

SOSC2290
UNDERSTANDING GLOBALIZATION
Spring 2022

Instructor: Prof. Wenjuan Zheng
Email: zheng2290@ust.hk
Office: Academic Building 3348, Division of Social Science
Office Hour: by appointment @ <https://calendly.com/wjzheng/15min>

Teaching Assistant: Creamy Yuk Ha Wong & Muyao Xu
Website: canvas.ust.hk (Set Your Notification to Receive Update)
Class Hour: Tuesday & Thursday 12:00- 13:20 @2404

I. Course Aims

To think globally and act locally.

II. Intended Learning Outcome

Intended Learning Outcomes	Intended Learning Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish familiarity with basic concepts and major debates concerning globalization• Identify and analyze theories addressing global social change• Improve skills needed to work cooperatively and collectively with other people• Apply critical thinking and analytical writing skills to examine global affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lectures• Classroom discussions• Close readings• Research• Writing

III. Required Textbook

Globalization: The Essentials, 2nd Edition by George Ritzer & Paul Dean

Library access: E-copy reserved for 2 hours at library

IV. Evaluation

Final Grade Breakdown	
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Research Experience	20%
Class participation (Quiz & Discussion)	15%
Attendance	10%

Grading Scale

A+	100% to 95%
A	<95% to 90%
A-	<90% to 87%
B+	<87% to 83%
B	<83% to 80%
B-	<80% to 77%
C+	<77% to 73%
C	<73% to 70%
C-	<70% to 67%
D	<67% to 60%

Attendance

Attendance (10%)

Online Mode:

I value your class attendance and participation. Canvas will record time that you log in and out of the Zoom meeting. My teaching assistant will also make a note of who participates in each class. Of course, in order to be counted as present, your camera must be turned on so that we know that you are there and you must attend the entire class. To take into account technical problems and other unforeseen circumstances, I will ignore up to three absences/no-camera shows without penalty. I will begin recording attendance and participation after the add/drop period. No recording will be provided unless critical medical conditions.

We will have best Zoom background competition and students will vote for the top three winners.

Mixed Mode:

Students are expected to attend all lectures, except for those granted NIHK status by the university. You will still be subjected to this grade deduction if you attend the lecture on Zoom without NIHK status. The NIHK students are required to attend the lecture live on zoom. No recording will be provided unless critical medical conditions.

Your attendance will be essential to participate in-class quiz which counts towards your participation grade. Quiz will be administrated during the class to record attendance. Please bring your laptop or cellphone to participate the in-class quiz.

Honesty is important. Please do not fake attendance or assisting others to do so. You are also subjected to grade penalty (5 points off final grade) if you are caught in both scenarios.

Participation (15%)

Discussion (5%)

To facilitate a lively and interactive learning environment, you are expected to participate in in-class discussions and group activities. You can also make effective contribution to collective learning by engaging in discussions on class, participating in polling, and providing thoughtful feedbacks through zoom chat box. At the same time, be mindful to maintain proper discipline and behave in a responsible manner in class.

It is difficult for me to monitor and address the chat sessions in such a large class in virtual setting. Your participation will be more likely to be counted if you raise your hand electronically and unmute yourself. My teaching assistant will keep a record of the frequency of your participation. Be prepare that I will call on you.

Quizzes(10%)

We will have 6 unannounced quizzes spread randomly over the semester. They will worth 10 points each and best 5 scores will count toward your final grade. Those quizzes assess your learning from the lectures, focusing on your basic conceptual understanding of the course material. Those quizzes consisting multiple choices and short answers will be administrated on Canvas and take no longer than 10mins. No need to stress out and over prepare it if you attend the lecture attentively.

Research Experience (20%)

The two tasks for research experience aims to equip you with basic quantitative and qualitative research skills. They will be graded on pass/fail basis. If you fail the task, you will be given some feedback and you can have ONE chance to rewrite with a one-point deduction.

The Research Study (10%) requires you to download data and make a graph to explain a social trend from World Value Survey website (<https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org>). You will then write a thought piece (300-500 words) on data interpretation and your reflection.

