

Raritan Valley Community College

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: **SOCI-208 Introduction to Global Studies**
B. Date of Proposal: **October 2006**
C. Sponsoring Department: **Humanities, Social Sciences and Education**
D. Semester Credit Hours: **3**
E. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: **3**
Laboratory **0**
F. Prerequisites: **Any one of the following: Introduction to Sociology, International Relations, Cultural Anthropology, World Civilization II, America 1877 to Present, or America Since 1945**
G. Laboratory Fees: **None**

II. Catalog Description

This course will introduce students to global studies by examining a number of global issues, which will include (1) national security, nuclear proliferation and interventionism, (2) war, political violence, and militarism, (3) trade and natural resources, (4) democracy and democratization, (5) global stratification and (6) sustainable development and scarce resources. An underlying theme in the course is the concept of globalization since the end of World War II. Theories and concepts will form a framework for analyzing the transformations of institutional systems, social structures and environmental contexts at global, national and local levels.

III. Statement of Course Need

This course will provide students with an introduction to global issues with an emphasis on globalization and its consequences. Today, students are confronted with a shrinking global village characterized by rapid social change and serious social, political, religious, environmental, and ethical challenges. The course is designed to help equip students with increased global awareness, knowledge and ability to adapt to these changes and to make a contribution in this changing world. This course directly addresses the RVCC general education goal of having student develop a global perspective on problems and issues that humankind faces.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- General Education Elective (Social Science)
- Satisfied Diversity Requirement

V. Outline of Course Content

This course focuses on:

- Defining globalization
- The modern world and the global system: the Cold War and the Third World (1945-1989)
- “New World Order” and the Third World (1989-present)

- Ethnocentrism and global problems
- Global stratification
- Economic systems: markets and exchange in local, national and global contexts
- Development and trade
- Political and social organization: forms of governance
- Democracy and democratization
- Technologies: power sources and technological systems
- Environment: consumption and sustainable development
- Population: growth and migrations
- Resource allocation
- Consumption and the environment
- National security and interventionism, nuclear proliferation, war and political violence
- Anti-globalization responses

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

General Education Goals

Students will:

- 1) define and discuss key concepts necessary for an understanding of global issues and problems (G. E. 1, G. E. 2, G.E.3, G.E. 4, G. E. 5, G. E. 6)
- 2) analyze data comparing selected characteristics of nations (G. E. 2, G. E. 3, G.E. 5, G. E. 6, G. E.7)
- 3) compare and critique current political and social theories with regard to globalization and inequality (G.E. 1, G.E. 2, G.E. 3, G.E. 4, G.E. 5, G.E. 6, G. E.7)
- 4) discuss various problems associated with globalization (population, development, hunger and poverty, and environmental impacts) (G.E. 1, G.E. 2, G.E. 3, G.E. 4, G.E. 5, G.E. 6, G. E. 7)
- 5) examine and critique strategies for examining global problems (G.E. 1, G.E. 2, G.E. 3, G.E. 4, G.E. 5, G.E. 6, G. E. 7)

Student Learning Outcomes

Student will be able to:

- 1) distinguish among the various theories and concepts of global issues;
- 2) identify political, economic and social issues within various global contexts;
- 3) critically evaluate interventions to improve Third world conditions;
- 4) identify and critically analyze ethical dilemmas in global issues;
- 5) demonstrate the capacity to express ideas clearly, coherently, and grammatically in oral and written forms.

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- lecture/discussion
- small-group work

- independent study

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

Assessment methods may consist of:

- reflection papers
- in-class group activities
- project or term paper
- midterm and final examinations
- participation in class discussions

IX. Grade Determinants

In order to evaluate achievement of the goals and outcomes listed above, possible grade determinants may be:

- In-class activities
- Examinations
- Class participation
- Term paper or research project

X. Texts and Materials

Suggested Textbooks

Howard D. Mehlinger, Matthew Krain, Roxanna Ma Newman (eds.), *Globalization and the Challenges of a New Century: a Reader*. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2000.

Linda Schneid and Arnold Silverman, *Global Sociology: Introducing Five Contemporary Societies*. McGraw Hill, 2005.

Manfred B. Steger, *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Other Readings

Richard H. Robbins,, *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, Inc., 2004

Robin Cohen and Paul Kennedy, *Global Sociology*. London: Palgrave Macmillian, 2000.

Web sources

XI. Resources

- library resources (additional books focusing on globalization and on selected topics)
- films
- CATT room for classroom instruction