

319S Globalization and its Discontents

Spring 2015

Wed: 1:00-4:00

Instructor: Jaime Kucinkas
Office: KJ 234
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:30 and by appointment
Email: jkucinsk@hamilton.edu
Mailbox: in KJ 240

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Globalization has been taking place for centuries, but its impact has accelerated over the last hundred years. We now live in a world with international flows of capital, services, information, and people. The effects of globalization are widely debated among passionate supporters and critics. This class aims to explore different facets of the complex, evolving phenomenon of globalization. The course introduces the main debates about the global economy and their implications on many aspects of people's everyday lives. First we will define and discuss what globalization is. Then we will develop an historical perspective on the roots of globalization. Lastly, we will investigate primary dimensions of globalization such as trade, finance, aid, migration, and ideas. We will assess how these global flows support human development as well as how they fall short.

My goal is to expose you not just to sociological research and concepts, but to incorporate experiential learning and multiple perspectives on what globalization and its effects are. We will spend the course not only assessing sociological perspectives via assigned course readings, but also by visiting and interacting with many people located in different parts of the global system.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. To teach multiple perspectives on global social problems.
2. To teach basic sociological concepts in globalization scholarship.
3. To review historical foundations of current global social problems.

4. To foster a critical analytical engagement with perspectives on globalization.
5. To increase awareness of how globalization affects people in diverse, and different ways.
6. To increase self-awareness of our own individual relationship with global social forces and embeddedness in global systems and their problems on a both a cognitive and emotional level.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Bartley, Tim et. al. *Looking Behind the Label* (forthcoming)

Ehrenreich, Barbara, and Arlie Russell Hochschild, eds. *Global woman: Nannies, maids, and sex workers in the new economy*. Macmillan, 2003.

Ellwood, Wayne. *The no-nonsense guide to globalization*. Verso, 2010.

Juergensmeyer, Mark. *Terror in the mind of God: The global rise of religious violence*. Vol. 13. Univ of California Press, 2003.

Salzinger, Leslie. *Genders in production: Making workers in Mexico's global factories*. Univ of California Press, 2003.

Timmerman, Kelsey, *Where am I Eating?* John Wiley and Sons, 2013.

Additional articles and chapter excerpts listed below (Will be posted on Blackboard).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Memos and Responses (20%): 2 memos and responses (1.5-2 pages each):

You are each required to write 2 analytical 1-2 page reflection memos and 2 responses to other students' memos on assigned readings. If you are doing a memo, it is due by **Monday at 5:00 p.m.** to me and the rest of the class. If you are the respondent, your memo is due to me and the rest of the class by **9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning**. If it is late, **10%** of the grade will be deducted.

In your memo, you need to convey mastery over the content covered in the assigned reading. While you can provide a **short** summary of the author's perspective, I am really looking for critical engagement with the assigned material. You can do so in various ways, such as by comparing and contrasting different assigned readings, identifying strengths and weaknesses of the assigned reading, or applying concepts or theories articulated by the authors' to other similar or different cases as a means of evaluating their arguments' validity and/or generalizability to other phenomena. You should be prepared to share your thoughts on the readings you write memos about with the class. I recommend you complete these memos throughout the semester and do not leave them all until the last month of the course. Memos will not be accepted late after the class in which the reading was assigned.

Choose your Own Adventure Paper (20%):

Write a 5-8 page paper (double-spaced, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman font) on a topic of your choice. It is due by **April 1st**.

There are various options for this assignment. You can:

- A. Write a comparative paper based on a theme in the course (e.g. Gender and Globalization, Inequality and Globalization).
- B. Research a product and track where it comes from and how it gets here.
- C. Do the Shine program and write a paper about your experience and how it connects to sociological material from the course or peer-reviewed publications on immigration.
- D. A paper topic of your choice. (But you have to run it by me beforehand).

Debate (10%): More details will be provided later in the semester.

Group assignment (30%): With a group of 3-4 students, you will identify a global problem. In a **12-15 page paper**, you will outline what the problem is and outline how people can collectively work to form a solution to the problem. You need to draw on course readings, peer review research, and research from reputable research institutions and think tanks to describe your cases, challenges to fixing this problem, and your proposed solution. Please tell me what groups you choose to work with by **April 1st**. On **April 29th**, you will **present** what you learned in a 30 minute shared presentation. Your research paper is due in class that day.

