

**SOCIOLOGY 383
SOCIAL CHANGE
Fall Term, 2009**

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Prerequisites: No / General Education: No

Course Description

Efforts to organize development and corporatism, viewed as local, national, and global phenomena, create instability and conflict that reflect competing ideological frameworks and drive significant social change during current generations. While social change has historic, current, and future orientations that impact the paths change may take, social change is now a particularly exciting field as it is more clearly mandated by current economic, environmental, social, and political conditions. We will examine the global context and current directions, patterns of both local social change and leadership and practical paths toward social change. Patterns and alternatives follow promising movements to address major US and worldwide social, and interrelated, problems that drive social change such as poverty; lack of education; inequalities of ethnicity and gender, water and food scarcities, population and environmental degradation; and conflict and war.

Course Requirements

Coursework includes lecture and presentations and required exercises such as descriptive and analytic writing assignments, larger and smaller group discussions, class exercises and reports, and responses to video/film presentations. Attendance is required; active and lively participation is encouraged. Take-home midterm and final examinations; and an individually-accomplished, or (as appropriate) group, class project are required.

Requirements, content, and proposed texts, following, are all subject to change; see instructor. Books at North Light Books; Reader from Copy, Mail and More, both in Cotati.

Philip McMichael (2004). *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective* (3rd ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press

Peter Robert Sawyer (2005). *Socialization to Civil Society: A Life History Study of Community Leaders*. Albany: State University of New York Press.

Mike Prokosch and Laura Raymond (eds. 2002). *The Global Activist's Handbook: Local Ways to Change the World*. NY: Thunder's Mouth Press/Nation Books.

Muhammad Yunus (with Alan Jolis, 1999, 2003). *Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty*. New York, Public Affairs Press