

ST-Devel.Stud.:Pol.Econ.of Globalization

Sociology and Anthropology 463

Section: D100

Term: 1999 Summer

Instructor: Dr. Gerardo Otero

Discussion Topics: Day

Course Outline

The purpose of this course is to study some of the major perspectives on the globalization of today's capitalism and its consequences for the labour process. Given the vast literature that has emerged in the past two decades from several social-science disciplines, this course takes a decidedly interdisciplinary approach. Each disciplinary focus will reveal an important aspect of globalization, but it will be their complementarity that will give us the most through picture and understanding. In order to provide focus to our inquiry, we will concentrate on issues relating to work, the labour process, and industrial change in the era of globalization. Such focus involves careful study of changes in the international division of labour, the role of high technologies, the formation of trading blocs, and how these processes affect the labour process. Because the dynamics of globalization began in the developed countries and have been carried over to the rest of the world we also need a geographic focus: the three member countries of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Mexico in particular. In order to gain some depth in our understanding of globalization, the last part of the course focuses on the global commodity chains in specific industries: automobiles, computers and electronics, caloric sweeteners, fruits and vegetables, and textiles. Using the global-commodity-chains approach, we will explore how production in such industries is becoming articulated across nations. Students' research and presentations will play a key role in this part of the course.

Course Organization: Two 2 hour seminars per week.

Grading: Participation 10%, term paper outline 5%, four one-page research index cards 20%, mid-term essay (5 pages) 20%, team work for class debate 5%, draft term paper presentation 5%, final term paper (12-14 pages) 35%

Required Texts: There is no textbook for this course. A package of readings will be available for purchase from the bookstore.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: SA 250 or 101 and one of SA201, 263, 286 or 293. Recommended: SA 363.

Students from other departments are welcome to join this class, especially those with background in economics, Latin American studies, and/or development. Contact K. Payne for clear

Notes: All assignments not submitted in class must be placed in the drop box slot on the door of the General Office, AQ 5054. It will be emptied at 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. every day and date-stamped accordingly.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.