Classroom Participation/Attendance (20%):

I will cover information during lectures which is not included in the assigned reading so your success in this class will depend on attendance and participation in class. I expect all students to arrive on time and stay for the entire class. I realize that sometimes there are legitimate reasons for absences throughout the course of the semester (e.g. illness, family emergencies and university sanctioned absences such as religious holidays), and these will be excused.

Grading:

Memos and Responses:	20%	(200 points)
Paper:	30%	(300 points)
Letter to the Authors	10%	(100 points)

Debate:	10%	(100 points)
<u>Group Assignment:</u>	<u>30%</u>	<u>(300 points)</u>

Total:	100%	(1000 points)
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Final Course Grade:

	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Points</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Points</i>
A+	97-100	970-1000	C	73-76	730-769
A	93-96	930-969	C-	70-72	700-729
A-	90-92	900-929	D+	67-69	670-699
B+	87-89	870-899	D	63-66	630-669
B	83-86	830-869	D-	60-62	600-629
B-	80-82	800-829	F	≤ 59	599 or less
C+	77-79	770-799			

COURSE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES:

Participation and Discussion.

The quality of this course will depend on your engagement and participation. I expect students to complete reading assignments **BEFORE** the class in which they are assigned. We are creating a collective experience to share for the semester and your questions, applications, and discussions will help shape the direction of the course itself.

Technology.

Technology is distracting and can inhibit an engaged classroom discussion. **Cell phones and MP3 players should be turned off and not in use during class.** Text messaging is not permitted. **Laptops are also not permitted in class** unless they are used as a tool for particular lessons or group activities. Exceptions will be made in the case of documented needs for the laptop. Failure to adhere to these rules will result in a counted absence for the day.

Late Assignments

I will accept late assignments but will deduct 10% of the grade for each day it is late.

Contacting Me.

The best way to contact me is via my email: jkucinsk@hamilton.edu. I will check my email at least daily.

Names and Emails of Classmates (optional):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

COURSE SCHEDULE

Please note that each reading assignment should be read **before** the noted class date. This schedule is tentative and I may make changes throughout the course based on your feedback and as I see fit.

January 21st: *Introduction: What is global sociology?*

January 28th: *History of Globalization and Political Economy*

Ellwood, Wayne. *The no-nonsense guide to globalization*. Verso, 2010.

*can order via kindle if cannot get a hard copy

Cooper, Frederick. "What is the concept of globalization good for? An African historian's perspective." *African Affairs* 100.399 (2001): 189-213.

February 4th: *Consumers and the Economic Bottom Line*

Reich, Robert. *Supercapitalism*: Introduction, Chapters 2, 5

Bartley et al. *Looking Behind the Label*, Part 1

February 11th: *Production: The Underbelly of Global Commodity Chains*

Timmerman, Kelsey, *Where am I Eating?*

Read book, Can skip Chapter 17, Choose 4 of 5 cases in book.

February 18th: *Production of Gender in Global Firms*

Salzinger, Leslie. *Genders in production: Making workers in Mexico's global factories*. Univ of California Press, 2003.

February 25th: *Immigration I*

Ehrenreich and Hochschild, *Global Woman*, p. 1-141

March 4th: *Immigration II*

Ehrenreich and Hochschild, *Global Woman*, p. 141-274

March 11th: *Catch-up/Review/Speaker: Lacey Ramirez, Program Development, World Bank*

SPRING BREAK

April 1st: *Benefits of Globalization? Modernization and Development*

John Boli and George Thomas, *Constructing World Culture*, Stanford University Press (1999). Chapters 1, 10; Read Chapter 4 OR Chapter 6; Chapter 9 (Optional)

Inglehart, Ronald, and Wayne E. Baker. "Modernization, cultural change, and the persistence of traditional values." *American sociological review* (2000): 19-51.

Paper due.

April 8th: Challenges of Change: Reforming the Economy

Bartley et al., Part 2 (read $\frac{3}{4}$ case studies)

Final project groups due.

April 15th: Global Governance

TBD

April 22nd: Global Countermovements

Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God*

April 29th: Where we stand and how we move forward: Group Presentations

May 6th: Debate: On the Blessings and Curses of Globalization

Optional readings:

Sen, Amartya. "How to judge globalism." *The American Prospect* 13.1 (2002): 1-14.

Hung, Ho-fung, and Jaime Kucinkas. "Globalization and Global Inequality: Assessing the Impact of the Rise of China and India, 1980–2005." *American Journal of Sociology* 116.5 (2011): 1478-1513.