

University of Denver
University College

GS3200 Values Around the World

Instructor Information:

Deborah (“Debe”) Wise, debwise@du.edu

(720) 394-4043 (please see my office hour information for availability)

Course Description:

How people think about what is most valuable and important in their lives varies by nationality, culture, and region. Values also vary by educational level and social standing within a country or region, and some values cut across whole countries and regions. How will the distribution of these values look in the future? Is the trend toward a homogenization (some say Americanization) of values into one strong global culture, or will there be a reaction against global culture and a trend toward emphasizing local and national cultural values? A major project in this course is to formulate hypotheses about global culture and to test them using the IDEA research from the World Value Study. Using the IDEA data drawn from random samples of people from more than 80 countries. Students will examine attitudes and values toward work, family, gender, minorities, technology, and modernization to test their hypotheses.

To help us understand the concept of Secularization Theory, we will use articles, video, and other activities to gain a better understanding of the theory and to be able to form an informed opinion on the topic.

Course Objectives

- To understand key issues in the secularization hypothesis and debate.
- To grasp the implications of fertility rates.
- To comprehend and evaluate the theory of religious markets.
- To make the connection between the implications and relationships between secularization and existential security.
- To understand the consequences of secularization.
- To be able to employ theories developed in your text to case studies around the world today.

Course Requirements

- Each student should read the entire required text.
- Each student should respond to weekly postings, not only initiated by the instructor, but also by fellow students.
- Students should stay within weekly units.
- Active participation should account for about 2-3 hours per week on line, having already read the required material. I’ll check in to see if the course is moving at an appropriate pace.

- One film analysis will be assigned, or you may select one on your own, and a two page analysis of each should be emailed to your instructor.
- Each student must write a 10 page research paper, APA style, based on one or more key concepts from your text. Your paper should have a problem statement and thesis; a literature review with 6-8 sources; a discussion/analysis and a conclusion.

Required text: *Sacred and secular: Religion and politics worldwide* by Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris. 2004. Cambridge University Press.

Course Schedule

****Additional activities may be assigned as the instructor's discretion. This syllabus is subject to change ****

Week One

Reading: Chapter 1; other reading, media, and activities as assigned in the course management system.

Week Two

Reading: Chapter 2; other reading, media, and activities as assigned in the course management system.

Week Three

Reading: Chapter 3; other reading, media, and activated as assigned in the course management system.

Week Four

Reading: Chapters 4 & 5
Assignment: Film Analysis

Week Five – Administrative Week

No postings. Work on finding your research paper topic, begin research and writing.

Week Six

Reading: Chapters 6 & 7; other reading, media, and activities as assigned in the course management system.

Week Seven

Reading: Chapters 8 & 9
Assignment: Research Paper Outline; other reading, media, and activities as assigned in the course management system.

Week Eight – Administrative Week

No postings. Work on your research papers!

Week Nine

Reading: Chapter 10; other reading, media, and activities as assigned in the course management system.

Week Ten

No readings.

Assignment: Research papers. Papers due no later than 5pm Friday.

Grading Criteria

Grading: The following simple formula will be applied to come up with your final grade. Please feel free to talk with me at any time about how you are doing.

Informed class participation (in postings):	120 points per week (8 @ 15)
Research Paper Outline	50 points
Research paper:	100 points
Film/article analysis:	30 points
Assigned activities based on additional readings and media:	300 points (6 @ 50)
Total:	600 points

Grading Scale for Computing Final Grades (percentages)

A	94 – 100
A-	90 – 93
B+	87 – 89
B	84 – 86
B-	80 – 83
C+	77 – 79
C	74 – 76
C-	70 – 73
D+	67 – 69
D	64 – 66
D-	60 – 63
F	59 and below

Course Evaluations

University College utilizes online course and faculty evaluations. We hope that the electronic format will be convenient, as well as allow time for more thoughtful responses.

You will receive an email in your DU email account approximately a week before the end of the course with a link to the course evaluation. This allows you to complete the evaluation without having

to login to the course shell on eCollege. The online course evaluation will be available for approximately two weeks. The faculty/course evaluation is anonymous and will close prior to grades posting for the quarter. As was the case with paper evaluations, faculty will not receive evaluation data until after grades have been submitted.

Please take the time to complete the course and faculty evaluations thoughtfully. The student responses from each evaluated course provide essential feedback concerning instructors and courses and assist in determining improvements for subsequent quarters. We appreciate your assistance in helping us maintain the quality of our academic programs.

Academic Integrity Statement

University College enforces the University of Denver's Honor Code and the procedures put forth by the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards. Academic dishonesty (including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, and falsification of data and research) is in violation of the Code and can result in a failing grade and/or expulsion from the University.

The University of Denver defines plagiarism as the presentation of another person's idea or product as the student's own. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following:

- Copying word-for-word all or part of another's written work
- Using phrases, charts, figures, illustrations, graphics, codes, music, mathematical and scientific solutions without citing the source
- Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions or research without citing the source
- Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, film, musical score, internet website or other artistic product without attributing the work to its creator

As student members of a community committed to academic integrity and honesty, it is your responsibility to become familiar with the DU Honor Code and its procedures. Please visit www.du.edu/honorcode or refer to the University College Student Handbook for more information.