

Parkland College

SPARK: Scholarship at Parkland

Global Studies Initiatives in Social Sciences
2020 - 2021

Global Studies Initiatives in the Social Sciences

Spring 2021

Global Studies Initiative Faculty Report: Interdisciplinary Collaborations

Dorie Geissler

Follow this and additional works at: https://spark.parkland.edu/global_studies_2021



Part of the [Family, Life Course, and Society Commons](#), and the [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#)

Open access to this Project Report is brought to you by Parkland College's institutional repository, [SPARK: Scholarship at Parkland](#). For more information, please contact spark@parkland.edu.



Aims of Global Studies Initiative: Parkland’s Global Studies Initiative promotes the addition to Parkland’s courses of instructional materials on global issues with a focus on the European Union, Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia, and East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. Further, it aims to provide faculty with instructional design tools and aid them with the implementation of new course materials in the classroom.

Global Studies Initiative Faculty Report: Interdisciplinary Collaborations

Faculty Name: [Dorie Geissler](#)

Courses Taught (course name(s), section number): [SOC 101 – Introduction to Sociology](#), [SOC 200 – Sociology of Marriage & the Family](#), [SOC 240 – Gender & Society](#)

Please answer the following questions to complete this report:

1. Please describe an assignment or class material covered in your course that teaches students about global issues or, better yet, teaches them about the areas of the world covered in this initiative: the European Union, Eastern Europe, Russia, Eurasia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. You can attach the assignment rubric, instructions, and/or syllabus or course schedule to this report if you wish. If you have no current materials or assignments dealing with global issues, describe an idea you have for a new assignment or course material you wish to adopt.

[I have participated in the Global Studies Initiative in the past and the assignment I created is one that students really enjoy. For this year, I have created an in-class discussion for SOC 101. This discussion asks students to reflect on whether they have collectivist or individualist values and where they might have learned them. We will use this discussion to apply the concept of socialization and examine how culture effects socialization/parenting style, and in turn, our sense of self, values, and behaviors. In order to incorporate global issues, students will be asked to read a short article describing how the cultural values of collectivist societies \(such as South Korea and Chile\) and individualist societies \(such as the United States and the Netherlands\) differ. Students will be asked to reflect on how their values do or do not align with their culture, how they might have learned these through socialization, and compare their experience with students from other cultures. See attached assignment for more details.](#)

2. Parkland College faculty have developed six general learning outcomes to help students acquire essential skills, knowledge, and values that will serve them in their future careers. The Global Awareness and Ethical Reasoning outcome states that *students will demonstrate an understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, multicultural perspectives, and/or the role of ethical core values in making personal, social, academic, and professional decisions.*

Please reflect on how the assignment or materials you described in the previous question contributes to this learning outcome or could be modified to better fit this outcome.

As stated above, this discussion asks students to reflect on how their values (collectivist or individualist) do or do not reflect their culture and to compare their experience with students from other cultures. As such, this discussion helps students gain awareness of how culture shapes one's values and behaviors and how these vary across cultures. This is of particular value as students pursue employment. Collectivist vs individualist cultural values have been shown to impact managerial style and expectations, employee behavior and expectations, and overall communication between managers, employees, and co-workers. Having an awareness of these differences can ultimately help students navigate and succeed in the global marketplace.

3. How do you think learning about global issues and other areas of the world benefits your students in your field of study or discipline?

I think learning about global issues and other areas of the world benefits sociology students because it helps to make their own perspective on the world more visible. In sociology, we teach that your way of interpreting and interacting with the world (the sociological perspective) is dependent on your life story or biography. However, because we largely internalize our biographies, it is difficult for students to see their perspective as something other than "natural" or "normal". Looking at a global/cultural differences in sociological phenomenon (e.g. the family, socialization, and parenting) helps students to see that their perspective/experience is not universal but largely dependent on social forces.

4. Do you believe your course could benefit from more interdisciplinary collaborations on global issues participating, for instance, in some of the collaborative teaching initiatives presented by your group in your joint report? Explain your answer.

Yes, I think all of my courses can benefit from interdisciplinary collaborations on global issues. I really enjoyed this session and loved hearing the input from my colleagues on my assignment ideas. They also pointed me to some resources I wasn't aware of that I will be incorporating into my classes. Sociology intersects with many disciplines such as psychology, economics, and political science. In collaboration with my group I was able to fill in some gaps in my ideas and formulate a more well-rounded interdisciplinary assignment.

Thank you very much for participating in the Global Studies Initiative and completing this report!