The National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy”
Faculty of Social Sciences and Social Technologies
Department of Sociology

Course syllabus

“GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY”
Dmytro Khutkyy, khutkyy@gmail.com
Spring Semester 2012
4.5 credits ECTS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course is devoted to advanced study of social processes and systems of world or global scale that reflect historical forms of development of global social system. For this purpose, sociological theories and empirical data on global social system and its constituents are critically examined. It is desirable that the students have taken undergraduate courses in sociology, social structure and macrosociology. Courses in economic and political sociology would also be beneficial.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course is oriented towards:
- Illumination of major perspectives and aspects of inquiry of the global social system.
- Study of its compositions and structure.
- Examination regularities and social issues of intersocietal, transsocietal, and global social processes and systems.
- Identification of role of individual societies, systems of societies and the Ukrainian society in the modern world system of societies.
- Analysis of regularities, tendencies and forecasts of the future of the global social system.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

During the course students will:
- Master the core concepts and theories of global sociology and world-systems analysis.
- Acquire the skills to analyze intersocietal, transsocietal, and global social processes and systems in a creative and critical way.
- Develop the habit to choose, ground and present personal academic and public position concerning scientific and social issues of global sociology.
- Advance sociological academic writing skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Class discussions: 36% (talks at 12 seminars for up to 3 points each).
Class presentation: 4% (participation in 1 group presentation for up to 4 points).
Academic paper: 30% (3 versions of the paper for 8, 10, and 12 points respectively).
In case of revealed plagiarism in a written assignement the students gets F grade for the course.
Written test: 30% (24 answers to test questions up to 1 point each and mini-essay for up to 6 points).

Bonus marks are possible: up to 12 points for talks on interactive lectures (talks at 12 thematic lectures for up to 1 point for each), up to 3 points for talks on final seminars with discussions of academic papers, and up to 9 points for the portfolio of written assignments (3 papers for up to 3 points each). Nevertheless, the total grade for the course will not exceed 100%.

GRADING SCALE

A (91-100) – “Excellent”.
B (81-90) – “Very good”.
C (71-80) – “Good”.
D (66-70) – “Satisfactory”.
E (60-65) – “Sufficient”.
F (30-59) – “Unsatisfactory”.
F (0-29) – “Unacceptable”.
LECTURES SCHEDULE:

LECTURE 1. Major theoretical approaches to the study of global social system (week 1).
LECTURE 2. Key aspects of analysis of global social system (week 1).
LECTURE 3. Historical dynamics of globalization (week 2).
LECTURE 4. Globalizing impact of world ecology and demography (week 3).
LECTURE 5. Social aspects of globalization of world economy (week 4).
LECTURE 6. Social aspects of globalization of world politics (week 5).
LECTURE 7. System complexity of world culture (week 6).
LECTURE 8. Peculiarities of development of personality in the global world (week 7).
LECTURE 9. Societies in the modern world system of societies (week 9).
LECTURE 10. Ukrainian society in the modern world system of societies (week 10).
LECTURE 11. Social inequality in the global social system (week 11).
LECTURE 12. Tendencies and forecasts of the future of the global social system (week 12).

SEMINAR DISCUSSIONS SCHEDULE:

SEMINAR 1: Theoretical approaches to the study of global social system (week 2).
   1. Macrosociological approach: analysis of the world system of societies.
   2. World-systems analysis: regularities of functioning of world-systems.

SEMINAR 2: Dimensions of global social system (week 3).
   1. Approaches to measurement of globalization: current state and the historical dynamics of the degree of globality.
   2. Scientific interpretations of globalization.

SEMINAR 3: History of globalization (week 4).
   1. Agents of proto-globalization: migrations, empires, trade, religions.
   2. XV-XVII centuries: globalization of the world, imperialism or capitalism?
   3. The most intense globalization: XVI, XIX or XX century?

SEMINAR 4: World ecology and demography (week 5).
   2. Transformations of social space: convergence of divergence?
   3. World migrations: social causes and outcomes.

SEMINAR 5: World economy (week 6).
   1. Multinational corporations: national, transnational, or global?
   2. World economy: global, regional, or local?
   3. Globalization of world economy: development or risk?

SEMINAR 6: World polity (week 7).
   1. Sovereign nation-state – welfare state: rise of demise?
   2. Who manages global governance: transnational elite, states, or global civil society?
   3. Military globalization: securing global social order or state terrorism?

WEEK 8 SELF-STUDY: WRITING THE ACADEMIC PAPER.

SEMINAR 7: World culture (week 9).
   1. Global mass media – factors cultural globalization?
   2. Transformations of social time: acceleration or qualitative changes?
   3. Global culture vs. diversity of cultures.

SEMINAR 8: Personality in the modern world (week 10).
   1. Socialization: local or global?
   2. Lifestyles: origin and spread.
   3. Identities in the global social system: local, national, transnational, or cosmopolitan?
SEMINAR 9: Societies in the modern world system of societies (week 11).
   1. Societies of semi-periphery – what chances?
   2. The contenders for leadership in the world system of societies: USA, EU, Japan, China, Russia?

