

Sociology 98K—Junior Tutorial
Fall Term 2012, W 1-3
Instructor: Tamara Kay

Big Bird Goes to China: Organizations, Culture, and Globalization

This course examines how different kinds of organizations and institutions (corporations and firms, NGOs and non-profits, media organizations, economic development organizations, multilateral governance institutions) work internationally and develop relationships with international partners and counterparts. We will focus on the relationships among organizations in developed and developing countries (their collaborations and conflicts), with particular attention to how they respond and adapt to cultural differences in a globalizing world. The class will visit various Boston organizations (such as Oxfam) to interview leaders and staff about their transnational work. A special trip to New York City to visit the Sesame Workshop will also be arranged.

During the semester students will write 1-2 page response papers each week that analyze the readings and offer questions for discussion. For their final project, students will write a research proposal for a project that explores some aspect of how organizations develop international relationships or work internationally. The proposal will include: a research question, justification for the research design, a plan for data collection, literature review, and expected findings.

During the semester we will have workshops on the process of conducting primary research, and on each student's research proposal.

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