Class details

SFIII-UF9103001 Social Foundations III
Fall 2016
Wednesdays 6:15pm–9:15pm
B103

Instructor Details

Prerequisites

Social Foundations I and Social Foundations II

Class Description

In this course, we will examine the many “-isms” that have emerged over the past three hundred years that have shaped and continue to define our world today: nationalism, liberalism, capitalism, communism, fascism, imperialism, racism, feminism, and others. Our goal is to understand the central tenets of these many ideologies, and above all to understand the factors that led to their emergence when and where they did. As a result, the course follows a largely chronological arc, as we attempt to explore ideological origins and how and why they spread (or in some cases, failed to do so). We will begin with unprecedented rise of Europe (and later the United States), as it extended control and dominion over much of the world. As we move into the twentieth century, we will examine how and why this system began to face a series of internal and external challenges.

Throughout the course, we will use Washington, DC as a point of reference – considering its history not only as the nation’s capital but as a significant city in its own right, a place from which many social transformations were conceived and implemented.
Desired Outcomes

In this course, students can hope to:

- Gain an understanding for many of the key social transformations that have occurred over the past three centuries
- Consider this time period from the multiple and competing perspectives of major ideological viewpoints of the era
- Develop skills engaging in extensive source-based discussion at a high level
- Plan, carry out, and present a significant research-based essay
- Provide and receive extensive peer feedback on written work

Assessment Components

1) Participation: 15%
2) Discussion Posts: 5% (credit/no credit)
3) Paper Proposal and Discussion: 5% (credit/no credit)
4) Paper Draft and Discussion: 5% (credit/no credit)
5) Final Paper: 25%
6) Midterm Essay #1: 15%
7) Midterm Essay #2: 15%
8) Final Oral Exam: 15%

Participation:

Each session is fundamentally based on discussion, so your participation is crucial both to your success and to the success of the class as a whole.

Grading is based on your level of engagement with the material and with the class. On the former point, this means coming prepared, not only having done the reading but having put thought into key points and themes you hope to discuss or questions you’d like to raise. You are encouraged to think about this text on its own, but also to consider how it relates to other texts you have encountered in the social and cultural foundations courses. On the latter point, you must take an active role in discussion. This requires engaging with relevant points, but also listening attentively to other students and ensuring that all have an opportunity to engage. While active participation is required, the quality of your comments matter more than the quantity. In general, discussion works best when everyone is invested in its outcome.

Students will be given a participation grade status report at the midpoint of the semester. If you are concerned about your participation grade or ability to participate effectively, it is your responsibility to meet with the professor to discuss.
Discussion Posts:

Discussion posts are due on the class website Tuesday before each class. These posts are intended to be reading responses on an aspect of the text(s) that you would like to discuss the following day. While these can include questions you want to address, they should be at least a paragraph in length and demonstrate critical thinking about the text. These will be evaluated on a credit/no credit basis. You are expected to read your fellow students’ responses and be prepared to discuss in class.

Late submissions will not be accepted. You may skip up to two responses, but each missed submission after that corresponds to a point off the final grade (i.e., missing three is a point off, four is two points, etc.).

Midterm Papers:

There will be two midterm essays in this class, due during weeks five and eleven, respectively. Each essay will be a brief 3-4 page response to a common question. No outside research for this paper will be required; instead students will be asked to use the materials covered in the course so far to write a thoughtful and cohesive essay. Both midterm essays will address the upcoming U.S. elections and ask students to consider the elections from the perspectives of assigned texts.

Research Paper:

The major assignment spanning the length of the semester is the research paper. This is based on several criteria all of which are graded individually as outlined below. The assignment is broadly construed to allow you to focus on a key aspect of this course and time period of interest to you. Students may engage in one or several disciplines to write a research-based essay of 10-12 pages.

Proposal and Discussion:

Early in the semester, we will begin holding workshops in which students will present and solicit feedback from their classmates on their proposed subject. The purpose of these discussions is to foster a collaborative writing environment and to provide the writer with constructive ideas on possible questions to explore or research to pursue.

Draft/Annotated Outline and Discussion:

Approximately two-thirds of the way into the semester, we will host a second round of workshops in which students circulate their current project status. The more complete the draft, the more productive the discussion, though an annotated outline is also acceptable provided the thesis and points show clear development.

Final Essay:
The final essay will be submitted the last day of class. Grading expectations are provided below, and additional details on formatting and style guides will be provided.

**Final Oral Exam:**

For the final exam, the students will give a 10-minute formal presentation with an additional 10 minutes of questions from the audience and the instructor. This presentation will require students to relate their final essay to major themes of the course, incorporating material from both the first and second half of the semester. The purpose is to show that students not only understand and can synthesize materials and ideas from the entire semester, but that they can contextualize their own research within these larger concepts. Students will be expected to present their central arguments and evidence, and to defend their position from potential critiques. All presentations must include some audio/visual component. Students are expected to engage the presenter with thoughtful and respectful questions. Grading will be based on the structure of the presentation and the author’s ability to convey their research in a clear and concise manner.

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Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

**Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade C:** The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

**Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

**Grade F:** The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

**Attendance Policy**

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant
To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect students' semester grades. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure. At all Global Academic Centers, unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.