SEMINAR 10: Ukrainian society in the modern world system of societies (week 12).
   1. Global social phenomena in the Ukrainian society: globalization or avoidance of globalization?
   2. Ukrainian society in the modern world system of societies: opportunities and dangers.
   3. The future of Ukrainian society in the modern world system of societies: rise or demise?

SEMINAR 11: Social inequality in the global social system (week 13).
   1. The world in unequal people: global social inequality.
   2. Global social groups: united or separated?
   3. Leaders and outsiders: stratification and clasterization of societies.

SEMINAR 12: Tendencies and forecasts of the future of the global social system (week 14).
   1. Tendencies in the global social system: globalization, regionalization, localization, localization or the next phase of the cycle?
   2. Exploratory forecasts of the future of the global social system: utopia or dystopia?
   3. Normative forecasts: what the world should look like and how to change it?

FINAL SEMINAR: Presentations and discussions of academic papers (week 15).

DETAILED CLASSES SCHEDULE AND READINGS:

LECTURE 1: Major theoretical approaches to the study of global social system (week 1).

LECTURE 2: Key aspects of analysis of global social system (week 1).

SEMINAR 1: Theoretical approaches to the study of global social system (week 2).
   1. Macrosociological approach: analysis of the world system of societies.
   2. World-systems analysis: regularities of functioning of world-systems.

Mandatory readings:


Further readings:


LECTURE 3. Historical dynamics of globalization (week 2).

SEMINAR 2: Dimensions of global social system (week 3).
   1. Approaches to measurement of globalization: current state and the historical dynamics of the degree of globality.
   2. Scientific interpretations of globalization.

Mandatory readings:

Further readings:

LECTURE 4. Globalizing impact of world ecology and demography (week 3).

SEMINAR 3: History of globalization (week 4).

1. Agents of proto-globalization: migrations, empires, trade, religions.
2. XV-XVII centuries: globalization of the world, imperialism or capitalism?
3. The most intense globalization: XVI, XIX or XX century?

Mandatory readings:

Further readings:

LECTURE 5. Social aspects of globalization of world economy (week 4).

SEMINAR 4: World ecology and demography (week 5).

2. Transformations of social space: convergence of divergence?
3. World migrations: social causes and outcomes.

Mandatory readings:
LECTURE 7. System complexity of world culture. –
Stiglitz J.E. Globalization and Its Discontents. –
P. 297-334, Ch. 12: Global Environmental Flows. – P. 335-364.

Further readings:

LECTURE 6. Social aspects of globalization of world politics (week 5).
SEMINAR 5: World economy (week 6).
1. Multinational corporations: national, transnational, or global?
2. World economy: global, regional, or local?
3. Globalization of world economy: development or risk?

Mandatory readings:

Further readings:

LECTURE 7. System complexity of world culture (week 6).
SEMINAR 6: World polity (week 7).
1. Sovereign nation-state – welfare state: rise of demise?
2. Who manages global governance: transnational elite, states, or global civil society?
3. Military globalization: securing global social order or state terrorism?
Mandatory readings:

Further readings:

LECTURE 8. Peculiarities of development of personality in the global world (week 7).

WEEK 8 SELF-STUDY: WRITING THE ACADEMIC PAPER.

SEMINAR 7: World culture (week 9).
1. Global mass media – factors cultural globalization?
2. Transformations of social time: acceleration or qualitative changes?
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Mandatory readings:

Further readings:

LECTURE 9. Societies in the modern world system of societies (week 9).

SEMINAR 8: Personality in the modern world (week 10).
1. Socialization: local or global?
2. Lifestyles: origin and spread.
3. Identities in the global social system: local, national, transnational, or cosmopolitan?

Mandatory readings:

Further readings:

LECTURE 10. Ukrainian society in the modern world system of societies (week 10).

SEMINAR 9: Societies in the modern world system of societies (week 11).
1. Societies of semi-periphery – what chances?
2. The contenders for leadership in the world system of societies: USA, EU, Japan, China, Russia?

Mandatory readings:

Further readings:

LECTURE 11. Social inequality in the global social system (week 11).

SEMINAR 10: Ukrainian society in the modern world system of societies (week 12).
1. Global social phenomena in the Ukrainian society: globalization or avoidance of globalization?
2. Ukrainian society in the modern world system of societies: opportunities and dangers.
3. The future of Ukrainian society in the modern world system of societies: rise or demise?

Mandatory readings:
Lecture 12. Tendencies and forecasts of the future of the global social system (week 12).

Seminar 11: Social inequality in the global social system (week 13).

1. The world in unequal people: global social inequality.
2. Global social groups: united or separated?
3. Leaders and outsiders: stratification and clusterization of societies.

Mandatory readings:


Further readings:


Seminar 12: Tendencies and forecasts of the future of the global social system (week 14).

1. Tendencies in the global social system: globalization, regionalization, localization, glocalization or the next phase of the cycle?
2. Exploratory forecasts of the future of the global social system: utopia or dystopia?
3. Normative forecasts: what the world should look like and how to change it?

Mandatory readings:


Further readings:


FINAL SEMINAR: Presentations and discussions of academic papers (week 15).

Test practice:

Test practice for the course “Global Sociology”: www.sociology.kiev.ua/moodle/.