

POLITICAL SCIENCE 240: GLOBALIZATION

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[Globalization] is not merely an objective process, but also a plethora of stories that define, describe, and analyse that very process. The social forces behind these competing accounts of globalization seek to endow this relatively new buzzword with norms, values, and meanings that not only legitimate and advance specific power interests, but also shape the personal and collective identities of billions of people. – Stegar, Preface to Globalization (2003)

Course Description:

It is difficult to define “globalization” simply. As a set of complex and dynamic processes, globalization encompasses political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions. International financial transactions, technological innovations like the internet, and migrating domestic workers each tell part of the story of what we have come to know as “globalization.” These “real world” aspects of globalization raise important normative and analytical issues. That is, globalization has been heralded by some as a process fostering economic development and spreading life-improving technological innovations. Yet, it also has a “dark side.” Globalization’s underbelly is evident in the highly uneven distribution of its financial and other benefits, as well as in the violent and/or illicit processes, like sex and drug trafficking, that are facilitated by intensified transnational linkages.

This course addresses the following questions: What is “globalization,” and what’s “new” about the globalization we experience today? ♦ What major debates and controversies shape our understanding of globalization? ♦ What are some of the most striking features of technological, political, and economic globalization, and how do these aspects of globalization produce uneven effects across regions and social groups? ♦ How has globalization affected organizing and strategies for social change?

Ultimately, students in this course will examine multiple dimensions of—and perspectives on—globalization, and will learn to think critically about the relationship between globalization and people, markets, politics and the environment.

Course Objectives:

Substantive knowledge:

- To recognize and describe the technological, political, economic, social, environmental, etc. aspects of globalization;
- To demonstrate an understanding of the major debates surrounding globalization;
- To describe “real world” globalization processes and their effects.

Critical thinking:

- To apply major debates to empirical examples of globalization;
- To assess the causes and consequences of major features of globalization;
- To identify and understand the central argument and set of assumptions guiding a text.

Required Texts:

1. Rodrik, Dani, *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy* (Norton, 2011).
2. Naím, Moisés, *Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers, and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy* (Random House, 2005).
3. Thayer, Millie, *Making Transnational Feminism: Rural Women, NGO Activists, and Northern Donors in Brazil* (Routledge, 2010).

All required texts will be available for purchase at the UNCO Bookstore located on the first floor of the University Center (970-351-2135). All articles and book chapters *not contained* in the above texts are available on Blackboard.

Note: You will also be responsible for material contained in films, handouts, lectures, guest lectures, and other supplements to the readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

1. **Attendance. (10%)** Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at the start of class (you run the risk of being marked absent if you arrive late). Missing more than five classes—i.e. almost two full weeks of class—will result in failing this course requirement. *Because of this attendance policy, you do not need to email me if you miss class. However, a written letter of explanation and in-person meeting with me during office hours is required if you miss five or more courses. Missing more than five classes will put you at risk for failing the course.*
2. **Preparation and Engagement. (15%)** This course component is based upon your participation in class discussions, including your demonstrated thoughtfulness, respect for your peers, and evidence that you have completed the readings prior to coming to class. This category also includes short in-class quizzes and participation exercises. Note that bringing the assigned readings with you to class will help you be engaged and participate during class. *Exercises and quizzes cannot be made up, nor are there late submissions accepted.*
3. **Midterm Exam 1.* (25%)** An in-class exam to be taken **Friday, February 6.**
4. **Midterm Exam 2.* (25%)** An in-class exam to be taken **Friday, March 13.**

5. Final Exam.* (25%) To be submitted **Friday, May 8.**

* **There are no exam make-ups.** Please note the date of class exams on your calendar and talk to me ASAP if you foresee a problem with an exam date. Dates of final exams are determined by the University and cannot be adjusted.

Academic Integrity: Any violation of academic integrity standards (plagiarism, etc.) will be addressed in accordance with University policy. See http://www.unco.edu/dos/pdf/StudentCodeofConduct.pdf#nameddest=SC_integrity.

Technology Policies and Expectations: It is expected that during our relatively short amount of time together each week in class you will be respectful of your instructor and peers. This is demonstrated by **not using headphones in class and keeping phones off (or silenced) and in your bag -- not on your desk -- for the entire class period.** If you prefer to take notes on a laptop or other device, please sit towards the side of the classroom so as not to distract your peers.

Disability Accommodations: Any student requesting disability accommodations for this class must inform the instructor to receive appropriate and timely accommodations for the semester. All accommodations will be given on a confidential basis. Students are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Services office on campus (970-351-2289) to receive certified documentation and an accommodation letter to present to the course instructor. If you are unsure if you qualify for accommodations, please contact the Disability Support Services office at the number above.

