



# Sociology 2250 Global Social Problems

Winter 2020 • Monday & Wednesday 10:30-11:45 • Room SN2105

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office hours: Monday & Wednesdays 13:00-15:00; room AA4053

book meeting: <http://liamswiss.youcanbook.me/>

### Electronic communication:

Please use the mail tool in the Brightspace/D2L system to contact me regarding the course. I will try to respond within 24 hours Monday to Friday, and within 48 hours on weekends and during midterm break.

## 1 Overview & Learning Objectives

This course is intended to provide an introduction to the sociology global social problems, with a primary focus on the relationship of globalization and development to emerging social problems. The course addresses many social problems including the impact of inequality, exploitation, crime, violence, and discrimination on societies globally. Oriented around the examination of three cross-cutting issues: globalization, gender, and conflict, the course is divided into three parts. In *part one* we examine globalization and its relationship to the emergence of global social problems and their impact on Canada and Newfoundland. In *part two*, we examine global social problems emerging from the effects of global gender inequalities. Finally, in *part three*, we discuss a number of current social problems linked to issues of conflict and insecurity. The overall objective of the course is to attain a better understanding how global social problems are affected by the increasingly interdependent and connected processes of development and globalization that shape societies globally.

## 2 Course Evaluation

**Do not slide your assignments under the door of my office.** If I am not present to receive your work, please submit to the Sociology main office at Arts & Admin 4054.

Requirement	Value	Due Date
1. Weekly Problems	30%	Ongoing
2. Data Analysis	15%	January 29, 2020
3. Midterm Exam	20%	February 26, 2020
4. Video Response	15%	March 20, 2020
5. Final Exam	20%	Exam Period (TBD)

1. **Weekly Problems:** 30%. Most Wednesdays you will be required to complete a Weekly Problem in the form of an in-class exercise. You will have 10 opportunities to complete the weekly problem and your top 6 scores will count towards your final grade (5% ea).
2. **Data Analysis:** 15%. Due in class on **January 29, 2020**. This is 750-1000 word analysis inspired by one of the graphs from [ourworldindata.org](http://ourworldindata.org). Select a graph that shows evidence of a global social problem. Describe the problem the graph depicts and reflect on how this social problem affects Newfoundland or Canadian society at the same time as affecting societies in the developing world. Why should Newfoundlanders or other Canadians be concerned about this issue? Identify one thing you think Canadians can do to help combat this problem. Cite at least one of the course readings to support your arguments.
3. **Midterm Exam:** 20%. Written in class on **February 26, 2020**. This Midterm will consist of multiple choice and fill in the blank/short answer questions. Material will be taken from readings, course material notes, and online multimedia materials used in the course.
4. **Video Response:** 15%. Due in class on **March 20, 2020**. Select any of the video clips listed as online resources for the course and write a 750-1000 word response to the video which draws upon at least one academic journal article to support your assessment. How does the video make you think of the issue? Be sure to address the following questions: Why should people be concerned about this issue? What effect does this problem have on developing societies? What effect does this problem have on us in Canada? What should be done to counter this problem?
5. **Final Exam:** 20%. **Exam Period (TBD)**. The Final Exam will be made up of multiple choice and fill in the blanks questions. Material will be taken from readings, course material notes, and online multimedia used in the course.

### 3 Timely Submission of Assignments

Assignments are due when specified on the course outline above. No extensions will be granted except in the case of a documented medical issue or emergency. Late assignments will be penalized by 5% of the overall assignment value per day late.

If you require a deferred final exam or assignment/paper etc. for medical reasons, please inform me in a timely manner. If a medical condition persists for longer than 5 days, please secure documentation from a medical professional.

### 4 Course Schedule & Readings

The following week-by-week breakdown outlines the topics and readings to be covered in the course. Class notes and slides for each session will be posted to the D2L site. Study questions for the readings and will be posted to the D2L site each week to assist you in completing your readings and analysing the

online resources. All readings listed below are available through the MUN library e-journal system. Accessing e-journals will be discussed in the first week of class.

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**WEEK 1 – January 6 – Course Introduction and Logistics**

**January 8 - Global Social Problems**

- Cross-cutting features: Globalization; Gender; Conflict & Insecurity

**Part One: GLOBALIZATION & SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**WEEK 2 – January 13 & 15 - Globalization, Development & Social Change**

- Theories of globalization, development, and their relationship to global social problems.