The Research Exercise (10%) requires you to conduct one or more interviews and video or voice recording the process (15mins minimum conversation). You will then transcribe the interviews using AI-empowered online tools, summarize the key points, and write a thought piece about the experience (300-500 words).

Further guidelines for research experience will be disseminated in due course.

Exams (25% +30%)

Students will be evaluated by two open-book exams in this course via Canvas. The mid-term exam covers materials from Module 1-2, and the final exam covers materials from Module 3-5. Exams will be comprised by short essay questions. You can be assured that the questions will involve social situations in different institutional settings, and you will need to apply sociological concepts representing the three major theoretical perspectives, find common threads, and discuss the personal and social significance of your analysis. All paper will be required to submit to Turnitin via Canvas.

In this course, no make-up exam will be granted. Only exceptions: officially documented surgical procedure, emergency room visit, or mandatory quarantine requirement (in this case, a doctor's note stating you are ill do not suffice). All made-ups consist of **long answers** and **an oral session**.

Further guidelines for exams will be disseminated in due course.

V. Content and Schedule

INTRODUCTIONS

Module 1. Introducing Globalization

Week 1: Introduction to The Course: Requirements, Objectives, And Scope
February 8th, Tue & February 10th, Thu

- Chapter 1, Conceptualizing globalization

Week 2: The Neoliberal Turn
February 15th, Tue & February 17th, Thu

- Chapter 2, Theorizing Globalization

Module 2. Free Market Dilemma

Week 3: Flattening the World
February 22nd, Tue & February 24th, Thu

- Chapter 3, Structuring Global Economy
- Chapter 4, Global Economic Flows

Week 4: Experiencing Global Economy
March 1st, Tue & March 3rd, Thu

- Viewing: The True Cost
- Neoliberal Hong Kong is Our Future, Too
(<https://bostonreview.net/articles/macabe-keliher-how-neoliberalism-tked-hong-kong/>)

- Viewing: Milton Friedman Describes Hong Kong as an Example of the Free Market System

***March 1st, Assignment #1 Due

Module 3. Technology: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Week 5: Tech for Globalization?

March 8th, Tue & March 10th, Thu

- Chapter 6, High Tech Global Flows and Structures
- Guest lecture from the Co-founder of Matrixpot or Documentary on Bitcoin
 - Viewing: Bitcoin- The End of Money as We Know it

Week 6: The Unintended Consequence of Platform Capitalism

March 15th, Tue & March 17th, Thu

- *Big Other: Surveillance Capitalism and the Prospects of An Information Civilization.*
 - Viewing: You are Just Disposable
- Sun, P. (2019). Your order, their labor: An exploration of algorithms and laboring on food delivery platforms in China. *Chinese Journal of Communication*, 12(3), 308-323.
 - Viewing: How China is Changing Your Internet

Module 4. Unequal Mobility

Week 7: Vote with One's Feet

March 22nd, Tue & March 24th, Thu

- Chapter 8, Global Flows of Migrants

Week 8: Global China

March 29th, Tue & March 31st, Thu

- Dance of the Lions and Dragons: How are Africa and China engaging, and how will the partnership evolve? By McKinsey & Company
- Lee, C. K. (2009). Raw encounters: Chinese managers, African workers and the politics of casualization in Africa's Chinese enclaves. *The China Quarterly*, 199, 647-666.
- Guest lecture: Qi Lin, Chinese Dragon in Africa

Recommended:

- Lee, C. K. (2020). The specter of global China. In *The Specter of Global China*. University of Chicago Press.