PART I: Unpacking a Contested Concept

Weeks 1-2: “What’s New?” and Major Debates

What is globalization? How “new” is this phenomenon? What are some of major debates over globalization in regard to its origins, causes, and effects?

- Jan. 12** Course Introduction & Overview
- Jan. 14** Stegar, “Globalization: A Contested Concept”
- Jan. 16** Sen, “How to Judge Globalism”
- Jan. 19** NO CLASS – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 21** Wolf, “Will the Nation-State Survive Globalization?”
- Jan. 23** Stiglitz, “The Overselling of Globalization” (through pg. 246)

PART II: Globalization’s Multidimensional Processes & Effects

Weeks 3-4: Technological Globalization

What does technological change have to do with globalization? In what ways is access to technology uneven across social groups—and what is the role of policy makers in making access more equitable? Has technology been a “force for good” or a new source of risk for individuals and governments?

- January 26** Cossons, “Globalization in the Making”
- January 28** Friedman, “It’s a Flat World, After All”
- January 30** Irwin, “A Super-Simple Way to Understand the Net Neutrality Debate”
- February 2** CWLRW, “Bad Leader? Or Good Whistleblower? A Test”
- February 4** **Assignment:** Select and bring to class an article/news story of your choosing to share in class on the topic of social media.
- February 6** **Midterm 1**

Weeks 5-7: Political Economy of Globalization

What are some of the key features of modern-day global economic integration? How do global markets, national sovereignty, and democracy interact? How has globalization affected labor and patterns of work? How might we assess the “winners and losers” of economic globalization?

- February 9** Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, Chapter 1
- February 11** Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, Chapter 2
- February 13** Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, Chapter 4
- February 16** Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, Chapters 7 & 8
- February 18** Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, Chapter 9
- February 20** Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, Chapters 10-11
- February 23** Sassen, “Global Cities and Survival Circuits,” in *Global Woman*
- February 25** Parreñas, “The Care Crisis in the Philippines: Children and Transnational Families in the New Global Economy,” in *Global Woman*
- February 27** Naím, *Illicit*, Chapter 5

Weeks 8-9: Illicit Globalization

*What illicit activity and flows of people, merchandise, and money has globalization facilitated?
What challenges does the “illicit” side of globalization pose for governments and
nongovernmental actors?*

- March 2** Naim, *Illicit*, Chapters 1-2
- March 4** Naim, *Illicit*, Chapter 4
- March 6** Naim, *Illicit*, Chapter 6
- March 9** Naim, *Illicit*, Chapter 9
- March 11** Naim, *Illicit*, Chapters 11-12
- March 13** **Midterm Exam 2**
- March 14-22** **No Class – Spring Break**

Weeks 10-11: Globalization and the Environment

*How does globalization affect the environment, and vice versa? How might globalization be part
of the solution to environmental crises?*

- March 23** Najam et al. “Environment & Globalization: Five Propositions,” pp. 1-9
- March 25** Najam et al. “Environment & Globalization: Five Propositions,” pp. 10-28
- March 27** Najam et al. “Environment & Globalization: Five Propositions,” pp. 29-35
- March 30** Naim, *Illicit*, Chapter 8
- April 1** Meyerson, et al., “Migration and Environment in the Context of Globalization”
- April 3** **Assignment:** Select and bring to class an article/news story of your choosing related to globalization and the environment

PART III: Global Networks and Activism

How has globalization influenced organizing, social movements and activism—both within and across nation-states? How do “local” actors and movements interact with “global” ones—and what tensions and challenges arise at this intersection?

Week 12: Global Civil Society

- April 6** Bob, “Merchants of Morality”
- April 8** Naim, Chapter 10, “Citizens vs. Criminals”
- April 10** Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, Chapter 1 thru pg. 29

Weeks 13-14: Transnational Activism

- April 13** Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, new section pg. 29 thru Chap. 2
- April 15** Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, Chapter 3
- April 17** Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, Chapter 4
- April 20** Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, Chapter 5
- April 22** Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, Chapter 6
- April 24** Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, Chapter 7

Week 15: The Future of Globalization

How can governments and nongovernmental actors address some of the illicit activity facilitated by globalization? What reforms to global markets and institutions may help globalization produce more equitable social and economic outcomes within and across nation-states?

- April 27** Naim, *Illicit*, Chapter 13
Stiglitz, “The Overselling of Globalization” (pg. 247-end)
- April 29** Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, Chapter 12
- May 1** **Course review & conclusion**

FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 8