**READINGS:**

Meyer, John W. 2007. Globalization: Theory and Trends. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 48 (4):261-273.

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 2005. "After Developmentalism and Globalization, What?" *Social Forces* 83, no. 3: 1263-1278.

**ONLINE RESOURCE:**

GAPMINDER - Website: <https://www.gapminder.org/tools/>

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**WEEK 3 – January 20 & 22 – Work Exploitation: Sweatshops and Child Labour**

- Fair trade vs. free trade
- Outsourcing and offshore manufacturing.

**READING:**

Khan, Ali. 2010. "Discourses on Childhood: Policy-Making with Regard to Child Labour in the Context of Competing Cultural and Economic Preceptions." *History & Anthropology* 21, no. 2: 101-119.

**ONLINE RESOURCES:**

MAQUILA SOLIDARITY NETWORK - Website: <https://www.maquilasolidarity.org/en>

GLOBAL NEWS - Video: "Child Labour – The Dark Side of Chocolate":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXWFXeIZY9g>

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**WEEK 4 – January 27 & 29 - The Global Climate Crisis**

- Climate change as a global social problem.
- Climate Change Denial
- Climate Activism

**\*\*\*DATA ANALYSIS PAPER DUE JANUARY 29\*\*\***

**READING:**

Leahy, Terry, Vanessa Bowden and Steven Threadgold. 2010. "Stumbling Towards Collapse: Coming to Terms with the Climate Crisis." *Environmental Politics* 19(6):851-68.

**ONLINE RESOURCE:**

GRETA THUNBERG – Video: “How Dare You’ - Speech at UN Climate Action Summit 2019”:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAJsdgTPJpU>

**Part Two: GENDER & SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**WEEK 5 – February 3 & 5 - Human Rights & the Body: Female Genital Mutilation**

**READINGS:**

Maher, Robin M. 1996. "Female genital mutilation: The struggle to eradicate this rite of passage." *Human Rights: Journal of the Section of Individual Rights & Responsibilities* 23, no. 4: 12-15.

Morris, Kelly. 2006. "Issues on female genital mutilation/cutting-progress and parallels." *Lancet* 368, 64-67.

**ONLINE RESOURCE:**

THE GUARDIAN - Video: “I will never be cut” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4qadz-esoE>

NANCY DURRELL MCKENNA – Video: “Female Genital Mutilation”:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6d\\_tvZJ1Mg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6d_tvZJ1Mg)

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**WEEK 6 – February 10 & 12 - Gender & HIV/AIDS**

**READING:**

Gilbert, Leah, and Liz Walker. 2002. Treading the path of least resistance: HIV/AIDS and social inequalities--a South African case study. *Social Science & Medicine* 54 (7):1093-1110.

**ONLINE RESOURCES:**

THE TOPSY FOUNDATION – Video “AIDS patient’s dramatic recovery”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6zCNdEfm5w&feature=relmfu>

THE TOPSY FOUNDATION – Video “AIDS patient’s recovery, Selinah today”

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDeARb\\_Vlrc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDeARb_Vlrc)

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WEEK 7 – February 17 & 19 - \*\*\*NO CLASSES – MIDTERM BREAK\*\*\*

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WEEK 8 – February 25 – Midterm Review Session

February 27 – \*\*\*Midterm Examination in Class \*\*\*

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WEEK 9 - March 4 & 6 - Gender and Human trafficking

**READING:**

Bertone, Andrea. 1999. Sexual trafficking in women: International political economy and the politics of sex. *Gender Issues* 18, no. 1: 4-22.

**ONLINE RESOURCE:**

UN HUMAN RIGHTS – Video: “Survivors of Human Trafficking”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5u2IUF8JUw>

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH – Video: “Thailand: Forced Labor, Trafficking, Persist in Fishing Fleets”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FbrfgRmfyI>

**Part Three: CONFLICT, INSECURITY, & SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

WEEK 10 – March 11 & 13 - Conflict, security, and development

- Human Security vs. National Security
- \*\*\*SHORT PAPER #2 DUE MARCH 18\*\*\*

**READING:**

Berger, Mark T., and Heloise Weber. 2009. "War, Peace and Progress: conflict, development, (in)security and violence in the 21st century." *Third World Quarterly* 30, 1: 1-16.

