Instructor: Prof. Radhika Parameswaran  
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Office Phone: 855-8569  
Classroom: Ernie Pyle 205  
Class sessions: Tues/Thurs, 2:30 pm to 3:45 pm  
Classroom: Ernie Pyle 205  
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs, 1 pm to 2 pm  
Appointments: Schedule in person before/after class

Course Description

Globalization remains an imperfect, but ubiquitous term that is widely used in academia and in the business, policy, and cultural arenas to define, explain, and justify the economic, political, and technological forces that shape the lives of citizens across the world. This course seeks to critically examine the phenomena that comprise globalization and explore the role that media technologies (newspapers, magazines, television, and online media) and media genres (news and popular culture) play in constituting our identities as global audiences, citizens, workers, consumers, and activists.

This course is organized in three units. The first unit of the course is designed to give you a broad understanding of globalization and its different dimensions. Hence course materials in this unit flesh out definitions of and perspectives on globalization, economic and political globalization, and some important topics such as migration and changes in the environment. A brief second unit takes up a key hot/current topic in economic globalization and emerging markets, namely, the rise of China and India and the implications of the recent “rise of the rest” in Asia for America’s longstanding leadership in securing global economic power and political hegemony. The last and major unit of the course concentrates on media culture in relation to globalization, addressing media theory, issues of hybridity and national identity, new media and social movements, representations of nations/events/disasters, ethnographies of global media, and global media history. Aiming to be expansive in coverage of geographic terrain, the course materials touch on media in a range of locations including Canada, China, India, Nigeria, Turkey, Ghana, Japan, Iran, and Singapore.

The broad goals of this course on globalization and media are to:

- Give you a foundation in and literacy regarding the social, economic, and political aspects of globalization.
- Expose you to major theories of globalization and media.
- Introduce you to different approaches to globalization and media.
- Equip you with the necessary critical thinking skills to unpack and deconstruct media representations in relation to globalization.
- Help you develop some geographic breath in your knowledge of globalization and media phenomena.
- Assist you in conceptualizing and implementing a class research project related to globalization.
- Enhance your ability to speak and converse about globalization, media, and international relations.
Course Texts and Readings

Required Textbooks (Available at IMU/Eignemann and TIS Bookstores)


Required Articles and Book Chapters

Almost all the articles assigned as required readings are available in Full Text in the library electronic databases Academic Search (EBSCO) or JSTOR, which are accessible from the main library’s homepage. When you search on Academic Search (EBSCO), please include the databases “Communication and Mass Media” and “Film and Television” in your search.

PDFs of articles that are not available in the library databases and book chapters are posted in Oncourse in the Resources section.

Some Additional Sources of Interest to the Course

1. Yale Global Online, [http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/](http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/).

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1 I am grateful to School of Journalism PhD student Mohamed El Marzouki for his valuable assistance in locating this text.
IU Cinema, one of the university’s most valuable resources, will be showing a number of wonderful films that intersect with the topics we will address in class. For the film schedule, please see http://www.cinema.indiana.edu/calendar/.

**Class Format, Readings, and Expectations**

General expectations for all students include regular/unfailing class attendance, thorough preparation for class discussions, constructive participation in the seminar, and completion of all reading and writing assignments on time.

The routine class format for this graduate seminar will include a blend of brief lectures, small and large group discussions, student presentations, and a few appearances by guest speakers. The instructor’s brief lectures will provide context for class discussion and illuminate basic concepts. The success of the course will depend on your thorough and critical appraisal of the required readings. You are expected to read the assigned weekly articles and chapters, take time to reflect on what you have read, and come prepared to engage in debate and pose thoughtful questions.

On first glance, the reading load for the course might seem unreasonable and even unmanageable, but if you plan ahead and keep a close eye on the schedule, completing the readings on time will be easier. While I don’t require you to offer detailed and cogent criticism of every reading in class, I do expect that if called upon you can offer a few comments on each and every assigned reading. Under no circumstances is the response “I did not do that reading or set of readings” acceptable (this honest response is preferable of course to trying to “wing it”!). To manage your reading for a particular class session, you may take on the role of being an “expert” on some of the assigned readings for the day and a more casual reader of the rest.

