

Sinclair Community College Course Syllabus

Sociology 297, Global Poverty: Causes, Consequences and Cures

Credit hours: 3

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Office Hours: To be Announced in Class

Please note that this course can be taken as an honors course with permission from the instructor.

Course Description:

This course focuses on the issue of global poverty. It specifically examines the problem of “absolute” poverty experienced by many people currently living in third world or developing nations. This course specifically examines three areas of global poverty from an interdisciplinary perspective including readings from history, sociology, literature, economics, and geography. The three areas examined include:

1. An examination of the many hypotheses and theories about the causes of global poverty from both the western and non-western perspective.
2. An examination of the consequences for people and societies affected by global poverty from both the western and non-western perspective.
3. An examination of the many attempts and theories to curing global poverty from both the western and non-western perspective.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the various definitions of poverty used in the literature.
2. Understand the difference between micro and macro theoretical issues.
3. Understand the magnitude of poverty in the world.
4. Explain the various causes of poverty in the world.
5. Understand the various theoretical perspectives about poverty.
6. Understand and appreciate the consequences for those living in poverty.
7. Compare and Contrast the myriad of solutions(cures) for global poverty.
8. Use internet and library resources to research poverty issues.
9. Identify global organizations working in the area of global poverty.



Required Reading:

Causes/Cures:

Harrison, Paul. 1993. *Inside the Third World: The Classic Account of Poverty in the Developing Countries*. New York: Penguin Press.

World Development Report 2000/2001 published by Oxford Press for the World Bank
Web address: www.worldbank.org/poverty/wdrpoverty/ (See attached sheet).

Consequences:

Bales, Kevin. 2000. *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*.
University of California: Regents Press.

Literature of the Poor and Voices of the Poor articles

www.worldbank.org/poverty/povlit/

www.worldbank.org/poverty/voices/listen-findings.htm

This is a set of readings written by people facing poverty all over the world.

Lapierre, Dominique. 1990. *The City of Joy*. Mass Market Paperback.

Web Resources:

Course Requirements:

1. Attend Class and Participate:

This class is a seminar format. There is a heavy amount of reading required and class participation expected. It is expected that each student complete weekly reading assignments and reaction papers. Be prepared to participate in class on a weekly basis. Each day of class is worth 5 points for a total of 50 points. Please discuss any necessary absences with instructor prior to class.

- ##### **2. Reaction Journal: Reactions to the Readings are a very important part of this course. Each Reaction Paper should be 2-3 pages typed and double spaced. I will accept neatly handwritten papers. Suggestions for reaction topics will be included. There are 7 total reaction papers. Each reaction paper is worth 20 points for a total of 140 points. Late Reaction papers will**

be docked 5 points. You will need to bring a weekly newspaper, magazine, or Internet article related to global poverty. This should be attached to your reaction paper. We will be discussing these in class. These articles are part of the reaction paper grade.

3. **Global Poverty Country Research Paper (for non-honors credit):** Each student will complete an 8 to 10 page research paper on the Causes, Consequences, and Cures of Poverty in a particular developing country. All country choices must be approved by the instructor. The student is expected to apply all knowledge and information learned in this class and readings to the development of the paper. A separate handout is attached explaining the requirements of this paper. This paper is worth 85 points.
4. **Global Poverty Country Research Paper (for honors credit only):** Each student will complete a 15 to 20 page research paper on the Causes, Consequences, and Cures of Poverty for two developing countries. The student must choose two developing countries in two different continents. For example, a country in Africa and a country in Asia would be acceptable. The paper should include a comparison between the two different countries and an examination of both the similarities and differences. All country choices must be approved by the instructor. The student is expected to apply all knowledge and information learned in this class and readings to the development of the paper. A separate handout is attached explaining the requirements of this paper. This paper is worth 85 points.
5. **Country Presentation:** Each student is expected to make a class presentation on their research. These presentations will take place the 9th and 10th week of the quarter. Each student will be expected to pass out an outline to fellow classmates. The presentation must include some type of audience participation (for example a quiz or class discussion). Each presentation should be 10 to 15 minutes in length. You can have fun with these presentations and do not have to do all the talking. Bonus points will be awarded for creativity. The presentation is worth 25 points.

