

Earlham Seminar on Globalization

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M,W, F, 10am

This course takes globalization as its object of study. Globalization is a term with many meanings, perhaps too many. Part of what we will do in this course is to look at the ways that people talk about globalization in order to compare discourses that highlight different aspects of globalization. This identification and comparison of discourses of globalization will help us practice a certain kind of critical reading, one that focuses on how authors make their arguments and define their terms. This skill will focus on the texts and the flow of ideas and will be less concerned about the “real world” aspects of globalization itself, about trade, investment, migration and so on. We will probe them, ask ourselves what questions they leave unanswered, if they are responding to other authors, if they are convincing, why or why not, what the key concepts are etc. This will help us become more engaged readers somewhat independently of our knowledge of the topics themselves.

Still, there are histories, data, institutions and other concrete aspects of globalization that we will encounter and learn about along the way. A good deal of the debate about the extent and implications of globalization centers on data and economic developments and we will need to examine economic information in order to assess these argument and we will need to become familiar with some of the data and theories about trade, investment, debt, in order to do so.

As we read and discuss together this semester, we will also pay attention to questions of ethics and justice. Globalization entails the expansion of capitalist processes and institutions and their interrelationships. Part of what makes globalization so contentious is that it has many positive and many negative effects – it advantages some, disadvantages others, favors certain kinds of activity, mitigates against others and we need to think about how to weigh the benefits and costs of globalization for different people.

We cannot possibly due justice to all or even any of the traditional aspects of globalization in one course. We will have to accept that our concrete knowledge of globalization will be frustratingly thin even after we finish this course. Our goal is not to become fully versed about globalization; rather it is to become aware of the main lines of discussion, definition, and debate about globalization so that we can critically engage the literature and ongoing debates about the nature and meanings of globalization for human beings.

Books: Purchase the following four texts.

F. Lechner, J. Boli, eds. *The Globalization Reader*. Blackwell, 2000.

W. Tabb, *Unequal Partners: A Primer on Globalization*. The New Press, 2002.

T. Barry, *Zapata's Revenge: Free Trade and the Farm Crisis in Mexico*. South End Press, 1995.

B. Ehrenreich and Arlie Hochschild (Ed), *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*, Metropolitan Books, 2003.

Assignments:

The principle work of this course is regular and careful reading and discussion of the texts. I expect you to come to class having not merely read the material, but having thought about it and prepared to engage in discussion about it.

You will also need to write about the texts and issues we consider. I will ask you to write a number of short summaries and responses to readings throughout the semester, about one every other week.

You will also write four analytic essays in which you will analyze, compare, and critique the arguments we encounter in the course.

We will have a final exam or you may choose to do a final paper.

Some Ground rules on Written Work:

Work must be turned in on time unless prior arrangements have been made at least two full class days ahead of the due date. For example, if a paper is due Friday, you must have arranged an extension by Wednesday of that week. If you ask on Thursday, the answer will be no. Late work will be marked down and if not received within 48 hours after the due date will not be accepted.

Your written work will be evaluated on both the quality and organization of the ideas as well as traditional standards of good writing. Part of the point of these first year seminars is to practice your writing skills, though we will not spend much time in class going over writing protocols. You should consult with me before papers are due, use the writing center, revise early drafts, use writing manuals and so forth.

Grading:

Participation and Reactions to Readings: 20%

(Participation includes regular attendance, demonstration of good preparation, participation in discussion, good listening and turning in reading reaction assignments which will not be graded.)

Four papers: 15% each 60%

Final Paper or Exam: 20%

SYLLABUS of ASSIGNMENTS

1. Defining/Explaining Globalization: [Aug. 29]

** Schaeffer, Robert. "Theories of Globalization", pp. 1-18, in *Understanding Globalization*, 2nd ed. Roman and Littlefield, 2003.

Two page response to Shaeffer due on Monday, Sept. 1.

2. Perspectives on Capitalism and Globalization: [Sept 1 – Sept. 12]

** A. Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*,

<http://www.socsci.mcmaster.ca/~econ/ugcm/3ll3/smith/wealth/wealbk01> This website links you to Smith's text. Read from the beginning through Chapter 2.

** Marx and Engels, "The Communist Manifesto,

<http://csf.colorado.edu/psn/marx/Archive/1848-CM/cm1.txt> This website links you to the Communist Manifesto. Read the entire section "Bourgeoisie and Proletarian".

Two page response to Smith/Marx due on Monday, Sept. 8.

Globalization Reader: Section I: Debating Globalization [Week of Sept. 8th]

1. Why this Hatred of the Market? Martin Wolf
2. The Moral Case for Globalization. Peter Martin
4. Jihad vs. McWorld. Benjamin Barber
5. The Clash of Civilizations? Samuel P. Huntington

A. Sen, "Globalization" reader, *American Prospect*. <http://www.prospect.org/print-friendly/print/V13/1/sen-a.html>

Globalization Reader, Section II: Explaining and Theorizing about Globalization [Sept 15, 17]

Essays 9, E. Hobsbaum; 11 L. Sklair; 12 S. Sassen;
13. Keohane/Nye; and 16. J. N. Pieterse.

FIRST PAPER DUE, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19

Topics provided Friday, Sept. 12.

3. Political Economy of Globalization I: [Sept 19 – 26]

W. Tabb, *Unequal Partners*, Chapters 1 and 2.

Globalization Reader, Part IV: Economic Globalization:

Essay 21: W. Greider; 22: M. Korzeniewicz; 25: M. Slaughter, P. Swagel; 26: Burtless et. al.; 27: Amnesty International.

4. Political Economy of Globalization II: [Sept 29 – Oct 8] Mid Term Break, Oct 10.

W. Tabb, *Unequal Partners*, Chapters 3- 6.

Globalization Reader, Part V: Essays 30 – 33, pp. 212 – 238.

OPTIONAL: Selections from Part IX of Globalization Reader.

SECOND PAPER DUE, Wednesday, October 8 th .
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Topics provided Wednesday, October 1.

5.) Global Woman: [Oct 13 – Oct 29]

Global Woman, Introduction and Chapter One, pp. 1- 30.

S. Sasson, “Global Cities and Survival Circuits”, pp.254 – 274.

Of Care and Nannies:

S. Cheever, “Nanny Dilemma”, pp. 31-38.

R. S. Parrenas, “Care Crisis in the Philippines”, pp. 39-54.

L. M Rivas, “Invisible Labors”, pp. 70 – 84.

Domestic Work:

B. Ehrenreich, “Maid to Order”, pp. 85 – 103.

B. Anderson, “Just Another Job? The Commodification of Domestic Labor”. pp. 104 – 114.

N. Constable, “Filipina Workers in Hong Kong Homes: Household Rules”, pp. 115 – 141.

D. Brennan, “Selling Sex for Visas”, pp. 154 – 168.

[Monday: Ehr and Brennan: Wed:

THIRD PAPER DUE FRIDAY OCTOBER 31

6.) Zapata's Revenge: [Oct 31 – Nov 19] NO CLASS FRIDAY Nov. 7th.

Chapters 1- 12.

FOURTH PAPER DUE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21

Thanksgiving Week: November 24th

7) Cultural and Political Aspects of Globalization: [Dec 1 –10]

Globalization Reader,
18, Beyond Local Culture

** J. Street, “Across the Universe: The Limits of Global Popular Culture”, pp. 75 – 89, in *The Limits of Globalization*, ed. A. Scott, Routledge.

Two page reaction due Dec 8th

34, Democracy
35, Women's Movement
41, Covering the World

44, 46, 48, 49, as time permits.

FINAL PAPER OR EXAM Your choice.