In addition to completing readings and discussing them in class, participation in the class may involve bringing short written responses to current news events and educational videos, critical thinking exercises, and written reflections on the readings. Consider these assignments as more informal in nature because I will not be providing any formal guidelines. For example, I may ask you to watch a PBS video and bring a written essay of 500 words or so that asks you to evaluate the video in light of the readings on a topic.

Because a seminar of this nature may bring up controversial and politically charged issues, it is important that we interact courteously during class discussions and presentations. The classroom should be a safe space for the open exchange of ideas and the exploration of various ideological positions. Heated debate is good, but never at the expense of disrespecting or denigrating other students. Please bring a good sense of humor with you. **With your cooperation, I look forward to a fun, stimulating, and engaging seminar experience.**
Class Assignments

Class Participation/Oral & Written Responses 15% 150 points
Proposal for Major Project 15% 150 points
   Rationale and plan of work
Presentation & Discussion of Readings 15% 150 points
Response to Film Slumdog Millionaire 15% 150 points
Major Project/Final Paper/Presentation 40% 400 points
TOTAL 100% 1000 points

I request you to bring stapled hard paper copies of all assignments to class. I do not accept electronic attachments unless you have an emergency.

Final projects from the previous version of this class have turned into opportunities for conference presentations, thesis projects, or research that becomes a part of other larger projects in future courses or in dissertations. Students’ papers from the previous class have won awards at a national conference. Three national conferences you could keep in mind for submitting your papers:

- Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, deadline April 1. ([www.aejmc.org](http://www.aejmc.org))
- International Communication Association, deadline November 1. ([www.icahdq.org](http://www.icahdq.org))
- National Communication Association, deadline mid-February. ([www.natcom.org](http://www.natcom.org))

Other students have submitted papers to major conferences in sociology, folklore, anthropology, and history.

We will discuss guidelines and criteria for all assignments in class.

Course Policies

**Mandatory Attendance:** Graduate seminars put a very strong emphasis on your contributions to classroom discussions. **Attendance in every class period is both expected and required unless you have a documented medical excuse.** If you cannot make it to class for any other reason, please let me know as a professional courtesy. Unexcused absences will seriously affect your participation grade.

**Communication and e-mail:** I will most probably not read my e-mail on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Please use e-mail to ask me short questions, set up appointments, or verify something quickly. If you have something urgent to communicate, you are welcome to call me at home (812-369-4518). We can also make phone appointments to discuss your final projects if my office hours do not work for you.

**Professionalism:** Neat, clear, and well-formatted written materials will be an important aspect of your work for this course. Please ensure that your printouts are readable, and that you have cover pages, stapled sheets, and page numbers. I cannot read any font that is less than 12 pt. size.
**Plagiarism:** Using ideas and words from published work, online materials, or other students’ projects without accurate attribution will be severely punished, and may result in an automatic grade of “F” for the course. Please refer to the section on academic misconduct in your Schedule of Classes for the codes and policies governing plagiarism.

**Submitting Work from other Courses:** You are expected to conduct original work in this course. Please do not recycle assignments from previous or current courses. If you would like to use this course to develop further or improvise on a paper you have written in another course, please come talk to me ahead of time. I understand that graduate student work is often cumulative; hence, I encourage you to share your previous work with me and clarify the new dimensions of the paper you intend to explore in this course.

**Deadlines:** You are expected to turn in all the assignments on time and during our class period unless otherwise noted; late work will not be accepted or graded. Missed assignments can only be made up in case of an emergency, and documentation (doctor’s letter) must be provided in such situations. Any other occasion for absence from class or delay with assignments — visiting family, travel plans, concerts, and social obligations — are not considered sufficient reasons for make-up work.

**Incomplete:** Final grades of “Incomplete” will not be given in this class except in dire documented circumstances such as medical or serious family reasons. The end of the semester is “crunch” time for everyone so you are expected to manage your schedule by planning carefully. Time pressures are not considered sufficient justification for awarding a grade of incomplete.