Total Points Possible in the Course: 300

Grading Scale:

270-300=A

240-269=B

210-239=C

180-209=D

Less than 179=F

Tentative course outline

Week 1: Course Introduction

What is poverty?
What is global poverty?
Theories of Stratification.
Film: Global Village, Global Pillage

Assignments due for Week 2:

Reading Assignment: Paul Harrison 1-8
World Development Report Chapters 1-2
Reaction Paper 1: Why is there so much poverty in developing countries?

Week 2: Exploring the Causes of Global Poverty

The Roots of Poverty
Climate Issues
Industrialization
World Bank's Approach
Film: The Bank and Life Debt

Assignments due for Week 3:

Reading Assignment: Paul Harrison, Chapters 9-18
Reaction Paper 2: Why are there so many women and children in poverty in developing countries?

Week 3: Exploring the Causes Continued

Economic Issues
Overpopulation
Uneducated
The Condition of Women and Children
Film: Sweatshops and Children

Assignments due for Week 4:

Finish Paul Harrison
Reaction Paper 3: What would be some of the consequences faced by a child growing up in absolute poverty?

Week 4: Causes and Consequences Explored

Poverty Simulation Activities

Assignments due for Week 5:

Read Chapters 1-10 in City of Joy and Read 5 of the Literature of Poverty readings and read *Voices of the Poor* on how they view well being. Choose 5 not from the United States.

Reaction Paper # 4: Write a short paragraph on each of the Literature of poverty readings and on the *Voices of the Poor*. What reaction do you have to each reading? What did you feel for the person? What consequences did poverty have for this person?

Week 5: Consequences of Poverty

Discuss the Consequences of Poverty

Assignment for Week 6:

Finish City of Joy (or as much of it as you can, we will discuss this)

Reaction Paper #5: Despite all the consequences of living in poverty, how do the people of Calcutta India survive? Why is one of the poorest areas in the world called the City of Joy? Are all consequences of poverty negative? Why or Why not? What did you think of the book?

Week 6: Finish Discussion of Consequences of Poverty

We will be attending a function on campus. We have a visiting professor from Malaysia who will be speaking. If her schedule changes, we will be watching City of Joy.

Assignment for next week:

Chapters 4-6 in World Bank Book

Reaction Paper #6: What are some of the suggested solutions to global poverty by the World Bank?

Week 7: Cures

Discuss Cures

Theories about Social Justice

Explore Websites about Solving Global Poverty

Film

Assignment for Next week:

Read Chapters 7-11 World Bank Book

Reaction Paper #7: What do you think it will take to reduce global poverty? Is it possible? Why or Why not?

Week 8: Conclusion of Cures

Sociology Career Night in Building 12, First floor.

Everyone is expected to attend as part of class.

Turn your reaction papers in during this time.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about Sociology.

Week 9: Class Presentations

All country research papers are due Week 9

Week 10: Class Presentations

Week 11: Final Class Discussion

What did you learn?

What really can be done?

What should be done?

Country Papers will be returned



Global Poverty Research Paper

Country Choices:

You may choose any developing nation (sometimes referred to as third world). The majority of these countries are found in Africa, Asia, and South America. While there are some Eastern European countries that fit the description of a poor country, data on these countries may be limited. I would suggest you choose your country (countries early). I will not allow students to choose the same country. Please see me if you have any questions and you do need to have your country choice approved.

Outline of Paper

Introduction:

Give a brief historical overview and a map. Explain the basics of the country.

Example: Language, political structure, religion ,etc...

Causes of Poverty:

Political History

Climate

Overpopulation

Colonialism

Economic Issues? Debt? Market Economy

Consequences:

Life expectancy

Infant Mortality Rate

Health Issues

Education issues

Housing Issues

Conditions for Women and Children

Dollar Amount Per Year

Hunger

Refugee Issues

Other

Cures:

What types of things are being done in this country?

Find specific Examples

Sustainable development, etc.

Conclusion :

What do you think the future holds for this country? Why?

Other directions:

Paper must be typed

You can include maps, charts, and information in an appendix

You can use Internet resources (there are numerous ones to use), but be sure they are legitimate.

You must use at least 8 resources (books in this class can and should be used, but do not count as part of the 10) if taking this for non-honors credit.

You must use at least 16 resources if taking this for honors credit.