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SOSC 2780

Modernization and Social Change

Fall 2014 MWF (12 – 12.50 pm.) Room 2303
Website: <http://lmes.ust.hk> at FALL2014-15 SOSC2780 (L1)

Synopsis

This course is designed to acquaint students with the major concepts and theoretical perspectives of modernization and social change. It provides students with the essential knowledge about social, economic, and political development in an interdisciplinary manner that enables students to understand the divergent patterns of development in the world. Development experiences from both developing countries in the South and developed countries in the North will be used as examples to illustrate the merits and shortcomings of different theories in the field of modernization and social change.

This course is divided into three parts. Part I studies theories of modernization and dependency, including the demographic, psychological, political, economic, and cultural modernization theories; the classical colonialism theory and the new dependent development theory.

Part II examines the world-systems perspective and discusses how this perspective can help you understand the origins and transformation of the development project (1945 - 1970s) and the globalization project (1980s - the present). In particular, we will examine how the globalization project has led to such new phenomenon as de-industrialization and re-industrialization, the restructuring of nation-state, hybrid cultural identity, flexible employment, and the widening of social inequality in the 21st century. We will also examine how the civil society and social movements responded to the challenges of the globalization project.

Part III shifts the attention from development theories to the historical study of East Asia over the past two centuries. It will examine theories of the rise of East Asia, the historical trajectory of the East Asian region, as well as the issues related to socialist revolution and post-socialist transformation, the rise of Japan and China, and how the Chinese national reunification project has affected the development of the mainland, Taiwan, and Hong Kong since the 1980s.

Required Readings**

So, Alvin Y. 1990. Social Change and Development: Modernization, Dependency, and World-System Perspective. Sage Publications, Inc.
(this book is listed as “**So**” on p.4-5 in this course outline)

So, Alvin Y. and Stephen Chiu. 1995. East Asia and the World-Economy. Sage Publications, Inc. (this book is listed as “**So & Chiu**” on p.5 in this course outline)

So, Alvin Y. 2012. “The Global Capitalist Crisis and the Rise of China to the World Scene.” Pp.123-144 in Beyond the Global Capitalist Crisis, edited by Berch Berberglu. Ashgate. (this paper is listed as “**So 2012 paper**” on p.5)

McMichael, Philip. 1996. Development and Change: A Global Perspective. Pine Forge Press. (Chapter 1,5,7; this book is listed as “**McMichael**” on p.4)

Scholte, Jan A. 2005. Globalization: A Critical Introduction. N.Y.: Palgrave. (Chapter 5, 6; this book is listed as “**Scholte**” on p.4)

***The above required readings will be uploaded onto the class website.*

Course Requirements

Take **three essay exams**. Each exam is worth 50 points, with a total of 150 points.

Grades: 136-150 = **A**; 121-135 = **B**; 106-120 = **C**;
91-105 = **D**; 90 or below = **F**

Important Notes

- If you miss an exam, you will **not** get any point for that exam. No make-up exam will be granted except on medical grounds with doctor’s certificate, so please make sure you mark the following exam dates on your calendar: First Exam on **Sept 29**; 2nd Exam on **Nov 3**; the date of Final Exam will be announced later.
- It is very important that you attend **all** the lectures. Exams will draw heavily from lecture materials. If you miss over a week’s lectures, you will have difficulties in getting a decent grade in this course.
- Feel free to talk to the instructor (Alvin So) anytime if you have any questions or problems. If Alvin’s office hours (WF 1-2 pm) are in conflict with your schedule, you can always call him up or send him an e-mail to make an appointment to see him at another time. Alvin usually comes to his office (Room 3380) everyday. You are always welcome to talk to him anytime on weekdays and weekend, not just during his office hours.

Yes, You Can Earn Extra-Credit by taking a 5-minute Quiz!

