Globalization, Gender, Development

Dr. Kimberly Hoang, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Boston College
Phone: 617-552-1293
Email: Kimberly.hoang@bc.edu
Office Hours: Sign up online [link TBD] or by appointment

"Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is a protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life."  – Nelson Mandela

This course provides an introduction to the study of poverty, justice and capabilities. We consider theory and policy oriented towards improving human well-being in the US and internationally. Readings address not just material deprivations but also gender, racial and ethnic disparities, health status, education, human rights, and political freedoms.

Course Requirements

1. The readings for this course will consist of a series of scholarly articles and excerpts from books. The course will be conducted as a seminar with each class meeting devoted to discussion of the scheduled readings. Although some classes include a brief overview in lecture/PowderPoint form, most instruction will be through class discussions focused on the readings. Students are responsible for all material covered in class, including any missed classes.

2. Students are expected to check their Rice email and the course’s OWL-Space site regularly for communications and announcements relating to the course.

3. Throughout the semester, I encourage you to visit me during my office hours with any questions or concerns you may have about class. I am also available for meetings at other times by appointment.

Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact one of the instructors for a confidential discussion. Additionally, these students will need to contact Disability Support Services in the Ley Student Center.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY:
Because this is a discussion-based class, laptops, smart phones, ipads and other technological devices are not permitted unless approved in advance (such as note taking when presentations are made). Violations, including texting and web browsing with your phone, will by severely penalized. Please keep your phone turned off during class.
Course Work and Grading

Your final grade will be based on the components listed below. Your course grade will also take into consideration such elements as effort, improvement over time, and the quality of participation.

Turning in Assignments: All assignments are to be turned in to the professor the day that they are due. Late submissions will be penalized: 1/3 of a grade per day late.

a. Class Attendance, Participation, and Collaboration: 5%
Attendance is required. If you have more than three unexcused absences, your final course grade will be lowered by one-third of a grade (e.g., A- → B+). Students are expected to come to class having completed all the reading assigned for that day and prepared to contribute to discussion.

b. Comments, Presentations, Responses to Course Readings and News Events: 20%

Long Postings
Students will rotate in writing 200 word summaries/comments on the readings, to be posted on the course’s OWL-Space discussion board. These will be due by 9:00 pm two days before the class in which the reading will be discussed. (Sign up sheets will be distributed.)
(Go to OWL-Space.rice.edu, then to the course and collaboration link, where you will need to log in using your NetID and your NetID password, and then go to the site for this course.) Students will make a brief oral presentation on the day for which they have written a summary/comment on the assigned readings.

Short Postings
Students not posting a long entry for a particular reading are expected to post a short (100+ words) response to the long commentary. These responses/questions must be posted by 9:00 pm on the day before the reading are discussed in class. All entries are required to be done individually, and each should be accompanied with a proposed question for class discussion. Students may miss up to three of the short responses without penalty. Late or unthoughtful postings will also be penalized.

News Postings
Each student is expected to post links to two news stories that are relevant to the class material. The first must be posted in August, the second in September. Include a brief response to the story in your posting. (Students should be reading from respected news sources throughout the semester.) Be creative and show how you’re using what you learn in class to look at the world in a new way. Students are also expected to read the postings of other students and occasionally respond to them. NOTE: If you use a Mac, you may need to download Firefox to post.

Short Postings on Outside Lectures
Each student is expected to attend and post a reflection to at least three approved outside lectures. All lectures sponsored by the Center for Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Program do not require approval.

This syllabus is subject to change
c. PowerPoint Presentation: 15%

Students, working with a partner, are expected to give one 10-minute PowerPoint presentation. There will be a signup sheet for topics and dates. The presentation is expected to address a specific topic area covered by the course. A PowerPoint presentation checklist will be handed out that details what should be in the PowerPoint presentations and the expected formatting. Students must submit the PowerPoint document to the assigned location on the course’s OWL-Space site on the same date as the presentation is made.

e. Midterm Paper: 20%
f. Final Paper: 25%

Required Texts:


Recommended Texts:


This syllabus is subject to change
Course Structure Overview
   I. Poverty: A Global Framework
   II. Poverty and Well-Being: The Capabilities Approach
   III. Race, Gender, and Capabilities
   IV. Action Plans and Global Imperatives
       a. The Global Economy, Business, and Trade
       b. Transformative Social Policy and Governance
       c. Financing Social Change
       d. Building State Capacity
       e. Democracy and the Politics of Poverty Reduction
       f. Institutions and the Politics of Poverty

This syllabus is subject to change
This syllabus is subject to change