To seek an excused absence for medical reasons, students must use the online absence reporting form within 24 hours of their first missed class. Students may be required to produce a doctor’s note with that day’s date, especially if the student has missed any classes already that semester or if exams/presentations/papers occurred in the missed class.

Non-medical absences must be discussed with the Academic Program Coordinator at least 7 days before the missed date(s) in question. If faculty members do not receive notification of an excused absence, the student has not procured an excused absence.

NYU Washington, DC expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks), to be attentive, and to remain for the duration of the class. If full class attendance and participation becomes a problem, it is the prerogative of each instructor to apply the rule for unexcused absences, which may include a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.

Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. This means they should initiate email and/or office hour discussions to discuss any missed lectures and assignments and arrange a timeline for submitting missed work.

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave Washington, DC before the end of the finals week.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion. Staff members may always be reached by cell phone for advice regarding public transportation.

### Late Submission of Work

1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

2) Late work should be emailed to the faculty as soon as it is completed. (If the assignment must be submitted in person, the Academic Program Coordinator can collect on behalf of the faculty between the hours of 9–5, M–F.)

3) Late work will be reduced for a fraction of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) for every day it is late, including weekends.
4) Written work during the semester that is submitted 5 days after the submission date (including weekends) without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

5) Students who arrive to class late for an exam do not have automatic approval to take extra time to complete the exam.

6) Students who miss an exam (including the final) without previously arranged permission will receive a zero on that exam.

7) Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.

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<th>Students with Disabilities</th>
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<td>Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.</td>
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<th>Plagiarism Policy</th>
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<td>As the University's policy on &quot;Academic Integrity for Students at NYU&quot; states: &quot;At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others.&quot; Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.</td>
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The presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

NYU Washington, DC takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor. Your instructor may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:
Religious Observances

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.

Students must notify their professor and the Washington, DC Academics team in writing via email at least 7 days before being absent for this purpose.

Required Text(s)

- All other course readings will be made available online

**Session 1 – Wednesday, August 31, 2016**

*Introductions; Urban Space as Social Foundation*

**Session 2 – Wednesday, September 07, 2016**

*Nationalism*

Read: Benedict Anderson, “Imagined Communities”

**Session 3 – Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

*Enlightenment & Liberalism*

Read: Rousseau, “The Social Contract” (online)
John Stuart Mill, “On Liberty” (online)

**Paper Proposals – Group 1**

*Submit by Monday at 7pm*
### Session 4 – Wednesday, September 21, 2016

**Capitalism & Imperialism**
- Read: Adam Smith, “An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations” (online)
- John Stuart Mill, “A Few Words on Intervention” (online)

**Paper Proposals – Group 2**

*Submit by Monday at 7pm*

### Session 5 – Wednesday, September 28, 2016

**Militarism**
- Read: Clausewitz, On War (online)
- Alfred von Schlieffen, Aufmarsch I (online)

*Midterm due in class*

### Session 6 – Wednesday, October 05, 2016

**Time, Space, & Modernism**
- Read: Nietzsche, “The Madman” (online)
- Eksteins, “Rites of Spring” (online)

### Session 7 – Wednesday, October 12, 2016

**Communist Challenge**
- Read: Marx & Engels, “The Communist Manifesto” (online)
- Lenin - assorted readings (online)
- Stalin, “Socialism in One Country” (online)

### Session 8 – Wednesday, October 19, 2016

**Fascism & Right-Wing Populism**
- Read: Collection of speeches and writings by Mussolini and Hitler (online)
- Moeller van den Bruck, “Germany’s Third Empire” (online)

### Session 9 – Wednesday, October 26, 2016

**Genocide & International Law**
- Read: Hannah Arendt, “Eichmann in Jerusalem”

### Session 10 – Wednesday, November 02, 2016
Civil Rights Movement
Read: Collection of speeches and writings from Martin Luther King, Jr. and others (online)

Paper Outlines – Group 1
Submit by Monday at 7pm

Session 11 – Wednesday, November 09, 2016

Women’s Movements and Feminism; Election Discussion
Read: Simone de Beauvoir, “The Second Sex” (online)

Paper Outlines – Group 2
Submit by Monday at 7pm

Session 12 – Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Decolonization; Midterm Discussion
Read: Collection of speeches and writings by Gandhi, Mao Zedong, and Frantz Fanon (online)
Midterm due in class

* We do not meet on November 23 because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Session 13 – Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Globalization
Read: Fukuyama, “The End of History and the Last Man” (online)
Friedman, “Lexus & the Olive Tree” (online)
Hungington, “Clash of Civilizations” (online)
Kincaid, “A Small Place” (online)

Session 14 – Wednesday, December 07, 2016

Alternatives to Nationalism: Multinational, & Transnational Identity
Read: Collection of texts on Brexit, terrorism, and other issues (online)

Final exam essays due Friday, December 9 at 7pm

Session 15 (Finals Week) – Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Final Exam Presentations (see description under Assessment Components)

Classroom Etiquette
Given the large number of readings available online, computers will be allowed in class provided they are used exclusively for course use (note taking, consulting passages in texts). If student(s) are found to be using their laptops for non-class use, either that individual or the entire class may be prevented from further laptop use. Cell phones are not permitted for use for any reason.

Because this is an evening course, food will be allowed in class provided it does not prove to be a distraction.

The professor may change any of these policies at his discretion during the semester.