:	jeremy.hickman@wku.edu I will respond to all emails within 24 hours (except for weekends and academic holidays).
Phone:	(843) 900-1279 If you send me a text message with a class-related question, I will respond via text message as soon as possible.
Office Location:	None—online communication is the best way to contact me.
Office Hours:	I will be available via the phone number listed above and via email consistently.

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines causes of and responses to critical social problems in different world regions, with a focus on the dimensions and impacts of globalizations. Diverse social theories are applied to interpret problems such as environmental degradation, AIDS, family violence, racism, migration, international poverty, and crime. **Colonnade/Statewide General Education Code K-LG**

Prerequisite(s): 21 hours of Foundations and Explorations Courses, or junior status

This course fulfills the Local to Global subcategory in the Connections section of the Colonnade general education program. A course on social problems is really a course on the world around us. A simple perusal of the latest news, social media feeds, or any other information source quickly reveals the extent to which social problems occupy our individual and collective consciousness. Sociology, as a discipline, provides useful tools for considering and analyzing prominent social issues at the local, national, and global levels, as well as providing insights into the social contexts in which these issues emerge and are responded to. The real benefit of an academic and sociological approach comes in the form of more in-depth and critical discussion and examination beyond what one might typically find in media and social media accounts. It is in that educational context that the following course objectives may be fulfilled:

Upon the successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Apply the scientific method to social research design.
- Evaluate how theories are used to explain both individual and collective behavior.
- Apply common techniques of data analysis.
- Communicate in written/oral/visual form in your major coursework.

- Link knowledge about theoretical explanations with training in research design and data literacy through application to sociological/socio-legal problems.

CLASS MATERIALS

Required Technology/Equipment:

Regular and consistent access to a computer and high-speed internet is required for this course. Mobile devices such as cellphones and some tablets may not be sufficient to access all components of the course. Access to required technologies is necessary and expected, even when open computer labs or public library access might be limited, so students should plan access to technologies as needed. If you need assistance meeting this requirement, please contact your instructor immediately.

Required Textbook/Supplies:

Global Problems: The Search for Equity, Peace, and Sustainability (4th Edition). Waveland Press.
By Scott Sernau. ISBN: 9781478647225

CLASS POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Attendance/Participation:

This is a standard online course, thus all content and assignments are delivered online through Blackboard. There are no scheduled online meetings, but I will be available by appointment. Attendance/Participation is indicated by completion of at least one online assignment per week.

Academic Integrity Policy:

This comes directly from the [WKU Undergraduate Catalog](#):

Students are expected to pursue their studies with commitment to intellectual honesty and personal integrity. The maintenance of academic integrity is of fundamental importance to the University. Examples of academic offenses include (but are not limited to): any act of plagiarism, cheating, or falsification or misuse of academic records. Thus, it should be clearly understood that acts of plagiarism or any other form of cheating will not be tolerated and that anyone committing such acts risks punishment of a serious nature. A student who believes a faculty member has dealt unfairly with them in a course involving academic offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, or academic dishonesty, may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure. Questions about the complaint procedure should be directed to the Student Ombuds Officer at student.ombudsman@wku.edu.

Class Communications/Email Policy:

Your WKU email address is the only email address to which I can respond. Please ensure all email communications take place via the WKU email system, and please **include the COURSE NUMBER in the subject line**. I will answer all emails within 24 hours, but often much sooner. Since emails are official academic communications, please use proper English and grammar and avoid “text-speak”. Communications that do not adhere to these policies may not receive a timely response.

AI Policy:

Students are allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course if that use is properly documented and credited. For example, text generated using ChatGPT-3 should include a citation such as: “Chat-GPT-3. (YYYY, Month DD of query). “Text of your query.” Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>” Material generated using other tools should follow a similar citation convention. Please don’t just submit automatically generated material for a grade—I know what AI programs have to say about the topics we’re going to cover; I want to know what you have to say about them.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS – What we will do in this course

Discussion Board Responses (12 responses at 5 points each; 60 points total)

Students will be required to post at least three comments each to the weekly discussion board prompts—one original response, and two responses to classmates. There will be a discussion board prompt each week except for exam weeks, as seen on the course schedule. Each discussion board will be worth five points, and will be connected to the chapters covered in the course. Discussion boards may be entered at any time (and multiple times) throughout the week they are available. Students are expected to offer insightful and analytical comments by (a) posting comments which strive to stimulate discussion, and/or (b) acknowledging other posts by possibly extending, supporting, or disagreeing with *the idea* expressed in the post – not disagreeing with (and certainly not attacking) *the person*. Points for the discussion board responses are earned largely via the quality of response, but any students who do not post an original response and at least two responses to their classmates will not receive full credit. Be aware that responses to classmates must also exhibit original thought and support, and must be more than simply telling someone they made a good post and restating what’s already been said. Please note that because of the time-sensitive nature of the discussion board responses, discussion boards absolutely CANNOT be made up.

