

# GLOBALIZATION

Instructor: Bridget Martin  
Time & Location: TBD  
Course level: Lower division

## Course Description

The world is more interconnected than ever, yet “globalization” has been pronounced dead many times over. What is globalization, and where is it? This course explores globalization both as a political discourse that emerged in a particular historical conjuncture, and as a term that describes the ways in which different parts of the world are connected with each other. It also explores recent shifts in the political valences of globalization discourse, with reference to resurgent populism, nationalism, and bordering around the world. Beginning with the argument that the world has always been interconnected, the course provides a framework for students to historicize and analyze inequalities and uneven geographies of the world today.

Part I introduces the core problems of inequality and global poverty. Does more global interconnectedness lead to more or less inequality? It examines different assumptions embedded in globalization and anti-globalization as political discourses, and begins to outline the historical roots of global inequality and poverty.

Part II provides a broad overview of historical capitalism and the making of the interconnected world from the pre-industrial era into the Cold War era. It focuses especially on shifting forms of dispossession and the continued reconfiguration of relations of production, exchange, and consumption around the world. It also explores the global reverberations of rebellions, revolutions, and political and spatial ideas from the seventeenth century onward.

Part III focuses on the post-Cold War era, when “globalization” became a popular term. Focusing on the themes of commodities, labor, global governance, health, environment, culture, and protest, it examines different ways in which the world is interconnected. In this part, the course will pay special attention to the problem of scale and various attempts to regulate global processes that have profoundly variegated local expressions.

Please note: “Skim” does not mean “skip”! For texts marked with an instruction to “skim” it is recommended to spend approximately thirty minutes or so with the material, attempt to discern its main ideas, and then move on. One of the skills students will learn in this course is how to manage a workflow that includes a volume of reading slightly above comfort level.

## Learning Objectives

Students in this course will be able to 1) Identify the historical conjunctures that led to the rise of “globalization” discourse and its reversal from a “left” issue to a “right” issue; 2) Explain competing definitions and political usages of “globalization” and related terms; 3) Identify and explain major shifts in modalities of global interconnectedness from the pre-industrial world into

the present moment; and 4) Appraise arguments for and against global standards regarding commodities, labor, law health, environment, etc.

## **Assessment**

**20% Class participation and attendance.** In almost all cases, more than two absences will result in a loss of points regardless of reason. In case of extenuating circumstances such as a family or medical emergency, please communicate with the instructor as far in advance as possible in order to work out alternative arrangements to keep up with the course. Students are expected to verbally participate in class or to consult the instructor in office hours on a regular basis in order to earn participation points. Alternative arrangements can be made for students with documented disabilities that would prevent active verbal participation.

### **30% Writing assignments.**

- 1) **Living key words glossary (20%).** This is a semester-long assignment with portions due at the ends of Part I, Part II, and Part III. Students will develop working definitions of key words (listed in the syllabus) and trace their evolution through different readings and different historical moments. (100 – 300 words per definition)
- 2) **Short essays (10%)** Choose any two key words in the syllabus. Define each key word; demonstrate where and how it appears in at least three readings (either implicitly or explicitly); and articulate and support an argument about how the word or the phenomenon it describes has evolved in different contexts. Example: “Rebellion” could be traced through different historical moments. (1,600 to 2,000 words total for two entries, not including citations)

**25% Mid-term exam.** This is a short-answer exam.

**25% Final exam.** This is a short-answer exam, cumulative and with emphasis on the final part of the course.

## **Academic Integrity**

Any written work you submit for this course is presumed to be your own original work. It should not be the work of others nor should it be work submitted, in whole or in part, for another course. You must properly cite your written work, including both direct quotations and ideas and arguments taken from other sources. Academic misconduct will result on a failing grade on the assignment and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs. Review university policy first and then consult with the instructor if you have any questions regarding what constitutes academic misconduct.

## **Disability Services**

Students with concerns or questions related to accessibility should consult with both the Center for Disability Services (CDS) and the instructor. The instructor will make reasonable accommodations in coordination with both the student and with the CDS office.

## **Course Outline**

### **PART I: GLOBAL INEQUALITIES**

Key words: globalization, development, colonialism, imperialism, poverty, GDP

#### **Week One: What is Globalization? Where is Globalization?**

Sparke, Matthew (2013) “Globalization” in *Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions, and Uneven Integration*, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell (26 pages)

Horner, Roy *et al.* (2018) “How Anti-globalisation Switched from a Left to a Right-wing Issue—and Where it Will Go Next”, *The Conversation*, January 25. (3 pages)

Tooze, Adam (2020) “The Death of Globalisation has been Announced Many Times. But this is a Perfect Storm”, *The Guardian*, June 2. (3 pages)

Skim: Friedman, Thomas (2007) “One: While I Was Sleeping” in *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*, New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux. (47 pages)

#### **Week Two: Global Poverty**

Hickel, Jason (2017) “Chapter 1: The Development Delusion”, “Chapter 2: The End of Poverty Has Been Postponed”, and “Chapter 3: Where Did Poverty Come From? A Creation Story” in *The Divide: Global Inequality from Conquest to Free Markets*, New York: WW Norton and Company. (98 pages)

