

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HS1003 Social Problems in a Global Context

Pre-requisites : NIL

No. of AUs. : 3

Contact Hours : 39

Course Aims

This course introduces you to sociological concepts to understand how social problems are locally originated and produced and globally reproduced by the social, economic, and political processes of market-driven globalization. While social problems appear to be locally situated, many of their causes are engendered by the circulation and transmission of goods, capital, information, images, and human labours that constitute globalization. Thus understanding how social problems emerge is best achieved with a lens that allows us to observe the impact of social activities in one specific locality to the life of those living in other localities. This subject provides a number of sociological tools to capture global factors that contribute to producing social problems in different places at different scales with different implications. In this course, we will examine ten areas of social problems from poverty and inequality, to war and violence, to environmental degradation and climate change. In each of these areas, you will be exposed to sociological theories suitable to examine the problem and learn how globalization plays a role in its production.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Distinguish social problems from individual problems.
2. Apply sociological theories and concepts in writing essays.
3. Articulate connections between local experiences and global trends

Course Content

Week 1	Introduction to the course
Key concepts:	What is a social problem and how is it produced? Social Structures Globalization: Where does it come from?
Week 2	Poverty and Inequality
Key concepts:	Origins of poverty Class

Week 3	Labor and Trade
Key concepts:	Global Capitalism Neoliberalism World Systems Theory
Week 4	Migration and Population
Key concepts:	Pull and Push Factor Movement of People
Week 5	Women and the Family
Key concepts:	Feminism Second Shift Feminization of Poverty
Week 6	Global Crime
Key concepts:	Deviance Organized Crime
Week 7	War and Terrorism
Key concepts:	The State and War Nationalism Sociology of Terrorism
Week 8	Democracy and Freedom
Key concepts:	Authoritarianism Illiberal Democracy
Week 9	Identity and Violence
Key concepts:	Predatory Identity Politics of Identity
Week 10	Globalized Cities
Key concepts:	Urban Transformation The Global City
Week 11	Global Technology
Key concepts:	Technological Systems Social Construction of Technology
Week 12	Environmental Crisis
Key concepts:	Risk Society Environmental Injustice
Week 13	Semester-end review/revision

Course Assessment

CA1	Essay 1	: 15%
CA2	Essay 2	: 15%
CA3	Class Presentation	: 10%
CA4	Class Participation	: 10%
	Final Examination	: 50%

Total		100%