

**THE DELTA IN GLOBAL CONTEXT  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**SOCIOLOGY 426/526  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 526**

**Meeting Place:** 207 Kethley Hall  
**Meeting Times:** Mondays 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

<b>Instructors:</b>	Dr. Alan Barton	Dr. John Green
<b>Office:</b>	201A Kethley Hall	201B Kethley Hall
<b>Telephone:</b>	(662) 846-4097	(662) 846-4069
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mon. 2:00 – 3:00 Tue. 3:00 – 4:00 Wed. 11:00 – 12:00 Thu. 3:00 – 4:00 Fri. 9:00 – 10:00	Mon. 9:00 – 12:00 Tue. 1:00 – 3:00 Wed. 9:00 – 12:00 and 2:30 – 4:30

If you cannot make one of these times, contact the professor to set up an appointment.

**Webpages:**

Dr. Barton: [http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp\\_academic/abarton/](http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp_academic/abarton/)  
Dr. Green: [http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp\\_academic/jgreen/](http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp_academic/jgreen/)  
Course: [http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp\\_academic/abarton/Soc426/Soc426Syllabus.htm](http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp_academic/abarton/Soc426/Soc426Syllabus.htm)

**Readings:**

Philip McMichael. 2000. *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective. Second Edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

Thomas L. Friedman. 2000. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree. Newly Updated and Expanded Edition*. New York: Anchor Books.

Joseph E. Stiglitz. 2002. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

David C. Korten. 2001. *When Corporations Rule the World. Second Edition*. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press.

Articles as assigned.

Books are available at the university bookstore. Students should purchase these books, or otherwise make arrangements to access the course readings.

### **Course Overview:**

This course is about globalization. We will study mainstream and critical perspectives on the process of globalization, and relate global trends to conditions in the Mississippi Delta. We will construct an understanding of globalization by studying it in a historical context, by considering important actors in the process such as international financial institutions, governments, and resistance movements, and by searching out and discussing the ramifications of globalization on our everyday lives. We will address critical questions, such as: what is being globalized? Who is benefiting from globalization and who is bearing the costs? And what are some alternatives to globalization in its present form?

Course material is presented in the four assigned books, various articles, videos, and newspaper accounts. We will use these to compare differing perspectives on globalization and its effects, and to relate global trends to lives in the Mississippi Delta.

### **Course Organization and Approach:**

This course uses a participatory, learner-centered, adult education approach. An adult education approach recognizes that students are responsible for their own learning. The professors can only provide opportunities to learn, but cannot force students to learn. Students are expected to work hard in this course, meaning that for every hour of class time, students are expected to spend at least three hours outside of class preparing by doing readings, assignments, studying for quizzes and exams, and thinking about the course material.

Students are expected to take responsibility for the success of the course, that is, students should take an active interest not just in the course material, but in the course itself, making it a success for all participants. Factors such as interest, motivation, creativity, and initiative are important elements in evaluating a student's performance and assigning a grade.

Course material is presented in several formats. A theoretical framework for understanding globalization is presented in the four books we will read. Practical applications of this theory are presented in class discussions and videos, as well as in student-led exercises and writing assignments.

Each class meeting will include either a "Critical Thinking Exercise," a "Review of the News," or a "Delta Connection" segment. Critical thinking exercises are designed to help you develop and utilize critical thinking skills, by identifying how "hidden" messages in everyday media and advertising promote the values of global society. During "Review of the News" sessions, students will bring in and discuss news articles pertaining to globalization. In the "Delta Connection" sessions, we will relate global processes to events and changes occurring here in the Mississippi Delta.

### **Assignments:**

All students must complete all of the following assignments:

(1) Reading, Attendance and Participation in Class Discussions

- You are expected to do all of the assigned readings and attend all class sessions.
- You are expected to engage in classroom discussions, reflecting on the topic and readings.
- In class discussions, the quality of contributions is more important than the quantity of contributions.
- Participation in class discussions is not graded based on whether it is “right” or “wrong;” rather, students are expected to engage the material critically, and demonstrate an understanding and ability to apply the course material in productive ways.
- Please come to class prepared to discuss the week’s readings.

(2) Quizzes

- You must take both quizzes.
- Quizzes consist of short answer questions (multiple choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank, matching terms, etc.).
- Quizzes cover all of the course material, including readings, lectures, films, and discussions.
- The first quiz covers material presented since the beginning of the course; the second quiz covers material presented since the previous quiz.

