

Department of Sociology
Emory University
Fall Term, 2008
Callaway C101; MWF 10:40-11:30

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SOCIOLOGY 266: GLOBAL CHANGE

Overview

The effects of globalization are pervasive. In the past several years, more foreign players entered the National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball, the spread of HIV/AIDS affected life expectancy in Africa, American businesses employed Indian operators to answer service calls, the International Criminal Court opened in The Hague, movie versions of *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of the Rings* became global hits, and credit problems in the United States reverberated through financial markets everywhere. This course will show how such events are connected as parts of a process that is reshaping world society. While the course will describe how globalization influences life in America, it will focus on trends that involve people around the world. It is especially relevant to students with a strong interest in international affairs.

The general goal of the course is to demonstrate that globalization is

- significant: it deeply affects how many people live and think
- complex: it has multiple dimensions that are intricately related
- contentious: it is subject to intense debate around the world

This is a foundation course in the sociology major that applies a sociological perspective, tests sociological ideas, and relies on sociological research, yet it also illustrates many aspects of globalization with a variety of examples drawn from other fields and sources.

Structure

This course consists of regular lectures and discussion based on readings, some sessions organized around assignments and your research, and two debates. While the lectures and readings will convey a broad range of ideas and information about globalization, you will be able to study a particular issue in depth by working on a research project throughout the semester. At the beginning of the semester I will provide guidelines and ask you to start your project. Several subsequent assignments and class sessions will help you to link aspects of your topic to dimensions of globalization we have discussed.

Required texts and online readings

Frank J. Lechner, *Globalization: The Making of World Society* (electronic version)
Frank J. Lechner and John Boli (editors), *The Globalization Reader*
Frank J. Lechner and John Boli, *World Culture: Origins and Consequences*
Online electronic reserve readings

Requirements

1. Research paper (approx. 15 pages) – 30% of final grade, due Dec. 8. The purpose of this project is to help you understand global change better by studying a particular global issue in detail. The general theme is: “The Globalization of X.” You may choose a specific phenomenon or problem “X” that you want to investigate, subject to approval. You will receive guidelines to organize your research, which will proceed in steps throughout the semester. As the guidelines will explain, the paper should include web-friendly material suitable for online posting, in addition to regular text. You may choose to work with a partner (in which case the paper should be approximately 25 pages).

Note: this course does not fulfill the GER College writing requirement.

2. Two exams – each 30% of final grade. Exams will consist of short-answer and essay questions. There will be no early or make-up exams, except in the case of documented medical emergencies. Please note the late date of the final exam.

3. Participation, preparation, attendance – 10% of final grade. You are expected to be able to respond to questions (I frequently call on individual students), participate in discussion, carry out any class-related assignments and research, and be involved in the debates. You may be absent three times without excuse, but less than three unexcused absences raises your p/p/a grade by a full grade point while each unexcused absence over three leads to a full point deduction in your p/p/a grade.

Schedule

- Note 1: *Globalization* refers to *Globalization: The Making of World Society*
- Note 2: Unless indicated otherwise, readings are from *The Globalization Reader*
- Note 3: Classes marked * require more than usual preparation – plan accordingly
- Note 4: I will occasionally add short readings or ungraded assignments

8/29 Introduction
Globalization, Chapter 1

Global food: What’s new in globalization?

9/3 Sushi
Bestor, “How Sushi Went Global” (*Reader*)
Reader, General Introduction

9/5 *Sugar
Globalization, Chapter 2
World Culture, Chapter 3

9/8 McDonald’s
Watson, “McDonald’s in Hong Kong” (*Reader*)

Global sports: What role does the U.S. play in globalization?

- 9/10 Soccer
Globalization, Chapter 3
- 9/12 Baseball and cricket
W. Kelly, "Is Baseball a Global Sport?" (on reserve)
- 9/15 The Olympics
World Culture, Chapter 1

Global media: Does globalization makes us all alike?

