SOC 331 Class Presentation: Current Instances of Social Change

Students are encouraged to keep informed of current global events by checking the news on a regular basis (at least twice a week). They will pick a news story with global implications at the beginning of the term and follow its development throughout the term, to prepare a PowerPoint presentation that describes how this event has unfolded and its relevance to global social change. The presentation should explicitly link what students found to some of the concepts and ideas from class, for instance, by using them to explain how the events unfold, or to compare them to other events discussed in the course.

A global news story is one that involves people or structures in at least two countries, but not necessarily every area of the globe. It can be regional in nature, focusing, for instance, on the European Union, South America, or Sub-Saharan Africa. It may be linked to politics, but may also be in business, science, crime, pop culture, etc. Some examples may include the development of a vaccine for a pandemic (such as AIDS, ebola, malaria); expansion of/negotiations to solve a conflict; developments in international drug trafficking; an international sports event (the Olympics, the FIFA World Cup); etc.

In addition to being international in nature, the event needs to involve a component of social change. Meaning, this event/situation/phenomenon needs to change society in some explicit way that is discussed in the news. For instance, diseases and natural disasters may change the demographics of a nation and affect its economy. An international sports event may be significant because it is the first time to be held in a particular nation, and this has symbolic meaning beyond who wins and who loses (think about the rugby world cup in South Africa).

Students need to rely on reputable news sources, such as news agencies, mainstream newspapers, and mainstream news channels, to gather information. Their sources should be based in at least three different countries/regions, in order to get a variety of points of views. A list of approved international news sources is available in the Webliography. Students wishing to use other sources need to request approval from their instructors in Module 1.

Tips on building a quality PowerPoint presentation are available in Doc Sharing. Standard plagiarism rules will apply to the presentation. To cite and list sources in their presentation, Sociology students are required to use ASA format. Students in other majors may use the format they are most comfortable with. Information on formatting styles is available under Resources in the course menu.

Students will submit their choice of global issue and a list of the sources they are planning to use in Module 1. The presentation is due in Module 8.

The initial submission is worth 3% of the final grade. The presentation is worth 15% of the final grade.