(3) Weekly Reflective Essays

- You will prepare and submit ten two-page essays on assigned topics, due at the beginning of each class session from Week 4 to Week 15. You can skip any two weeks.
- The purpose of the essays is to encourage you to think critically about the reading prior to class discussions.
- The papers should be typed, 10 or 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced.
- Check the course web site for tips on writing effective papers.
- You are expected to do your own work on these essays – check the course web site for the policy on plagiarism and cheating. This policy will be enforced with no exceptions.

(4) “Review of the News” Discussions

- You will lead a 25–30 minute discussion on a current topic, pertaining the topic to processes of globalization.
- Your topic will be based on a current newspaper or magazine article that you select. The article should be long enough to carry some substance, but short enough that it is not an undue burden to read it.
- You will distribute your article to the other class members one week before you are scheduled to lead the discussion.
- You will facilitate a class discussion on your article, encouraging participation by all members of the class. The responsibility of the discussion leader in this exercise is to get other students talking about the topic, mediate the contributions of other students to keep the discussion focused, relate the topic to processes of globalization, and guide the discussion to ensure that the social and policy issues are covered.
- Check the course web page for tips on leading a discussion.

- (5) Final Exam
- You MUST take the final exam.
  - The final exam is comprehensive, and consists of short answer and essay questions.
- (6) Discretionary
- The professors will evaluate your performance based on factors such as the motivation, interest, and improvement you demonstrate over the course of the semester.
- (7) Teaching on Research Discussions (For Graduate Students ONLY)
- You will select two additional readings, drawn from research articles in social science journals.
  - You will develop and lead a section on each reading, using lecture, discussion, class activities, or other teaching methods.

**Grading:**

There are a total of 100 points available for the semester. Students that accumulate 90 or more points will get an "A," students with 80 to 89 points will get a "B," students with 70 to 79 points will get a "C," students with 60 to 69 points will get a "D," and students with less than 60 points will get an "F." Note that you start with zero and earn points; you do not start with 100 and lose points.

The total number of points possible on each assignment are listed on this chart:

Assignment	SOC 526 COD 526	SOC 426
Reading, Attendance, Participation	10	10
Quizzes	20	20
Weekly Reflective Essays	30	30
"Review of the News" Discussions	10	15
Final Exam	15	20
Discretionary	5	5
Teaching on Research	10	N/A
Total	100	100

Students that comply with all course requirements and submit all of the assignments on time and satisfactorily can expect a "C" grade in this course. To receive a higher grade, students must go beyond the minimum requirements, demonstrating a superior grasp of course material and an ability to apply the material in productive ways, an interest in the course material and in learning, and an achievement-based orientation.

**Policies and Expectations:**

- (1) Students are **responsible** for learning the course material and for their progress in the course
  - Students are expected to **attend class regularly** and **complete all of the assignments**.
  - Students are expected to know **all** material presented during class sessions, whether the student attended the class or not. Students that miss a class session should check with another student to see what they missed.
  - "I didn't know" is **NEVER** a valid excuse. It is your job to find out anything you don't know.
  
- (2) Missed assignments **cannot** be made up
  - It is assumed that if a student misses class or an assignment for anything other than documented illness or emergency, he/she is making a choice that prioritizes other activities above the class. For this reason, no work can be made up unless the reason for the absence or missed assignment is documented.
  - Assignments are due at the time specified; **no late assignments will be accepted** without a valid, written excuse from a doctor or previous arrangement with the instructor.
  - Illnesses and emergencies pertain only to the student, not to the student's family, friends or others.
  - If a student must miss class or an assignment for something other than illness or an emergency, the student should make arrangements with the instructor **BEFORE** the missed class or assignment; any arrangements after the event will require documentation with no exceptions.
  - Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with medical problems or diagnosed disabilities. Have Dr. Richard Houston at the Reily Health Center (846-4690) contact the course instructor to make arrangements.
  
- (3) Class **discussion** is an important element in this course
  - The purpose of the discussion is to provide students with an opportunity to practice thinking skills in a safe environment.
  - In discussions, students are encouraged to explore ideas presented in the readings, lectures, and films, to think about and apply concepts, and to develop arguments and evaluate evidence.
  - Students must demonstrate appropriate respect the opinions and ideas of other students. Students that repeatedly show disrespect for other students will be asked to leave the classroom.
  - Class discussions are not a time for students to chat with each other about topics not related to the course. Talking privately with other students while the rest of the class is trying to carry on a discussion is disruptive, bothersome, and disrespectful to other students and to the professor. Students that repeatedly talk out of turn will be asked to leave the classroom.
  - It is acceptable (and encouraged) to disagree with the perspectives of other students, but students should phrase this to show disagreement with the idea or opinion, not with the person presenting the idea or opinion.
  - Please make sure that all pagers, cell phones, etc. are turned off during class time. Students whose phones or pagers repeatedly interrupt class will be asked to leave the classroom.
  - Students asked to leave the classroom for disruptive or disrespectful behavior **cannot** make up any work they miss as a result.
  
