



SYP 3456

Societies in the World

Section: RVBB

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2026

Course Time Zone: Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates and times are according to this time zone.

Professor Information

Daniela Campos Ugaz

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: dcamposu@fiu.edu

Phone: (305) 348-2247 (Department's Main Office, M-F 9am-5pm)

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-5 PM

Office Location: SIPA 1, 314

Department or Academic Unit: Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

Nearly every society today is connected to the same global economy — yet that economy is organized and experienced very differently from one place to the next, with very different consequences for the people living within it. Why? This course begins to explore that question using the tools of comparative, historical, and global sociology. We trace how political, economic, and historical arrangements shape the terms on which different societies entered the global economy. We then look inside societies to ask how each has built its own social contract: who is included, who is protected, and who bears the risks. Finally, we turn to the transnational forces that connect societies directly, such as global production, care, climate change, and global health, and think critically about how an understanding of political economy and social contracts sheds light on the dynamics of these shared challenges.

Textbook and Course Materials

No Textbook Required

Required/Recommended: Recommended

Authors: N/A

Publisher: N/A

Publication Date: N/A

Copyright Date: N/A

ISBN 10: N/A

ISBN 13: N/A

Chapters/Pages: N/A

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for \$22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the [Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop](#).

Readings, Materials, and Open Educational Resources (OER)

There is no need to purchase books. We will read selected book chapters, scholarly articles, and newspaper pieces, as well as watch documentaries available in electronic formats. Readings will be listed by date on the syllabus and are due during the week of the corresponding module. Please visit the course's Canvas page to find links or download PDFs of the readings and all media scheduled for that week. It is important to keep up with the required readings. Occasionally, additional readings may be assigned, and some readings may be omitted for time constraints or in response to current events and class interests.

- All readings are required, except those marked as “recommended.” They are only for students who wish to learn a bit more about topics that are not covered in the required readings. Feel free to read the recommended readings if you like, but it is not necessary to read any of the recommended readings to do well in the course!
- Pay close attention to the reading guidance in brackets! If it says “excerpt,” it means that you will read an abridged version of an article or chapter, but you need to read the entire document available on Canvas. However, I may sometimes only ask you to read part of a text, and I will provide page numbers in those cases; for example, “read pp. 15-20.”
- Just because I have assigned a reading should not be taken to mean that I endorse it or that it represents my personal perspective. The idea is to engage different perspectives critically.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Global Awareness: Students will be able to identify and understand specific aspects of global inequalities and policy options regarding issues such as consumerism, labor, business corporations, nation-states, hunger, disease, environment, genocide, protest, and citizen action. - GL
- Global Engagement: Students will be able to identify how we as citizens of local, transnational, and global communities represent not only causes of, but also potential solutions for, global poverty and inequality. - GL
- Global Perspective: Students will be able to identify and understand principal perspectives concerning societies and global inequalities in comparative-historical perspective. - GL

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline; and
- **interact** promptly online with instructor and peers.

The instructor will:

- log in to the course daily;

- respond to Canvas Inbox within 48 hours; and
- grade assignments and/or provide feedback within 10 days of an assignment's deadline.

Assignments & Assessments

Case Study Discussions

There are 5 weekly Case Study Discussion assignments. Each week, students respond to a discussion prompt connected to that week's readings, lectures, and case study. Posts should accurately cite course materials and insightfully integrate these materials with the student's own analysis. Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Quizzes

Throughout the course, recorded video lectures include short embedded quizzes that check engagement with the assigned reading or video for that topic.

Global Miami Presentation

Throughout the semester, we have used the tools of comparative, historical, and global sociology to ask how societies enter the global economy, how they organize belonging and risk internally, and how transnational forces connect them to one another. This project asks you to bring that lens home. You will identify a global dynamic from Unit III (global production, care, climate, or health) and trace how that same dynamic plays out locally, in Miami. The goal is to show that you can use the frameworks, concepts, and readings from this course as tools of analysis, applied to a case you can observe directly.

Global Miami - Presentation Drafts

Two shorter presentation drafts submitted over the course of the semester, building toward your final video essay. Instructions for each draft will be provided as the semester progresses.

Global Miami - Final Presentation

The final video essay, in which you bring together the frameworks, concepts, and readings from this course to trace how a global dynamic plays out locally in Miami.

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Weight
Case Study Discussions	5	30%
Quizzes	14	14%
Global Miami - Presentation Drafts	2	26%
Global Miami - Final Presentation	1	30%
Total	22	100%

Schedule of Topics

This is an outline of the course. It is subject to change with written notice.

Unit I. Entering the World Economy

Week 1 – Comparing Societies & the Rise of Global Capitalism

Week 2 – Post-Colonialism, Development, & Neoliberalism

Unit II. The Social Contract: Who Belongs?

Week 3 – Class, Economic Inequality, & Racial Capitalism

Week 4 – Gender, Citizenship, & Migration

Unit III. A Connected World: Crisis and Responses

Week 5 – Global Production & the Care Crisis

Week 6 – Climate Change & Global Health

Week 7 – Alternative Economies & Synthesis

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via **the Canvas Inbox**. Check out the [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using the Canvas Inbox.

Policies & Resources

Before starting this course, please review the Policies & Resources Page in Canvas, which includes comprehensive information on various University and Course Level Policies, such as:

- University Policies
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Online Etiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Computer & Digital Literacy Skills
- Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies
- Academic Integrity
- Copyright Statement

- Nondiscrimination Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights** (OCR) is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the OCR team through report.fiu.edu.