



ISS1120 – The Social Environment – Summer A 2012 (Ref # 688291)

MWF 10:25am– 12:40pm in Room 3328

Syllabus

Instructor: Benjamin L. Augustyn

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Office Hours: F: 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

Course Description

The Social Environment (ISS 1120) is an interdisciplinary course that emphasizes the cultural, economic, political, and global dimensions of societies. Its main objective is to promote knowledge of contemporary and historical forces, institutions and people that shape our social environment, and to engage students in a life-long process of inquiry and enlightened decision-making.

Course Competencies Objectives

Informed by social science practice, one of the major objectives for this class is developing and applying critical thinking skills to the understanding of major themes in our society and societies around the world. Thus, by the end of the class:

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the Scientific Method, its consequences with the Social Sciences, and the impact of culture in developing the unique characteristics of human behavior and societies.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the basic economic concepts, the historical impact on economic theories, and the characteristics of different economic systems, especially the American system.
3. Student will demonstrate knowledge of fundamental political concepts, the most important types of political systems, especially the American government and its functioning, and the role of political orientations and ideologies.
4. Student will demonstrate knowledge of the global dimension of societies and their relations and interactions.

Class Policy for Lecture and Discussion

Class lectures will result from ideas and materials associated with textbook concepts, films, and additional readings. Thus, lectures are intended to improve your understanding of the readings and topics covered in the class. A great deal of classroom time will be dedicated to group discussion; consequently, students **MUST KEEP UP WITH THE WEEKLY READINGS** and actively participate in class.

- **Required Textbook:** *The Social Environment: A Primer on World Civics* (13th Edition). Germán Muñoz et al (2011).

Please note that for your convenience, there is a copy of the book located in the Reserve Section of the Library. If you are unable or unwilling to purchase the book you can read the chapters there.

Web Enhanced Class

This course is intended to be web enhanced. This means that you will need to be able to login and familiarize yourself with the college's ANGEL software. Assignments, additional readings, and a variety of resources will be available here, and all homework will need to be turned in through the system. **This is also where you will email me for this course.** Here is the login page: <https://mycourses.mdc.edu/default.asp>

Power Points, Lectures, and Class Discussions

Power Points will be used to supplement the lectures and emphasize main points in the book. Because not everything will come from the book, I highly recommend that you take notes during class discussions/lectures.

Grading Policy and Procedures

There will be 3 exams worth 10 points each. These will be composed of multiple-choice, true and false, and short essay questions, and will account for 30% of your total grade. **THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSING AN EXAMINATION!**

There will be a group project worth 20 points. The group project will involve developing a presentation of a current political or social issue for your peers that offers: 1) a fair discussion of the various viewpoints concerning the issue; 2) the proposed solutions; 3) your analysis of the proposed solutions; and 4) your own solution/assessment based on the available information. The project will require some research, but time in class will be allotted for group meetings, as well as via ANGEL. Regular progress reports will be due. The final presentations will be approximately 15 minutes long and done the last day of class. A brief report/transcript of your presentation and any visuals will be due the last day of class as well.

There will be 12 homework assignments during the semester. These are worth 4 points each, but only 40% of your total grade. (Two assignments are available for extra credit.) The take home activities are based on the reading that is due for that particular day (usually from the book or any other reading given by the professor) and are composed of essays, short answer, true and false, or multiple choice questions. Homework is due before class on Monday. Late activities will lose 1 point for every class they are late.

There will be 10 points for attendance and participation. You are allowed 1 (excused/unexcused) absence without penalty. Any additional absence will result in the loss of 2 points from the total.

The breakdown of your final grade is as follows:

Item	Points
Exam 1	10
Exam 2	10
Exam 3	10
Project	20
Home Work 10X(4pts)	40
Attendance/Participation	10
Total	100

A = 90 - 100
B = 80 - 89
C = 70 - 79
D = 60 - 69
F = 59 and below

Course/Departmental Policies

- **Semester deadlines and important dates can be found at:** www.mdc.edu/main/academics/academic_calendar.asp
- **Students with Disabilities or Special Needs:** Please let me know if you need any special accommodations.
- **Academic Honesty:** Students that are found responsible for academic misconduct, will be subject to the Academic Misconduct Procedures and Sanctions outlined in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook: www.mdc.edu/policy/student_rights_and_responsibilities.pdf
- **If You Miss a Class:** Please do not email your professor to ask if you “missed something important” the day you were absent! Surely you missed something important! Please follow your syllabus closely, [download the power points from the website], and call or ask a classmate if you need the notes for that day.
 - Please note that assignments are still due before class on Monday and subject to the late grading policy.
- **Cell Phone Policy:** ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONE USE IS ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM. ANY USE OF CELLPHONES OR TEXTING IN THE CLASS WILL RESULT IN THE AUTOMATIC LOSS OF 5 POINTS FROM THE PARTICIPATION GRADE AND MAY RESULT IN EXPULSION FROM THE CLASSROOM IF BEHAVIOR CONTINUES AFTER FAIR WARNING!!!!