- (4) Students are expected to **comply with all academic standards and ethics** as defined in the DSU Bulletin and Handbook
  - Students are expected to do their own work in this course. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated.
  - If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, use the link on the course web page. If it is still unclear, see the instructor. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO UNDERSTAND THESE GUIDELINES.** If at some point in the semester you are suspected of committing plagiarism, pleas of "I didn't know what plagiarism was" will not be accepted.
  - The sanctions for plagiarism are outlined on the web page. Make sure you are aware of these before you submit any work in this class.

**Course Outline:**

<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Week 1 Monday Aug 18	REGISTRATION	
<b>Topic: Introduction</b>		
Week 2 Monday Aug 25	<b>Review Syllabus</b> <b>What is Globalization?</b>	
Week 3 Monday Sep 1	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
<b>Topic: A Theoretical Overview of Globalization and Development</b>		
Week 4 Monday Sep 8	<b>Class Discussion on Reading</b> <b>Video and Discussion: "Life and Debt"</b>	McMichael, Ch. 1-3
Week 5 Monday Sep 15	<b>Class Discussion on Reading</b> <b>Delta Connection</b> <b>Teaching on Research Discussion</b>	McMichael, Ch. 4-6
Week 6 Monday Sep 22	<b>Class Discussion on Reading</b> <b>Critical Thinking Exercise</b> <b>Teaching on Research Discussion</b>	McMichael, Ch. 7-8
<b>Topic: A Mainstream Perspective on Globalization</b>		
Week 7 Monday Sep 29	<b>Class Discussion on Reading</b> <b>Review of the News Discussion</b> <b>Teaching on Research Discussion</b>	Freidman, Ch. 1-7
Week 8 Monday Oct 6	<b>Class Discussion on Reading</b> <b>Delta Connection</b> <b>Guest Presentation: Dr. Bruce Seivertson</b>	Friedman, Ch. 8-14
Week 9 Monday Oct 13	<b>Class Discussion on Reading</b> <b>Critical Thinking Exercise</b> <b>QUIZ NO. 1</b>	Friedman, Ch. 15-20
<b>Topic: The Global Financial System</b>		
Week 10 Monday Oct 20	<b>Class Discussion on Reading</b> <b>Review of the News</b> <b>Teaching on Research Discussion</b>	Stiglitz, Ch. 1-3
Week 11 Monday Oct 27	<b>Class Discussion on Reading</b> <b>Delta Connection</b> <b>Teaching on Research Discussion</b>	Stiglitz, Ch. 4-6
Week 12 Monday Nov 3	<b>Class Discussion on Reading</b> <b>Teaching on Research Discussion</b> <b>Guest Presentation: Dr. Garry Jennings</b>	Stiglitz, Ch. 7-9

Day/Date	Activities	Readings
<b>Topic: A Critical Perspective on Globalization</b>		
Week 13 Monday Nov 10	<b>Class Discussion on Reading</b> <b>Review of the News</b> <b>Teaching on Research Discussion</b>	Korten, Ch. 1-7
Week 14 Monday Nov 17	<b>Class Discussion on Reading</b> <b>Delta Connection</b> <b>Video and Discussion: TBA</b>	Korten, Ch. 8-17
Week 15 Monday Nov 24	<b>Class Discussion on Reading</b> <b>Critical Thinking Exercise</b> <b>QUIZ NO. 2</b>	Korten, Ch. 18-23
Week 16 Monday Dec 1	<b>TBA</b>	None
Exam Week	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

**Other Resources:**

*[Note: See the course website for direct links to these pages]*

Yale Global Online (<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/index.jsp>)

International Forum on Globalization (<http://www.ifg.org/>)

Emory University's Globalization Website (<http://www.emory.edu/SOC/globalization/>)

The World Bank's Globalization page (<http://www1.worldbank.org/economicpolicy/globalization/>)

IMF Issues Brief on Globalization (<http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/ib/2000/041200.htm>)

Center for Research on Globalization – Canada (<http://www.globalresearch.ca/>)

Global Policy Forum (<http://www.globalpolicy.org/globaliz/>)