***March 31st, Assignment #2 Due

Week 9: Mid-term

April 5th, Tue & April 7th, Thu

- **Midterm: Open book short essays**

****April 5th, Tue**** Ching Ming Festival, No class

Module 5. Global Challenges

Week 10: “Suspension”- Escaping the Trap

April 12th, Tue & April 14th

- Chapter 11, Economic Power and Inequality
- Suspension: seeking agency for Change in the Hypermobile World

****April 14th, Thu**** Study break, No class

Week 11: Unequal Citizenship

April 19th, Tue & April 21st, Thu

- Chapter 12, Global Inequalities II
- Xiang, Biao, and Wei Shen. “International Student Migration and Social Stratification in China.” *International Journal of Educational Development, Education and Development in Contemporary China*, 29, no. 5 (September 2009): 513–22.

Week 12: Global Pandemic

April 26th, Tue & April 28th, Thu

- The Pandemic and Political Order

Week 13: Together for a Shared Future

May 3rd, Tues & May 5th, Thu

- Chapter 13, Dealing with, Resisting, and the Future of Globalization

Week 14: Final week

May 10th, Tues

- **Final: Open book short essays**

**The syllabus is subject to change.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Course Policy

1. Cheating and plagiarism are strictly forbidden. These violations of academic integrity will result in serious consequence besides failing the class, like a note on your official transcript about cheating, which will significantly impact your future career. You can find the university's regulations on academic integrity from the following website: <http://ugadmin.ust.hk/integrity/student-1.html>.
2. Attendance and participation requirements and exam arrangements are subjected to change if the university switches to mixed mode teaching in the middle of the semester.
3. Assignments and exams will be graded by TA. If you have disputes about the grade, you can ask for a blind re-evaluation by the instructor in a four-day time window after the grade is released (refer to future class announcements for further details). After the re-evaluation, your grade may increase, decrease, or remain the same. So, think carefully before you file for a grade dispute on exams.

Email Policy:

1. Please email the instructor for any issues related to the course content and grade.
2. Please email the teaching assistants (both) for questions regarding Canvas, Zoom, Library, and class attendance.
3. Please title your email SOSC2290-Your Name-Issues. You will NOT reach out to us via Canvas Inbox.
4. Late submission will be subject to a penalty of 20% deduction of grade per day.
5. During the workdays (Monday-Friday), we will try to respond to your email within 24 hours. Please send us a reminder if you do not hear back from us in two days. Expect a delay in response until the next workday if you contact us during the weekend or holidays.

Special Notes

1. A special note to **students considering taking another course by Prof. Zheng**: As Understanding Society classes, it is unavoidable that there will be some overlap between these two classes. I do not encourage you to take both classes. It is better that you get a broader perspective in the social sciences by taking classes from other professors. If, however, you do decide to take both classes, please allow other students in class to answer questions that you may already know the answer to from Sosc1850. I do appreciate your cooperation with this.
2. A special Note to **Final Year Students**. This is an introductory core course, and it is designed primarily for First Year Students. Their English and study skills may not be as developed as yours and they may be taking a social science course for the first time. I care that every student performs well, so I will be making special efforts to go slowly and make frequent summaries of what we have covered so that they can follow. I do appreciate your patience while I do this. I encourage you to take more advanced classes if you feel that this course is too introductory for you.

Special Needs

We are still in the midst of pandemic. If you think you need extra help, please reach out to special education needs at <https://sen.hkust.edu.hk/>.

Attendance and cameras

The University policy on cameras is as follows:

“Students should turn on the camera in class for class participation and interaction. For courses with participation scores, students with video turned off should expect lower participation scores.”

The surest way to achieve a high grade on this course is to *attend all the classes*, turn on your cameras and participate. The Powerpoint slides shown in the class and placed on the course webpage are intended only as outlines of the materials covered. They are not a substitute for class attendance.

Your attendance will be recorded on Canvas. To count as attendance, you must:

1. Attend the whole class (absence of more than 30 minutes will count as a full absence)
2. Turn on your camera during the entire lecture (but not necessary in the Break) so that we know you are there (still photos or emojis do not count).
3. Log in with no more than one device. That other device may not have a camera and your attendance may not be recorded.

For the purpose of assessment, we will start recording attendance after the Drop add period (February 22nd). To allow for technological problems and other unforeseen circumstances, I will allow for up to THREE absences/no-camera shows without penalty.