

SOCIOLOGY 266: GLOBAL CHANGE

Prof. John Boli
Tarbutton Hall, Room 231
(404) 727-7509

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11:30-12:50
jboli@emory.edu

Overview

Global culture: big Macs in Paris, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a Mexican telenovela soap opera. Global organizations: Amnesty International, CARE, the United Nations. Global economy: Ford buys Volvo, Nike shoes are made in Malaysian factories, the Euro becomes a major world currency. These and other aspects of globalization are the focus; making sense of global change, and understanding global processes in everyday life, is the goal. Important topics include connections between the global and the local; globalization's homogenizing and diversifying effects; the mass media and popular culture; global politics and social movements; and global problems, such as inequality, environmental degradation, ethno-nationalism, and AIDS. Throughout, theories of global structures and processes will guide the discussion.

Requirements/activities

A partial list of requirements for the course includes:

A. **Reading:** All books and articles listed on the course outline are required. Do the readings before the class meeting for which they are assigned.

B. **Daily reading of the *New York Times* on the Web**, to keep up with current events of relevance to the course and to be prepared for class discussion. We will focus on the articles in the International section of the *Times*, but other articles may also be used.

C. **Participation in class discussion**, which will count as a formal part of your grade.

D. Two **written exercises** that ask you to investigate global processes and issues in concrete terms. These assignments will require that you write short papers (circa four to six pages each) relating what you find in your investigations to course ideas and readings.

In class, we will jointly decide on additional course activities. The three main options are the following:

E. **Presentations on readings:** Each student would present a summary and lead a discussion of two assigned readings. In preparation for each presentation, you would write a short paper summarizing the reading and going beyond it to (a) discuss additional examples of relevance to the issues discussed in the reading, and (b) offer criticisms of the reading. Papers would typically be three to four pages long.

F. **Term project.** Two alternatives are possible:

(a) Individual or two-person papers on specific international organizations, studying their history, development, activities, and role in global processes, and relating your findings to the theories of global development reviewed in the course. If you were to do an individual paper, you would work on one organization; if you do a team paper, you would choose two organizations, one intergovernmental (involving states) and the other a nongovernmental organization, that work in the same field.

(b) Papers based on data gathered in a survey of individuals about topics related to global and national issues and identities. Construction and administration of the survey questionnaire would be a joint effort by all class members. Term papers would be written individually or in pairs, using the survey data to evaluate hypotheses developed in consultation with me.

For either alternative, the resulting papers are likely to be 15-20 pages long. You will be doing original research drawing on library and Web sources, in addition to material covered in class.

G. Exams: The exam option would entail a midterm and a final exam. Exams would consist of short-answer items and essay questions. For the essay questions, you would be able to choose among two or more different questions for each essay response.

Grading

Grades will be based on class participation, understanding of course readings, quality and depth of the written exercises, and the additional activities (reading presentations or term projects). The weight given to each activity will be worked out after the course requirements have been finalized.

Books to Buy

Iyer, Pico *Video Night in Kathmandu*
Vintage Press, 1989

Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink *Activists Beyond Borders*
Cornell University Press, 1998

Lechner, Frank J., and John Boli *The Globalization Reader*
Blackwell Publishers, 2000

Sklair, Leslie *Sociology of the Global System*
Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991

No reserve reading will be used, but some further materials will be assigned from sources on the Web.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 *Experiencing globalization. Basic concepts.*

5/22-26 Iyer, *Video Night in Kathmandu*, Intro and Bali, Tibet, Nepal, China, Philippines
Albrow, *Traveling Beyond Local Cultures*, #18 in Lechner and Boli
Pieterse, *Globalization as Hybridization*, #16 in Lechner and Boli

Exercise 1 assigned

Week 2 *Political perspectives. State-centric theories.*

5/29-6/2 Keohane and Nye, *Realism and Complex Interdependence*, #13 in Lechner and Boli
McNeely, *The Determination of Statehood*, #28 in Lechner and Boli
Ohmae, *The End of the Nation State*, #29 in Lechner and Boli
Roberts and Kingsbury, *The UN's Roles in International Society Since 1945*, #38 in Lechner and Boli
Ogata, *Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action*, #39 in Lechner and Boli

Exercise 1 due

Week 3 *Economic perspectives. World-system theory and neo-liberalism.*

6/5-6/9 Sklair, *Sociology of the Global System*, Ch. 1 (pp. 6-28), Ch. 2 (41-57), Ch. 3 (59-78, 84-95), Ch. 4 (all)
Wallerstein, *The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System*, #10 in Lechner and Boli
Korzeniewicz, "Commodity Chains and Marketing Strategies," #22 in Lechner and Boli
Fishman, "The Joys of Global Investment," #23 in Lechner and Boli
Cassen, *To Save Society*, #3 in Lechner and Boli
Wolf, *Why this Hatred of the Market?* #1 in Lechner and Boli
World Trade Organization, *Seven Common Misunderstandings about the WTO*, #33 in Lechner and Boli
Internet sources on the IMF, World Bank, and WTO

Week 4 *Global organizations and institutions (INGOs, IGOs). World-polity theory.*

6/12-6/16 Boli and Thomas, "World Culture in the World Polity," #37 in Lechner and Boli Meyer et al., "World Society and the Nation-State," #14 in Lechner and Boli

Diamond,
The
Global
ization
of
Democ
racy,
#34 in
Lechne
r and
Boli

Social movements in the world polity

Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders*, Ch. 1 (pp. 8-16, 25-37), Ch. 2 (39-51, 60-74) (Introduction, precursor movements)

Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders*, Ch.5 (165-88) (Violence vs. women)

Berkovitch, "The Emergence and Transformation of the International Women's Movement," #35 in Lechner and Boli

UN Fourth World Conference on Women, "Beijing Declaration," #36 in Lechner and Boli

Exercise 2 assigned

Week 5 *Dissensus and conflict.*

6/19-6/23 *Ethnic and religious conflict*

Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" #6 in Lechner and Boli

Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld," #5 in Lechner and Boli

Lechner, "Global Fundamentalism," #46 in Lechner and Boli

Haeri, "Obedience Versus Autonomy: Women and Fundamentalism in Iran and Pakistan," #48 in Lechner and Boli

Global environmentalism

Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders*, Ch. 4 (121-33, 150-63)

Wapner, "Greenpeace and Political Globalism," #52 in Lechner and Boli

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development," #51 in Lechner and Boli

Exercise 2 due

Week 6 *Global media and culture. Assessing globalization.*

6/26-6/30 *Media and global events*

Friedland, "Covering the World," #41 in Lechner and Boli

Sklair, *Sociology of the Global System*, Ch. 5

Sinclair et al., *A Peripheral Vision*, #42 in Lechner and Boli
Cultural globalization
Hannerz, *A Scenarios for Peripheral Cultures*, #45 in Lechner and Boli
Tomlinson, *A Cultural Imperialism*, #43 in Lechner and Boli
Globalization: for good and ill
(Reprise on Fishman, Cassen, Wolf, Barber readings, perhaps others)