Course Syllabus

SOC 790-SIS
The Social and Cultural Impact of Globalization on the European Union

Course Description

Globalization continues to shape our world, and while it has created opportunity for the nations that make up the European Union, it has also created challenges and consequences. During this course, students will gain an understanding of the crisis in the European Union and explore the ways that globalization has impacted the social and cultural landscapes of EU member countries and the European Union as a whole.

This Supervised Independent Study (SIS) course will guide students through the basic principles of the social and cultural impact of globalization on the European Union, while providing the opportunity for an independent exploration of the subject.

Course Objectives

Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Define globalization
2. Explain the multi-dimensional nature of globalization
3. Understand how globalization has affected the European Union and specific countries
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the social and cultural aspects of globalization
5. Think critically about solutions to globalization issues from a social and cultural perspective
6. Review the European Union’s global image
7. Consider the future of the social and cultural impact of globalization on the European Union

Course Requirements

This course requires independent research, organization, and academic discipline. Students are expected to complete the required and additional readings in pace with their assignments and the course outline. Students will meet with their SIS Supervising Professor(s) regularly throughout the course for consultation and assistance. There will be an oral presentation, a midterm exam, a final exam, and three essay assignments.

Students are also required to participate in a minimum of three Forum-Nexus professional visits and three cultural visits. Students may also pursue individual visits to companies and organizations as part of their independent study.
Essay #1 (minimum length: 1,500 words)

• Define globalization
• What are the successes and failures of globalization?
• Explain the multi-dimensional nature of globalization
• Describe the social and cultural aspects of globalization

Essay #2 (minimum length: 1,500 words)

• What are the promises of global institutions? How have those promises been broken?
• Summarize market globalism, justice globalism, and religious globalisms, and explain the strengths and weaknesses of each ideology.

Essay #3 (minimum length: 1,500 words)

• Explain current perspectives of globalization in the European Union
• How has globalization affected the cities/countries you have visited in Europe?
• What do you think was the most important social or cultural impact of globalization on the European Union? Why?
• What social or cultural changes should be made to improve the state of globalization in the EU?

Presentation

Deliver a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation summarizing the main findings of your independent study. Required components include:
• Summary of your goals and objectives
• Overview of the social and cultural impact of globalization on the European Union
• Findings as they apply to the Netherlands
• Findings as they apply to France
• Findings as they apply to Italy
• Findings as they apply to Greece
• Reflection on what you’ve learned through the SIS course

Required Readings

Globalization: A Very Short Introduction
by Manfred B. Steger

Globalization and Its Discontents Revisited: Anti-Globalization in the Era of Trump
by Joseph E. Stiglitz
W.W. Norton & Company, 2018

Reflection Paper on Harnessing Globalization
by Frans Timmermans and Jyrki Katainen
European Commission, 2017
Available online as a PDF

Recommended Readings

Talking globalisation in Paris, blog post by Cecilia Malmstom for the European Commission, June 2017
Available online

Available online
Components of Final Grade

- Midterm exam: 20%
- Final exam: 20%
- Essay #1: 15%
- Essay #2: 15%
- Essay #3: 15%
- Presentation: 15%

Grading Scale

- 93-100 %: A
- 90-92.9 %: A-
- 87-89.9 %: B+
- 83-86.9 %: B
- 80-82.9 %: B-
- 77-79.9 %: C+
- 73-76.9 %: C
- 70-72.9 %: C-
- 67-69.9 %: D+
- 63-66.9 %: D
- 60-62.9 %: D-
- Below 60 %: F

Course Outline

Section 1: Understanding Globalization
- Globalization: A Contested Concept
- Globalization in History: Is Globalization a New Phenomenon?
- Taking Stock of Globalization and Its Effects
- The Failures of Globalization

Section 2: Dimensions of Globalization
- The Multiple Dimensions of Globalization
- The Economic Dimension of Globalization
- The Political Dimension of Globalization
- The Cultural Dimension of Globalization
- The Ecological Dimension of Globalization

Section 3: Globalization and Its Discontents
- The Promise of Global Institutions
- Broken Promises
- Freedom to Choose?

Section 4: Ideologies of Globalization
- Market Globalism
- Justice Globalism
- Religious Globalisms

Section 5: Europe’s External Response
- International Cooperation to Shape Globalization, Economic Diplomacy, and Instruments to Ensure a Level Playing Field
Section 6: Europe’s Internal Response
- Building Resilience Through Better Sharing of Benefits and Promotion of Long-Term Competitiveness

Section 7: The Future of Globalization
- Looking Ahead
- The Way Ahead

Schedule of Classes and Visits

The detailed schedule of classes, professional visits, and suggested cultural visits for each session is available online at www.forum-nexus.com/schedules.

Academic Integrity

Ramon Llull University, Franklin University Switzerland, and the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart place a high value on the integrity, good conduct, and academic honesty of all students. Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity at all times. Any instance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a grade of F for the course.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Sections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/15 – 6/30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-Program Preparation Become familiar with the syllabus, identify additional readings, begin readings and essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/2</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>Essay #1 Due</td>
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<td>7/2-7/3</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>Meeting with SIS Supervising Professor(s)</td>
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<td>Complete Readings</td>
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<td>7/5</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>Essay #2 Due</td>
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<td>7/10-7/11</td>
<td>Chamonix</td>
<td>Meeting with SIS Supervising Professor(s)</td>
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<td>7/12</td>
<td>Chamonix</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>7/16</td>
<td>Milan</td>
<td>Meeting with SIS Supervising Professor(s)</td>
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<td>Complete Readings</td>
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<td>7/20</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>Essay #3 Due</td>
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<td>7/23</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
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<td>Complete Readings</td>
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<td>7/26</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
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<td>7/27</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
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