Any disrespectful, inflammatory, and/or discriminatory language or comments posted on discussion boards will not be tolerated. A first offense will result in an immediate zero for that discussion board. A second offense will result in the student receiving a zero for all remaining discussion boards.

Discussion boards will open at the beginning of the week listed in the syllabus, and will close at 11:59pm on Friday of that week.

Writing Assignment (150 points (Outline: 10 points; Rough Draft: 30 points; Final Draft: 110 points))

There will be one writing assignments during the course of the semester, requiring you to investigate one particular social issue in depth. During the semester, you will submit an outline of your paper, as well as a rough draft of your paper and a final draft of your paper. More details about the assignment, as well as the due dates for each section of the paper, will be given as the due dates for each part of the assignment approach.

Exams (4 exams at 100 points each)

There will be four online exams, each worth 100 points (none of the exams will be cumulative, and none of the exams will be proctored). Each exam will cover material from the textbook, the powerpoints, and any additional required readings.

Each exam will be administered online through Blackboard. All exams will open at 12:01AM on Monday of the exam week, and close at 11:59PM the Sunday following the exam week, unless otherwise indicated.

MAKE-UP WORK/LATE WORK POLICY

Make-up work will only be accepted with a valid, documented excuse—if you miss class and have an excuse, please let me know as soon as possible, and arrangements will be made to allow for make-up work. Make-up exams will be given as soon as possible after the initial exam date, and any make-up assignments will be due as soon as possible after the original due date.

COURSE GRADE

Final course grade:

The following table illustrates the relationship between the points earned for the course and the overall class average:

Points Earned	Letter Grade
549-610	A
488-548	B
427-487	C
366-426	D
365 Points And Below	E

This course uses the standard 90%, 80%, 70%, 60% grading scale for A, B, C, D grades, respectively.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

For full information and instructions on how to withdraw see [WKU's official withdrawal procedures.](#)

COURSE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	CH	ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
1	August 19 – August 23	Syllabus Chapter 1: Class	1	Discussion Board 1	Fri., Aug. 23 rd
2	August 26 – August 30	Chapter 2: Work and Trade	2	Discussion Board 2	Fri., Aug. 30 th

3	September 3 – September 6	Chapter 3: Gender and Family	3	Discussion Board 3	Fri., Sep. 6 th
4	September 9 – September 13	Chapter 4: Education	4	Discussion Board 4	Fri., Sep. 13 th
5	September 16 – September 20	EXAM 1	1, 2, 3, 4	Exam 1	Fri., Sep. 20 th
6	September 23 – September 27	Chapter 5: Crime	5	Discussion Board 5	Fri., Sep. 27 th
7	September 30 – October 4	Chapter 6: War Outline	6	Discussion Board 6	Fri., Oct. 4 th Fri., Oct. 4 th
FALL	BREAK	OCTOBER	7-8	(NO ASSIGNMENTS)	THIS WEEK)
8	October 14 – October 18	EXAM 2	5, 6	Exam 2	Fri., Oct. 18 th
9	October 21 – October 25	Chapter 7: Democracy and Human Rights	7	Discussion Board 7	Fri., Oct. 25 th
10	October 28 – November 1	Chapter 8: Ethnicity and Religion	8	Discussion Board 8	Fri., Nov. 1 st
11	November 4 – November 8	Chapter 9: Urbanization EXAM 3 Rough Draft	9 7, 8, 9	Discussion Board 9 Exam 3 Rough Draft	Fri., Nov. 8 th Fri., Nov. 8 th Fri., Nov. 8 th
12	November 11 – November 15	Chapter 10: Population and Health	10	Discussion Board 10	Fri., Nov. 15 th
13	November 18 – November 22	Chapter 11: Technology and Energy Chapter 12: Ecology	11 12	Discussion Board 11 Discussion Board 12	Fri., Nov. 22 nd
THANKSGIVING	BREAK	NOVEMBER	27-29	(NO ASSIGNMENTS)	THIS WEEK)
15	December 2 – December 5	FINAL EXAM Final Draft Due	10, 11, 12	Exam 4 Final Draft	Thu., Dec. 5 th Thu., Dec. 5 th