- 9/17 *Television
Sinclair et al., "Peripheral Vision"
Tomlinson, "Cultural Imperialism"
Globalization, Chapter 4
- 9/19 Movies
Cowen, "Why Hollywood Rules the World, and Whether We Should Care"
Tyrell, "Bollywood versus Hollywood"
- 9/22 Music
Taylor, "Strategic Inauthenticity"
- 9/24 Paper project "The Globalization of X" – first step
Paper project assignment: choose topic "X," describe it in one paragraph, bring two relevant sources

Explaining globalization: What questions do theories ask, what answers do they supply?

- 9/26 *Economic integration and the world-system
Wallerstein, "The Modern World-System as a Capitalist World-Economy"
World Culture, Chapter 2
- 9/29 Complex interdependence and the world polity
Keohane/Nye, "Realism and Complex Interdependence"
Meyer et al., "World Society and the Nation-State"
Fuller, "Strong States, Strong Teachers?"
- 10/1 Disjunctures, difference, and world culture
Robertson, "Globalization as a Problem"
Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy"
Hannerz, "The Global Ecumene"

Religious globalization and the impact of faith: Is there a global religious revival?

- 10/3 Pentecostalism
World Culture, Ch. 8
Jenkins, "The Christian Revolution"
- 10/6 Catholicism
Globalization, Chapter 9
Casanova, "Globalizing Catholicism and the Return to a 'Universal' Church"
- 10/8 Islam
World Culture, Chapter 9
Kurzman, "Bin Laden and Other Thoroughly Modern Muslims"
Roy, "Globalized Islam: The Search for a New Ummah"
- 10/10 Midterm exam

Political globalization and the troubles of nation-states: Are they bound to retreat?

- 10/15 Immigration: The American Experience
Lechner, *Globalization*, Chapter 10
Huntington, "The Hispanic Challenge" (on reserve)
- 10/17 Immigration: The European Experience
Lechner, *The Netherlands: National Identity and Globalization*, Chapter 5 (on reserve)
- 10/20 **Paper project assignment:** draft brief history and explanation of X; collect web materials and sources
- 10/22 **Immigration debate preparation: team meeting. Assignment:** Collect and bring debate materials.
- 10/24 **Immigration debate.** Resolved: Immigration benefits the U.S.
- 10/27- *International organizations and global governance
- 10/29 *Globalization*, Chapter 7
World Culture, Chapters 4, 10
- 10/31- Global civil society: INGOs and movements
- 11/3 *Globalization*, Chapter 8
Boyle, "The Evolution of Debates over Female Genital Cutting"
Boli/Thomas, "World Culture in the World Polity"
Mathews, "Power Shift"
Bond, "The Backlash against NGOs"

- 11/5 *The global environment and global governance
Globalization, Chapter 12
 Wapner, "Greenpeace and Political Globalism"
 Keck and Sikkink, "Environmental Advocacy Networks"
- 11/7 **Paper project assignment:** describe role of states and international organizations in X; bring additional web resources
- 11/10 *The welfare state
Globalization, Chapter 6
 Strange, "The Retreat of the State"
 Garrett, "Partisan Politics in the Global Economy"

Economic globalization and the power of markets: Does globalization work?

- 11/12- Integration
 11/14 *Globalization*, Chapter 5
 Fallows, "China Makes, the World Takes" (on reserve)
 Gereffi, "The Global Economy: Organization, Governance, and Development"
 Korzeniewicz, "Commodity Chains and Marketing Strategies"
- 11/17 Organization
 Stiglitz, "Broken Promises" (on reserve)
- 11/19- Effects: globalization and inequality
 11/21 *Globalization*, Chapter 11
 Wolf, "Incensed about Inequality"
 Wade, "Is Globalization Reducing Poverty and Inequality?"
- 11/24- Critiques: The global justice movement
 12/1 *Globalization*, Chapter 13
World Culture, Chapter 7
Reader, Part I, Part X
- 12/3 **Globalization debate preparation: team meeting. Assignment:** prepare team debate materials
- 12/5 **Globalization debate:** Resolved: Globalization works
- 12/8 Recap and review. **Papers due**
- 12/16 **Final exam**
 4:30 p.m.