**ONLINE RESOURCE:**

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH – Video: “They Survived a Massacre in Congo–Now They Want Justice”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92nXDgMYrMU>

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WEEK 11 – March 18 & 20 - Conflict Rape: Gender-based Sexual Violence

**READING:**

Buss, Doris E. 2009. "Rethinking ‘Rape as a Weapon of War’." *Feminist Legal Studies* 17, 2: 145-163.

**ONLINE RESOURCE:**

THE ECONOMIST – Video: “Rape, A Weapon of War: Destroying the Glue of Society”  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcHdHr3eGkc>

JOURNEYMAN PICTURES – Video: “Rape City – Democratic Republic of Congo”  
<http://youtu.be/pBJ6ycCPawo>

**\*\*\*VIDEO RESPONSE PAPER DUE MARCH 20\*\*\***

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**WEEK 12 – March 25 & 27 – Conflict resources**

- Blood diamonds and smart-phone minerals

**READINGS:**

Grant, A., and I. Taylor. 2004. Global governance and conflict diamonds: the Kimberley Process and the quest for clean gems. *The Round Table* 93 (375):385-401.

Le Billon, P. 2006. Fatal transactions: Conflict diamonds and the (anti) terrorist consumer. *Antipode* 38 (4):778-801.

**ONLINE RESOURCE:**

KIMBERLEY PROCESS – Website: “What is the Kimberley Process”  
<https://www.kimberleyprocess.com/en/what-kp>

ENOUGH PROJECT – Video: “Conflict Minerals 101: 2018 Update”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aJxfEkSiPg>

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**WEEK 13 – April 1 - Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons**

- Refugee impact of wars
- Illegal migration and smuggling of refugees: Canada’s role

**READINGS:**

O’Neill, Maggie, and Tony Spybey. 2003. "Global Refugees, Exile, Displacement and Belonging." *Sociology* 37, 1: 7-12.

Richmond, Anthony H. 2002. "Globalization: implications for immigrants and refugees." *Ethnic & Racial Studies* 25, 5: 707-727

**ONLINE RESOURCE:**

DADAAB STORIES – Video “Welcome to Dadaab” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMMLb4pBt5w>

**April 3 – Course Summary and Final Exam Review**

## 5 Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is an act committed by a student to distort the marking of assignments, tests, examinations, and other forms of academic evaluation. Academic misconduct is neither accepted nor tolerated by the University. Anyone found guilty of academic misconduct is liable to severe academic sanctions.

Some examples of academic misconduct:

- engaging in any form of plagiarism or cheating;
- presenting falsified research data;
- handing in an assignment that was not authored, in whole or in part, by the student;
- submitting the same assignment in more than one course, without the written consent of the professors concerned.

**For more information, please refer to Section 5.11 of the MUN Calendar regarding “Academic Misconduct” of Undergraduate Students:**

<http://www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar/sectionNo=REGS-0748>

## 6 Student Services on Campus

Many student support services exist on campus that may be of use to you throughout the course:

1. **The Aboriginal Resource Office (4<sup>th</sup> Floor UC)** provides support services to Aboriginal students. The office works to advocate and educate the general university population regarding inclusion of our unique Aboriginal peoples found within Newfoundland and Labrador.
2. **The Commons (QEII library)** provides access to print, electronic and technology resources.
3. **The Counselling Centre (UC-5000)** helps students develop their personal capabilities, ranging from study strategies to assisting distressed students.
4. **The Glenn Roy Blundon Centre (UC-4007)** serves students whose disabilities involve conditions affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning (disabilities), chronic illness, or mental health; support is also provided to students with documented temporary illnesses and injuries.
5. **Internationalization Office (CA-2004)** provides a variety of programmes to support international students' transition to Memorial University and Newfoundland.
6. **Student Affairs and Services (Answers, UC-3005)** answers questions about such things as courses, housing, books, financial matters and health.
7. **The Writing Centre (SN-2053)** is a free, drop-in facility for students and to help you become a better writer and critical thinker.

Thanks for taking the time to read the syllabus. If you are reading this note, e-mail Dr. Swiss in D2L before January 31st with the subject #ITSINTHESYLLABUS to receive a 2% bonus on your final grade.