### **PART II: MAKING THE GLOBALIZED WORLD**

Key words: rebellion, revolution, dispossession, labor, industrialization, liberalism, communism, development, segregation, racial capitalism

### **Week Three: The Atlantic World**

Linebaugh, Peter and Rediker, Markus (2000) “Chapter 5: Hydrarchy: Sailors, Pirates and the Maritime State” in *The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic*, Boston: Beacon Press. (30 pages)

Davis, David Brion (2001) “Impact of the French and Haitian Revolution” in Geggus, David P. (ed.) *The Impact of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World*, Columbia: University of South Carolina Press. (7 pages)

### **Week Four: Industrialization and the Worker**

Wolf, Eric (1982) “Chapter 12: The New Laborers” in *Europe and the People without a History*, Berkeley: University of California Press. (29 pages)

Marx, Karl and Engels, Frederick (1998 [1848]) *The Communist Manifesto: A Modern Edition*. London: Verso Books. (27 pages)

### **Week Five: Liberalism, Reformism, and the Disorders of Capitalism**

Nightingale, Carl H. (2012) “Segregation Mania” in *Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (32 pages)

Bayly, C.A. (2004) *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780-1914: Global Connections and Comparisons*. Oxford: Blackwell. (selections: pp. 228-233, 284-306) (26 pages)

### **Week Six: Global Communism through the Graphic Novel**

*Please choose one of the following:*

Talbot, Mary and Talbot, Bryan (2016) *The Red Virgin and the Vision of Utopia*, Milwaukie, Oregon: Dark Horse Books. (graphic novel)

Evans, Kate (2015) *Red Rosa: A Graphic Biography of Rosa Luxemburg*, London: Verso Books. (graphic novel)

### **Week Seven: Development and the Third World**

Hickel, Jason (2017) “Chapter 4: From Colonialism to the Coup” in *The Divide: Global Inequality from Conquest to Free Markets*, New York: WW Norton and Company. (35 pages)

Prashad, Vijay (2007) “Bandung: The Afro-Asian Conference” and “Cairo: the 1961 Afro-Asian Women’s Conference” in *A People’s History of the Third World*. New York: New Press. (30 pages)

Fanon, Frantz (1963) “Conclusion” in *Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press. (5 pages)

### **PART III: GLOBALIZATION IN THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD**

Key words: post-Cold War, commodity chain, transnational corporation, outsourcing, logistics

#### **Week Eight: The End of History?**

Clark, Ian (2001) “Orders Old and New” in *The Post-Cold War Order: The Spoils of Peace*, Oxford: Oxford University Press. (28 pages)

Glaser, Eliane (2014) “Bring Back Ideology: Fukuyama’s ‘End of History’ 25 Years On”, *The Guardian*, March 21. (4 pages)

Watch: “Raising Borders: A New Age of Walls” (Episodes 1 – 3), *Washington Post*, October 12, 2016. (documentary, 10 minutes)

#### **Week Nine: Global Commodities**

Sparke, Matthew (2013) “Chapter 3: Commodities” in *Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions, and Uneven Integration*, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. (38 pages)

Skim: Cowen, Deborah (2014) “From National Borders to Global Seams: The Rise of Supply Chain Security” in *The Deadly Life of Logistics: Mapping Violence in Globalization*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. (38 pages)

#### **Week Ten: Global Labor**

Sparke, Matthew (2013) “Chapter 4: Labor” in *Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions, and Uneven Integration*, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. (36 pages)

Collins, Jane (2003) “Tracing the Threads of a Global Industry” in *Threads: Gender, Labor, and Power in the Global Apparel Industry*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (25 pages)

Watch: “COVID’s Hidden Toll”, *PBS Frontline*, July 21, 2020 (documentary, 54 minutes)

### **Week Eleven: Global Governance and International Organizations**

Sparke, Matthew (2013) “Chapter 7: Governance” in *Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions, and Uneven Integration*, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. (51 pages)

“RCEP: China to Gain as Trade Pact Ripples Across Post-COVID World” (3 pages)

### **Week Twelve: Health and Environment**

Sparke, Matthew (2013) “Chapter 9: Health” in *Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions, and Uneven Integration*, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. (52 pages)

“UN Hosts the World’s Weirdest Summit on COVID-19” *Politico*, December 3, 2020. (2 pages)

Atwood, Margaret (2017) [2015] “It’s not Climate Change – It’s Everything Change.” In Imre Szeman and Dominic Boyer eds. *Energy Humanities: An Anthology*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (11 pages)

### **Week Thirteen: Global Culture, Global Uprisings**

Motley, Carol M. and Henderson, Geraldine Rose (2008) “The Global Hip-hop Diaspora: Understanding the Culture”, *Journal of Business Research*, 243 – 253. (10 pages)

Appadurai, Arjun (1996) *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. (selections: 8 pages)

TBD: On struggles for racial justice

TBD: On right-wing populism