**About the Professor** My research interests are media and cultural globalization, gender and media, South Asia, qualitative methods, and postcolonial studies. Some of my recent publications include:


Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction to Course/ What is Globalization? Approaches and Definitions
Tuesday, January 14
Discuss syllabus, course expectations, and personal introductions

Thursday, January 16
2. **Oncourse PDF**: Jan Arte Scholte, Chapter, Defining Globalization
5. **Recommended Oncourse PDF**: Jan Arte Scholte, Chapter, History of Globalization

Week 2 Political and Economic Globalization
Tuesday, January 21
1. Text Lechner, *Globalization*, Chapter 6, Global States and Chapter 8, Global Civil Society.

Thursday, January 23

Week 3 Topics in Globalization: Migration, Environment, and Religion
Tuesday, January 28
Pick one out of these two:

**Thursday, January 30**

**Week 4 Topics in Globalization: The Rise of China and India**
**Tuesday, February 4**
1. Text Meredith, *The Elephant & the Dragon*, Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

**Thursday, February 6**

**Week 5 Media Globalization: Overviews and Frameworks**
**Tuesday, February 11**
1. Text Flew, *Understanding Global Media*, Chapter 1 Introduction to Global Media and Chapter 2, Theories of Global Media

**Thursday, February 13**

1. Text Orgad *Media Representation*, Introduction Chapter, Chapter 1, Media Representation and the Global Imagination, and Chapter 5, Imagining the World

*Turn in project ideas in my mailbox on Friday before 5 pm.*

**Week 6 Globalization, Culture, and Political Economy: Imperialism and Western Domination**

**Tuesday, February 18**

2. Text Lechner, *Globalization*, Chapter 4, Global Media and the Varieties of Globalization

**Thursday, February 20**

1. Text Flew, *Understanding Global Media*, Chapter 4, Global Media, the Knowledge Economy, and the New Competition.

**Week 7 Media Policy & Creative Industries/Counter-Flows & Challenges to Imperialism**

**Tuesday, February 25**


**Thursday, February 27**


**Week 8 Complexities of Globalization: Media Culture, Glocalization, and Hybridity**

**Tuesday, March 4**

2. Straubhaar, J. Global, Hybrid, or Multiple: Cultural Identity in the Age of Satellite TV. *Nordicom Review*, 29 (2), 11-29.

**Thursday, March 6**


*Project proposal due this week on Friday 5 pm in my mailbox in Journalism school.*
Week 9 New Media, Social Movements and Activist Subjects

*Screening of Film Slumdog Millionaire this week, day/time to be determined.*

**Tuesday, March 11**

1. Roundtable Session, Share Project Topics in Class.

**Thursday, March 13**


**Week 10 Spring Break!**

**Week 11 Case Studies in Representations: Nation, Culture, and Citizenship**

**Tuesday, March 25**

1. Text Orgad, *Media Representation*, Chapter 3, Imagining Ourselves: Representations of the Nation and Chapter 4, Imagining Possible Lives: Representations of Migration

**Thursday, March 27**

1. Text Orgad, *Media Representation*, Chapter 2 Imagining Others: Natural Disasters and Chapter 7, Conclusion

**Week 12 Slumdog Presentations/Ethnographies of Media Globalization**

**Tuesday, April 1**

1. Class Discussion of Globalization and the Film *Slumdog Millionaire*.

**Assignment, Critical Response Paper on Slumdog Millionaire Due!**
Thursday, April 3
1. Text Condry, *Hip-Hop Japan*, Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3

**Week 13 Ethnographies of Media Globalization**
**Tuesday, April 8**
1. Text Condry, *Hip-Hop Japan*, Introduction, Chapter 4, Chapter 6, Chapter 7, & Conclusion

Thursday, April 10
No Class! Work on final projects.

**Week 14 Global Histories of Media Technologies**
**Tuesday, April 15**

Thursday, April 17
1. Text Brian Larkin, *Signal and Noise*, Chapters 5, 6, 7, and Conclusion.

**Week 15 No Class/Work on projects**
**Tuesday, April 22**
No Class, work on projects

Thursday, April 24
No Class, work on projects

**Week 16 Class Presentations**
**Tuesday, April 29**
1. Student Presentations

**Thursday, May 1**
1. Student Presentations

**Week 17 Final Papers Due**
Monday, May 5: *Final projects are due on Monday, May 5, before 5 pm in my mailbox.*