

# Development and Social Change

Class Details: Online

Professor: Roslyn Schoen, PhD

Office: HH 204b

Office Hours: by appointment

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## Course Description:

Explore social processes and social problems as they are contained in the highly interdependent world system. Examine social change and development through historical, comparative, and critical perspectives. Analyze the problem of how and why societies and cultures around the world change, and evaluate whether those changes promote justice, equity, democracy, and development of human potential.

## Course objectives:

- Students will be able to apply a sociological perspective when thinking about social change and economic development.
- Students will be able to articulate various concepts and ideas related to globalization, transnational inequality, development, and social change.
- Students will develop critical thinking skills by looking at ongoing debates in development thought, including those that inform development theory and practice.
- Students will be able to place contemporary patterns of economic development in a historical context.
- By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to identify the causes and consequences of economic changes in society.

## Mode of instruction and course access:

This course is 100% online and uses the A&M-Central Texas **CANVAS** Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]. CANVAS is where you will find 100% of the information related to this course, including discussions, quizzes, and exams. Monitor CANVAS for announcements every day, not just on the days things are due/assigned, since due dates occasionally may change.

## Student-instructor interaction:

The best way to contact me is through email ([roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu](mailto:roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu)). I check email every day during the week and often on the weekends as well. I do not respond to email after 8 PM; if you email in the middle of the night, please look for my response the following day.

Please indicate which course you are in when you email me. Some of you are in multiple courses with me, so please let me know which one you are referring to in the email.

The best way to refer to your professor in email or in person is as “Professor Schoen” or “Dr. Schoen,” pronounced *SHANE*.

## Required reading materials:

McMichael, Philip and Heloise Weber. 2021. *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective*, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Other required reading materials and films listed on the syllabus will be available on Canvas or through the course E-Reserve page. E-Res Password: 4313

*Students are not obligated to purchase or rent from the university bookstore. It only matters that you have the book in the correct edition.*

## Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

**SAFEZONE.** SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
  - [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756]
  - [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp) [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

For updates on COVID information, please monitor the University [website](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/) [https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/]

### Course requirements:

Below is a description of the five main activities for this online course. They include (1) reading assignments, (2) mini essays, (3) participation on the course discussion board, (4) taking online quizzes, and (5) one final exam.

You will notice that most of your grade is based on weekly work, which means it is imperative that you keep up with readings and weekly assignments. Students who ignore the weekly assignments and attempt to “catch up” later in the semester have a very difficult time passing the course.

**1. Reading assignments and other materials:** Readings for the course are listed in the schedule below. Students should complete the weekly readings before attempting to complete any assignment, including discussion boards. Readings not in your book will be available online in the course E-Reserves folder. E-Reserve readings are marked on the course schedule as “eRes” readings and are just as important as the readings from your book.

**2. Mini essays:** Instead of a major term paper, students will compose mini essays that reflect a course topic. These essays are your chance to analyze and reflect on the readings for the week. Essays should be approximately 600-900 words and should demonstrate that you have completed the readings and have engaged in thoughtful consideration of the themes contained within. **Mini essays are due on Sundays at 11:59 PM CST.** Each essay is worth 50 points, for a total of 100 points.

Format: No title page. Name, course, and date at the top. Times New Roman, 1.5 spacing, 12-point font, with a reference list and in-text citations. Students are expected to use ASA or APA style.

Grading rubric:

Criteria	Points
Thesis statement: A clear, concise thesis statement is present and easy for the reader to identify.	6 pts
Technical: in-text citations	8 pts
Technical: reference list	8 pts
Support: The paragraphs support or explain the thesis.	13 pts

Depth:  The essay goes into sufficient depth on the topic demonstrating thoughtful consideration of the readings.	15 pts
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**3. Discussion Boards:** Students will participate on our course discussion board, with graded discussion taking place during 6 of the 8 weeks this semester. Participation on graded discussion boards is imperative and will constitute 30% of your grade, or a total of 150 points. Your primary/initial postings will address my weekly discussion question(s) and should be made by **midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Thursday**. Once several initial posts have been made, you will move on by reading and responding to at least two of your peers' primary posts. Response posts commenting and reflecting upon the comments of your peers should be made by **midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Sunday**. **Late posts will not receive credit. Please see the detailed instructions for discussion boards posted to Canvas.**

**4. Quizzes:** Students will take 5 quizzes at regular intervals throughout the course. Quizzes are each worth 30 points, or 150 points in total. Quizzes will cover the readings and other material assigned for the same week. On weeks when you have a quiz, you should first complete the readings and take notes. Prepare and manage your time wisely; you will not be able to re-take a quiz, nor can you re-open a quiz once you have started it. Quizzes will be **available from Wednesday afternoon until Sunday at 11:59 PM CST**.

**5. Final Exam:** There will be one comprehensive final exam that covers readings, discussion boards, and any other supplemental material we engaged with during the semester. The format will be a combination of multiple choice, matching, and short essay questions. **You will only be able to open and take the final exam one time.** If you have technical problems during the exam please email me immediately so I can try to resolve the problem. The comprehensive final exam is worth 100 points, which is 20% of your grade.

#### Posting of Grades:

- All student grades will be posted using the CANVAS grade book and students should monitor their grade status through this tool.
- Students should always refer to the syllabus for total points and points possible. The Canvas gradebook tool may misinform students from time to time.
- Grades will be posted within 7-10 days of due dates. Some assignments could require more time to read through and give individualized feedback. For such assessments, you may need to be patient.