Sociology thru Film
SYG 4003.
http://www.fiu.edu/~tardanic/

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COURSE OBJECTIVES
To use films as well as complementary readings to understand the characteristics, roots, and consequences of global inequality and poverty, past and present.

Students will use films and readings to:
- Identify key contemporary problems of global inequality and poverty: economic, social/cultural, political, and environmental
- Understand perspectives concerning the historical origins of the problems and how the problems have manifested themselves in particular times and places
- Conceptualize ways of taking action to address the various problems

TEXTBOOK
When Corporations Rule the World
David Korten.

GRADING
Note: All required assignments must be completed to be eligible to earn a passing grade.

- Final grade: percentage of 100 possible semester points earned

The graded assignments will be as follows:
- Two multiple-choice exams (20 questions each; worth up to 20 points each, for a possible semester total of 40 points).
- Weekly one-page typed (12-point Times Roman or Courier), double-spaced essays (each of which will be graded pass/fail, the letter-grade being based on the number of the essays completed (3 points each; worth a possible semester total of 30 points).
- One five-page typed, double-spaced final paper comparing two or more films in view of the course’s readings and other material (worth a possible total of 30 points). See Final Paper Guidelines for format details.

Final grades will be computed by percentage of 100 possible semester points earned: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; less than 60=F.
• **Two multiple-choice exams**

The two multiple-choice exams will have 20 questions each and are worth up to 20 points each, for a possible semester total of 40 points. Each exam will be based solely on the assigned readings from Korten, *When Corporations Rule the World*, and specifically on the *Study Questions* that are posted on the class website.

• **Weekly one-page pass/fail essays**

Each student’s semester grade for the weekly pass/fail essays (typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times Roman or Courier) will be based on the number of the essays completed and passed. Each completed and passed essay will be worth 3 points (for a possible semester total of 30 points).

To be evaluated as “Pass,” each essay must conform to these standards:
- Relevance to assigned material: the posted ideas indicate that the student has read and understood the assigned material.
- Clarity, coherence: the ideas are stated clearly and coherently.
- Critical thinking: there is evidence that the student has adequately analyzed, synthesized, and evaluated the assigned material.
- Spelling, grammar: the posting must meet university-level standards of spelling and grammar.
- Length: each essay must be no less than 25 sentences.

• **Final essay**

- The final essay will be five pages, double-spaced typed, comparing two or more films in view of the course’s readings and other materials (worth a possible total of 30 points). See *Final Paper Guidelines* for format details.

**Course Agenda**

**Week 1**
- Overview

**Week 2**
- Reading: Korten, chapters 1, 2, and 3
- Films: (1) “The Bomb under the World”; (2) “Affluenza”
- No weekly essay assignment
Week 3
- Reading: Korten, chapters 4 and 5
- Films: (1) “Life with Debt”; (2) “Children without Childhood: Angels of the Night”
- Assigned: Weekly essay #1 (due next week)

Week 4
- Reading: Korten, chapters 6 and 7
- Films: (1) “The Global Assembly Line”; (2) “Roger & Me”
- Assigned: Weekly essay #2

Week 5
- Reading: Korten, chapter 8
- Film: “El Norte”
- Assigned: Weekly essay #3

Week 6
- Reading: Korten, chapters 9 and 10
- Film: “Angela’s Ashes”
- Assigned: Weekly essay #4

Week 7
- Reading: Korten, chapters 11 and 12
- Film: “The Wind that Shook the Barley”
- Assigned: Weekly essay #5

Week 8 – Exam #1
- Exam #1
- Film: “Earth”
- Assigned: Weekly essay #6
**Week 9**
- Reading: Korten, chapters 13-14
- Film: “No Man’s Land”
- Assigned: Weekly essay #7

**Week 10**
- Reading: Korten, chapter 15
- Film: “Hotel Rwanda”
- Assigned: Weekly essay #8

**Week 11**
- Reading: Korten, chapter 16
- Film: “Rabbit-Proof Fence”
- Assigned: Weekly essay #9

**Week 12**
- Reading: Korten, chapter 16
- Film: “City of God”
- No weekly essay assignment

**Week 13**
- Reading: Korten, chapter 17
- Film: “Do the Right Thing”
- Assigned: Weekly essay #10

**Week 14: Thanksgiving Break – No Class**
Week 15

- Reading: Korten, chapters 20-23
- Film: “American History X”
- No weekly essay assignment

Final Exam Week – Exam #2 & Final Paper

- Exam #2
- Final paper due