Global Contemporary Social Issues – Cambodia

Study of major social issues facing human groups in modern society such as deviance, inequality, war and population. Emphasis placed on global social issues that arise as a result of institutional fluctuations in economy, family, government and war, religion and environment. Major trends specific to Southeast Asia and Cambodia are examined in relationship to contemporary socio-historical-cultural developments.

Reflective Response: You will be answering weekly reflective questions designed to help you guide your reading make the connections to your writing. You may answer some or all of the questions and I encourage you to write about other points and ideas as you develop a sociological perspective and imagination in your reflective analyses.

Extra Credit Opportunities:
Visit The National Cambodian Heritage Museum & Killing Fields Memorial, located at 2831 West Lawrence Avenue, Chicago. (https://www.cambodianmuseum.org/)
   For up to 50 points extra credit, write a brief essay (3-5 pages, with a selfie) about the following:
   1. Describe how you felt going through the Cambodian Museum from start to finish. What did you feel in the opening section? The final section?
   2. Analyze your experience based on four of the issues listed in the syllabus.
   3. Discuss the similarities and differences you see between the social issues that shaped the country between 1975 and 1979 and the social issues that shape Cambodia today.

Film Analysis
   For up to 20 points, write a 4-5 page analysis of any of the films we view in class or a film you find of interest in the Documentation Center of Cambodia. (www.dccam.org).
   1. Analyze the film in terms of concepts and issues presented in the assigned readings. Use two specific course readings to empirically contextualize the film and use one of the perspectives we discussed during the first two weeks of the course.
# Schedule of Topics and Readings

## Weeks 1 & 2

**Sociological Approaches to Social Issues**

C. Wright Mills Sociological Imagination

Guiding Questions:
- What is the difference between Functional and Social Conflict theories when thinking about social issues?
- What is the cause of social issues? Is it the individual who is said to be responsible for social issues, or is societal change to blame?

## Week 3

**Cambodia – Geography and History**


## Weeks 4 & 5

**Cambodia Socio-Culture Since 1975**


Weeks 6 & 7

Government and Economy

- Current government elections, protesting and resistance
- Women in nation building
- Economic situation in Phnom Penh, garment factories


Weeks 8 & 9

Education

Current Status – Issues created
Importance of educating women
Recreating Khmer intelligentsia

Week 10

Family and Gender

Current Status – Issues
Week 11

Religion

Current Status – Issues
Buddhism and purpose


Week 12

Life in Phnom Penh / Life in the Countryside

Current Status – Issues
The White Building


Week 13

**Angkor Wat and UNESCO Sites**

Current Status – Issues
How past aligns itself with tourism and preservation

Week 14

**Health and Demographics**

Current Status – Health Policy
Week 15

Environment

Current Status
Population
Land Mines


Week 16

Movements and Future of Cambodia

Current Status – Issues
Textbook & Readings


