In this course, we will seek to answer the following questions:

- Is America socialist?
- What is capitalism? What is socialism?
- What is globalization?
- What are markets? What are global markets? How do they work?
- What are corporations? What do they do?
- What is the financial crisis? How can sociology help you to understand it?

We will use economic sociology and globalization studies to understand the global economy and its relationship to societies and cultures around the world. Even though we will discuss difficult topics, the lectures and discussions will be clear and engaging. The goal is that students figure out their answers to the above questions through interesting, high-quality discussion.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, students should be able to

- Compare and contrast definitions of capitalism and socialism, relating them to globalization.
- Develop understanding of global patterns and processes and their interaction with society. Apply awareness of global issues to a consideration of individual or collective responsibilities within a global society. Demonstrate understanding of the interconnectedness, difference, and diversity of a global society.
- Discuss major terms, themes, and debates in globalization studies and economic sociology.
- Analyze and evaluate scholarly readings in globalization studies and economic sociology.
- Identify, evaluate, and properly cite resources appropriate to sociological conventions. Construct a research paper using these resources on a topic of your choice.
Course schedule and readings

Part I: Introduction


Mon., Jan. 28: What is capitalism? What is a market economy?

Wed., Jan. 30: What is capitalism? What is a market economy?

Mon., Feb. 4: What is socialism? What is communism?

Wed., Feb. 6: What is socialism? What is communism? What is post-socialism?
- Paper #1: What is capitalism? What is socialism?

Mon., Feb. 11: Embeddedness

Part II: What is Globalization?

Mon., Feb. 18: Focus Groups on Globalization
- Another class will visit us and conduct focus groups about “What is Globalization?”

Part III: Sociology of Markets
Wed., Feb. 20: What are markets?

Mon., Feb. 25: What are markets?

Wed., Feb. 27: Is there socialism in the United States?

Mon., March 4: Are there socialist markets? Is the US capitalist or socialist?

Wed., March 6: Global Capitalism: McDonaldization. [Snow Day]
- Midterm Essay due today.

March 11-17: Spring Break: No Class

Part III: Sociology of Markets
- Discussion of Research Paper

Part IV: Sociology of Corporations
Wed., March 20: What are Corporations?
Mon., March 25: What are Corporations?

Wed., March 27: Corporate Networks

Mon., April 1: Global Corporate Networks: Nike

Wed., April 3: Socialist multinational corporations?: Chinese Multinational Corporations, Cooperatives, and ESOPs

Mon., April 8: The Social Economy

Wed., April 10: Socialist corporations?: Chinese Multinational Corporations, Cooperatives, and ESOPs

Part V: Socialist and Capitalist Globalizations

Mon., April 15: Socialist Globalization
Wed., April 17: Capitalist Globalization
- Research Proposal Due at 3pm in Class

Mon., April 22: Capitalist Globalization and Crisis
  - Listen online: http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/355/The-Giant-Pool-of-Money
  - Or read online: http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/355/transcript

Wed., April 24: Socialist Globalization?: Utopian Bankers, Microfinance, the World Social Forum

Mon., April 29: Post-Socialist Globalization

Wed., May 1: Post-Socialist Globalization

Mon., May 6: Capitalist, Socialist, and/or Post-Socialist Globalization?
- Second In-Class Exam
- Paper #2 due at 3pm in class.

**Mon., May 13: Research Paper due during Final Exam period (1:30 pm – 4:15 pm)**
Course Requirements
There are four main components to the course:

- Class participation: 10%
- In-class exams (first 20%, second 5%): 25% total
- Two short papers: 10%
- Research project (proposal 15%, paper 40%): 55% total

Class Participation: Participation includes attendance, being on time, bringing the reading, asking questions, and participating in discussion.

Short paper: Two short papers (of at least 2 full, double-spaced pages) are due in class. The question for paper #1 is listed in the syllabus schedule. For the paper #2, you will attend one of the following lectures and write a summary of the lecture, relating it to our class: Gar Alperovitz, “America Beyond Capitalism,” Thursday, February 28, 4:30-7:00pm, Mason Hall D005; Barbara Ehrenreich, Thursday, March 7, 4:30-7:10pm; Carl Nightingale, “How American Urban Segregation Outlived Apartheid, and Other Tales from a World History of Divided Cities,” Thurs., April 11, 4:30-7pm, JC Room G.

Research Proposal
In class on Mon., April 8, you will turn in your research paper proposal (2 to 3 pages), in which you will describe your topic, discuss some issues brought up in class, and provide a bibliography.

Final research paper
The research paper for this course will help you to synthesize the different topics and debates in this course, as well as learn about a specific case study. The basic question for the research paper is: how is X socialist and not socialist? Generally, you might ask whether a specific economic organization or global trend is socialist. For example, you could write about Chinese multinational corporations, a cooperative bakery in your hometown, a campus organization, Greenpeace, a specific global fashion or fad, and so on, but you can choose any topic that interests you. Choose a topic that really interests you. The research paper can be turned in by email on the day of our final exam. Your research paper should be 8-10 pages long. I will provide more information about the research paper later in the semester. Please feel free to talk with me about any aspect of the course throughout the semester. I will be glad to talk with you.

Late Policy
For each day that any written work is late that grade will be reduced by a step (e.g., an A paper will become an A- paper one day after the due date, a B+ paper two days after the due date, etc).

Grading scale
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**Required Texts**
The required articles are available on Blackboard (mymason.gmu.edu). For Blackboard, use the same log-in and password as your Mason email account. You will need to bring the printed readings to class on the assigned day. I do not allow the use of laptops, e-book readers, i-phones, or other devices in class because I want everyone to be fully present in the classroom. Therefore, you will need to print up the readings either at home or on campus. While you will be spending money on printing, you will be saving money on books. Please give yourself enough time to print the readings and read them carefully. You should always read with a pen in hand to make notes in the margins.

**Additional Items:**
- **Academic Integrity:** I will not tolerate plagiarism. Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else’s work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.
- **Mason Email Accounts:** Students must use their MasonLIVE email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See [http://masonlive.gmu.edu](http://masonlive.gmu.edu) for more information.
- **Office of Disability Services:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. [http://ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu)
- **Writing Center:** A114 Robinson Hall;(703) 993-1200, [http://writingcenter.gmu.edu](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu)
- **University Libraries** “Ask a Librarian,” [http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html](http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html)
- **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):** (703) 993-2380, [http://caps.gmu.edu](http://caps.gmu.edu)
- **University Policies:** The University Catalog, [http://catalog.gmu.edu](http://catalog.gmu.edu), is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at [http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu](http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu). All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.