

Sociology 336W: Social Change and Development
Section 1: Tuesday/Thursday, 2:00 to 3:30; 3 credit hours
Fall Semester 2007; Room 307 AB1

Instructor: Dr. Douglas H. Constance
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Office: 311D AB1
Office Hours: T/TH 12:30-1:30;
Monday 10 - 12; or by appointment.

Required Texts:

Daniel Quinn, **Ishmael**
Phillip McMichael, **Development and Social Change** (third edition)

Suggested Readings:

Daniel Chirot, **Social Change in the Modern Era**

Course Description:

This course traces societal development through the stages of hunter-gatherer societies up to post-industrial societies. It investigates topics related to population growth, hunger, war, and social inequality across the stages of societal development.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To acquire a basic knowledge of the theories, dimensions, sources, and impacts of social change by focusing on the First and Second "Great Transformations".
- 2) To use a historical and comparative approach focusing on the rise of Western civilization and the accompanying changes in the dominant societal institutions to provide insights into the global changes occurring now.

Tests and Grading: There will be three exams, one book review, and one group project during the semester for a total of 500 possible points. The exams are worth 100 points each and will cover the readings and the lectures. The exams will be true/false, multiple-guess, and short and medium essays. Students may make-up missed exams if they notify the professor ahead of the exam date and provide documentation regarding his/her absence for the exam. Students will also prepare one book reviews worth 100 points; the particular requirements for the book review will be handed out early in the semester. The class will be divided into groups. Each group will conduct research on a regional trade association - EU, NAFTA, ASEAN, Cairns, Mercosur, SADC. Each group will present the results of their research to the class in the form of a Power Point presentation. The assignment is worth 100 points; 50 of the points will be assigned by the professor and 50 will be assigned by the students. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the two scheduled five points extra credit opportunities made available during the semester. Other opportunities may also be made available. Grading will be as follows: 450+ points = A; 400 - 449 = B; 350-399 = C; 300-349+d; below 300 = F.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes and participate fully in class activities. A record of attendance will be maintained by the instructor. Punctual attendance is also expected of each student. Please be respectful and arrive to class on time. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for both absences and tardiness and are also expected to initiate action to satisfy all missed class work. Failure to do so will affect grades.

Instructor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities must register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then arrange a conference with the instructor in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Religious Holidays: The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious Holy Day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes due to "Religious Holy Days".

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to class time. All cell phones, iPods, and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. Students who disrupt the class will be contacted by the professor to adjust their behaviors. In extreme cases students who cannot comply to these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class.

Visitors to the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to the class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor is allowed to remain in the classroom.

Schedule of Assignments:

Week of::

The First Great Transformation:

August 20: Introduction and the Classics:
Ishmael: Parts 1 and 2.

August 27: The Classics: Lenski and Lenski, Spencer, Durkheim, Tonnies,
Ishmael: Parts 3 thru 6.

September 3: The Classics continued: Marx, Weber, and Parsons
Ishmael: Parts 7 thru 10

September 10: From the Classics: A Theoretical Overview of Social Change
Ishmael: Parts 10 thru 13

September 17: The Rise of the West (from Chirot)
Ishmael book review due the 18th.

September 24: Modernization Theory and the Dependista Critique
Exam #1: Thursday the 28th.

The Second Great Transformation

October 1: McMichael: Introduction and Chapter 1

October 18: McMichael : Chapter 1

October 15: McMichael: Chapter 2
Thursday - 18th. extra credit opportunity (the IMF, the World Bank, GATT)

October 22: McMichael: Chapter 3

October 29: McMichael: Chapter 4
Exam #2: November 1st.

November 5: McMichael: Chapter 5

November 12: McMichael: Chapter 6
Thursday - 15th. extra credit opportunity (the WTO, the MAI, G22)

November 19: McMichael: Chapter 7
(Thanksgiving break starts Tuesday at 9:00 p.m.)

November 26: McMichael: Chapter 8
Group Projects

December 3: Group Projects

December 10: **Final Exam:** Thursday the 13th.: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.