Student Learning Outcomes at MDC

According to the Miami Dade College's Learning Outcomes website, "Miami Dade College Learning Outcomes are learning goals that emphasize the lifelong skills needed to be successful in work and life and to participate in our society as a global citizen." At MDC, these Learning Outcomes are developed and used across the spectrum of educational and co-curricular activities that make up the students' major courses of study (www.mdc.edu/learningoutcomes).

As graduates of Miami Dade College, students will be able to:

- **Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.**
- Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data.
- **Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning.**
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information.
- **Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives.**
- **Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities.**
- **Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society.**
- Use computer and emerging technologies effectively.
- Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities.
- Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans on the environment.

Summer C Schedule

(Tentative and subject to change)

WEEK 1

Session 1 5/7	Introduction to class ANGEL Discuss Topics for Group Projects	Due
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Session 2 5/9	Chapter 1: Core Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Lecture and Discussion	Due <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: Muñoz et al Ch. 1• <u>HW 1</u>
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Session 3 5/11	Chapter 2: The Human Struggle for Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Lecture and Discussion	Due <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: Muñoz et al Ch. 2• <u>HW 2</u>
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WEEK 2

Session 4 5/14	Chapter 3: Tribes, Empires, States, and Nations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Lecture and Discussion	Due <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: Muñoz et al Ch. 3• <u>HW 3</u>
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Session 5 5/16	Chapter 4: Conceptualizations of the Family <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Lecture and Discussion• Exam 1 review	Due <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: Muñoz et al Ch. 4• <u>HW 4</u>
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Session 6 5/18	****EXAM 1**** <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Meeting and Progress Reports	Due <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Progress Reports
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WEEK 3

Session 7 5/18	Chapter 5: The Economy Chapter 6: The American Political Economy • Class Lecture and Discussion	Due • <u>Read</u> : Muñoz et al Chs. 5, 6 • <u>HW 5-6</u>
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Session 8 5/21	Chapter 7: Systems of Governing • Class Lecture and Discussion	Due • <u>Read</u> : Muñoz et al Ch. 7 • <u>HW 7</u>
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Session 9 5/23	Chapter 8: The American Political System • Class Lecture and Discussion	Due • <u>Read</u> : Muñoz et al Ch. 8 • <u>HW 8</u>
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WEEK 4

Session 10 5/28	****Memorial Day – NO CLASS****	Due
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Session 11 5/30	Chapter 9: The American Political Process • Class Lecture and Discussion • Exam 2 Review	Due • <u>Read</u> : Muñoz et al Ch. 9 • <u>HW 9</u>
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Session 12 6/1	****EXAM 2**** • Group Meeting and Progress Reports	Due • Group Progress Reports
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WEEK 5

Session 13 6/4	Chapter 10: Global Prosperity and Poverty • Class Lecture and Discussion	Due • <u>Read</u> : Muñoz et al Ch. 10 • <u>HW 10</u>
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Session 14 6/6	Chapter 11: The Global Economy • Class Lecture and Discussion	Due • <u>Read</u> : Muñoz et al Ch. 11 • <u>HW 11</u>
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Session 15 6/8	Chapter 12: War and Peace • Class Lecture and Discussion	Due • <u>Read</u> : Muñoz et al Ch. 12 • <u>HW 12</u>
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WEEK 6

Session 16 6/11	Chapter 13: Current Affairs • Class Lecture and Discussion • Exam 3 Review	Due • <u>Read</u> : Muñoz et al Ch.13 • <u>HW 13</u>
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Session 17 6/13	****EXAM 3**** • Group Meeting and Progress	Due • Final Draft Group Project
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Session 18 6/15	****GROUP PRESENTATIONS**** • Discussion and Snacks	Due ****FINAL PROJECT****
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