- The quizzes will be given at the end of the class period (around 12.45 a.m.). You will have around five minutes to answer an essay question drawn from the lecture materials in that class.
- I haven’t decided which day to give out these quizzes. This extra-credit quiz is aimed to discourage you from skipping too many classes.
- The grading of the extra-credit exams is as follows: Good or Excellent = 1 point. Average = 0.5 point. Poor or if you fail to show up to answer the quiz = 0 point. Up to 5 quizzes will be given, enable you to earn a max of 5 points.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:
(1) Explain and discuss the different theories of development, including political theories, economical theories, cultural theories, demographic theories.
(2) Analyze how state policies have led to different paths of development in the world
(3) Understand how the developing countries have faced numerous barriers in their development projects over the past few centuries, and how some of them can overcome their developmental obstacles and move ahead in the path of modernization

After taken this course, students should be able to know what the concepts of “modernization” and “globalization” mean, be able to explain the divergent paths of development in the global South, as well as be able to understand the new challenges of globalization facing the advanced industrial countries in the North and the developing countries in the South in the 21st century.

Assessment Tasks and Activities (ATAs) and Alignment with course ILOs

ATAs	Descriptions	Describe how these ATAs are aligned with the ILOs
Three essay exams	There will be three essay exams aimed to examine students' ability to synthesis the different lecture/reading materials in this semester. The essay exams will raise general issues of development and will help students to think more broadly and holistically.	The essay exams will test the students' critical judgment on controversial issues (e.g., they will be asked to evaluate how good or bad the modernization theory is; how can modernization theory be applied to study China's development, etc.)
Five quizzes	There will be up to five 5-minute quizzes at the end of lecture	The quiz will draw upon lecture materials. The quiz is aimed to encourage students to apply lecture/reading materials to their everyday life. The emphasis is on the application of theories. The quiz will help students to grasp the link between theory and the empirical world

Date	Lecture #	Topic	Assignment
(I) Modernization and Dependency			
Sept 1		Introduction to SOSC 2780	So: Ch 1
		<i>Modernization Theories</i>	
Sept 3	#1	Modernization-Social/demographic	So: Ch 2
5	#2	Modernization-Psychological	So: Ch 3
8	#3	Modernization-Political/Eco	
10	#4	Critique of Modernization theory	
12	#5	New Modernization: culture	So: Ch 4
15	#6	New Modernization: democracy	
		<i>Dependency Theories</i>	
17	#7	Dependency-Colonialism	So: Ch 5
19	#8	financial dependency-debt	So: Ch 6
22	#9	New dependency theory	So: Ch 7
24	#10	New Dependency and Taiwan	
26		<i>Review Session</i>	
Sept 29		The First Exam	
Oct 1		National Day Holiday!	
(II) World-Systems Analysis and the Globalization Project			
		<i>World-Systems Analysis and the Development Project</i>	
Oct 3	#11	The World-Systems Analysis	So: Ch 8, 9
6	#12	Methodology and dynamics	
8	#13	Development Project - Emergence	McMichael: Ch 1
10	#14	Development Project (Unravel) and Globalization Project (Emergence)	McMichael: Ch 5
		<i>The Globalization Project</i>	
13	#15	Deindustrialization	So: Ch 10
15	#16	Reindustrialization	pp.238-246
17	#17	Globalization: economic dimension	Scholte: Ch 5
20	#18	Globalization: political dimension	Scholte: Ch 6
22	#19	Globalization: cultural dimension	
24	#20	Globalization: flexible employment	
27	#21	Globalization: Social Inequality	
29	#22	Social Response to globalization	McMichael: Ch 7
Oct 31		<i>Review Session</i>	
Nov 3		The Second Exam	

Date	Lecture #	Topic	Assignment
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(III) East Asia

Theories and History

Nov	5	#23 Cultural, Market, and Statist Theories	So & Chiu: Ch 1
	7	#24 Incorporation of China & Japan	So & Chiu: Ch 2, 3
	10	#25 Regionalization	

Ascent after WWII

	12	#26 China - Socialist Withdrawal & re-entry	So & Chiu: Ch 6
	14	#27 China - State Neo-Liberalism	
	17	#28 Global crisis & the rise of China	So 2012 paper
	19	#29 Japan Rise to the core	So & Chiu: Ch 7
	21	#30 Hong Kong become a NIE	So & Chiu: Ch 8

National Reunification of China

Nov	24	#31 Impact on Mainland	So & Chiu: Ch 10
	26	#32 Impact on Taiwan	
	28	#33 Impact on Hong Kong	

The Final Exam

(ARR will announce the exact exam date later)

Thank you for taking the course. Wish you a wonderful Christmas holiday!