COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title: HS1003/ Social Problems in a Global Context

Pre-requisites: NIL

No. of AUs.: 3 AU

Contact Hours: 2-hours of lecture and 1-hour tutorial per week
Total: 39 contact hours

Course Aims

This course introduces you to sociological concepts to understand how social problems are locally originated and produced and globally reproduced by the social, economic, and political processes of market-driven globalization. While social problems appear to be locally situated, many of their causes are engendered by the circulation and transmission of goods, capital, information, images, and human labours that constitute globalization. Thus understanding how social problems emerge is best achieved with a lens that allows us to observe the impact of social activities in one specific locality to the life of those living in other localities. This subject provides a number of sociological tools to capture global factors that contribute to producing social problems in different places at different scales with different implications. In this course, we will examine ten areas of social problems from poverty and inequality, to war and violence, to environmental degradation and climate change. In each of these areas, you will be exposed to sociological theories suitable to examine the problem and learn how globalization plays a role in its production.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Distinguish social problems from individual problems.
2. Apply sociological theories and concepts in writing essays.
3. Articulate connections between local experiences and global trends

Course Content

Week 1
Key concepts: Introduction to the course
What is a social problem and how is it produced?
Social Structures
Globalization: Where does it come from?

Week 2
Key concepts: Poverty and Inequality
Origins of poverty
Class

Week 3
Labor and Trade
Key concepts:
- Global Capitalism
- Neoliberalism
- World Systems Theory

Week 4
Key concepts:
- Migration and Population
- Pull and Push Factor
- Movement of People

Week 5
Key concepts:
- Women and the Family
- Feminism
- Second Shift
- Feminization of Poverty

Week 6
Key concepts:
- Global Crime
- Deviance
- Organized Crime

Week 7
Key concepts:
- War and Terrorism
- The State and War
- Nationalism
- Sociology of Terrorism

Week 8
Key concepts:
- Democracy and Freedom
- Authoritarianism
- Illiberal Democracy

Week 9
Key concepts:
- Identity and Violence
- Predatory Identity
- Politics of Identity

Week 10
Key concepts:
- Globalized Cities
- Urban Transformation
- The Global City

Week 11
Key concepts:
- Global Technology
- Technological Systems
- Social Construction of Technology

Week 12
Key concepts:
- Environmental Crisis
- Risk Society
- Environmental Injustice

Week 13
Key concepts:
- Semester-end review/revision
**Course Assessment (To be specific)**

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