Course Description and Overview

This seminar is the second in a two-part sequence on globalization that explores diverse themes and aspects of emergent global society. Whether in the personal, professional, or political it is vital to become acquainted with the concept of globalization and to take a global perspective. Global/Globalization studies are at the cutting edge of the study of contemporary society and at the cusp of social science research agendas. Across the board, disciplines in the social sciences and humanities are being reshaped by new global studies. Our personal biographies are linked to increasingly dense networks of global interrelations, as the integration of societies, economies, and cultures fundamentally transforms human life on the planet.

This seminar is intended as an overview of critical approaches to the sociology of globalization. **Part II may be taken alone or in conjunction with the first part.** Part I, *global political economy*, emphasizes the economic dimension of globalization, and includes recent theories and research directions in global political economy, world system theory, the rise of the global economy and of transnational capitalism, post-Fordism, and global cities, the network society, among other themes. Part II is the *sociology of globalization*. Topics include an overview of the sociology of globalization and theories of gobalism/the global system, a summary of economic globalization, political globalization, transnational classes and a transnational state, global culture and ideology, transnational social movements/global civil society, transnational migrations and the new global labor market, globalization and race/ethnicity, women, gender and globalization, local-global linkages, resistance to globalization, and the future of global society.

As with part I, this is an exploratory seminar. It requires intensive reading, critical thinking, active participation, and a lot of hard work. I understand that students are at different stages of their studies. Whether you find yourself lost, confused, or elated over the learning experience, I encourage you to raise questions throughout the course, to discuss your concerns in class, and to drop by during my office hours. I also recommend that you form study groups to discuss readings and assist each other in the learning process.

**Required Readings**

1) Reading Packet of Selected Articles and Book Excerpts (available at SBPrinters at UCEN, 805.699.6342).

2) William I. Robinson, *A Theory of Global Capitalism*

3) Michael Burawoy, et. Al. (eds.), *Global Ethnographies*

4) Saskia Sassen, *A Sociology of Globalization*

5) Zhongjin Li, *China on Strike*

6) Grace Chang, *Disposable Domestics*

7) Noemi Klein, *This Changes Everything*

**Course Requirements and Grading**
Attendance is required. Ten percent of your grade (10 points) will derive from attendance and another 30 percent will derive from active and meaningful participation in class discussion, including student presentations. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments. Another 40 percent of your grade will derive from written responses to readings in the form of weekly reflection essays/abstracts on the readings. The final 20 points of your grade will derive from an abbreviated term paper (details below).

Outline of Seminar

The course is divided into the following weekly themes:

Week 1: Introduction and Overview of Seminar
Week 2: Theories of Globalization and the Global System
Week 3: Sociology of Globalization
Week 4: The Global Economy/Global Capitalism
Week 5: Globalization and Culture, Transnational Civil Society, Transnational Social Movements
Week 6: Globalization, the Environment, and Climate Change
Week 7: Globalization and Race/Ethnicity, Women/Gender, Immigrant Labor, Transnational Migrations, Transnationalism.
Week 8: Case Study: Immigrant Women Workers in the Global Economy
Week 9: Conceptualizing the Local-Global: Global Ethnographies
Week 10: Global Crisis, Resistance, and Alternative Futures, China Case Study: China on Strike

Format of Seminar

The night prior to each class meeting students will e-mail their briefs to me and to all other participants in the seminar. Everyone will read each other’s briefs before class.

The instructor will open each meeting with initial discussion on the week’s topic and its relevance to globalization and transnational studies. Following the instructor’s opening comments we will go around the room once. Each student will make a 2-minute opening statement, which will consist of a comment or two on the week’s topic and, as well as any questions you may have and/or need for clarification from the instructor and/or the group on terms, concepts, definitions, from the readings. Speaking to a group on the basis of an outline is an important skill to develop. I want to reiterate the importance of timing your presentations. At professional conferences you are generally given 15 and sometimes 20 minutes for a paper presentation and presiders will indicate when your time is up. I will hold up a time card when your 2 minutes are up and at that time you will have about 10-15 seconds to summarize.

After this initial round we will move into seminar open-discussion mode. The instructor will facilitate discussion, including a review of the questions raised by the presenters. The instructor will also participate directly in discussion, occasionally present additional lecture material, and interject otherwise when appropriate.

Please consider the following as we move into open discussion:
There is no such thing as a stupid question or an obvious answer (recall, moreover, that asking a question is always more radical – literally and figuratively – that a statement of fact). If you do not know the definition of a term or are not familiar with a concept or do not understand something from the readings the chances are there are many others – maybe the whole class – who also have such questions or concerns. I am paid to be here working with you: ask anything and everything. If I don’t know the answer we will explore it together.

I will not be authoritarian in facilitating discussion but I want you to try not to ramble on, to state things as succinctly as possible, to formulate your point, and for the group discussion to remain focused. I will also call on you to substantiate your propositions and assertions as best as possible based on the precepts of social science (logical inquiry and empirical verification).

We will end seminar discussion at 7:40 and use the remaining 10 minutes to discuss the topic and readings for the next week.

Abstracts/Briefs

Abstracts are due each Monday by 5:00 p.m. You should e-mail me (and to the full class list) your abstract as a Word attachment (wirobins@soc.ucsb.edu). In the past my seminar students have sent these late into the evening or even the day of class. I would appreciate them by 5:00 pm and I will not accept them after 8:00 pm. If they arrive after 8:00 pm Monday evening I will not read them. I return them to you without points. The abstracts should be a double-spaced and typed 12 p. font, two pages (no more) response to the readings. These are brief reflection essays and should include: 1) several ideas that you found new, relevant and/or inspirational in the readings; 2) one or more critical comments on an idea with which you disagreed or felt was unsubstantiated, inconsistent, poorly developed, ambiguous, or requires further examination; 3) a number of questions that you would like to discuss during the seminar discussions. The pedagogical purpose of these essays is for you to organize and clarify your own thoughts on the readings and subject matter, and to prepare you for meaningful seminar discussion.

Term paper

The term paper should be a brief discussion of how the content of this course and the readings may be applied to your particular area of MA or PhD research. These papers should be approximately 5-7 pages, and an absolute maximum of 10, and you should include a bibliography and appropriate citations. Additional readings are not required for the term paper, but you are free to incorporate additional material if you so wish. The paper does NOT require new research or fieldwork. The style may be more loose and discursive. Term papers are due on the last day of class.

Week-by-Week Schedule of Readings and Topics:
Below you will find a week-by-week breakdown of required readings. I used to include a list of supplemental readings on each topic in this syllabus. However, the social science literature on globalization has become vast and these days it is easy to find numerous bibliographies on the internet. You are not required for this course to read beyond the week’s required material. However, take into account that globalization is a cutting edge area in the social sciences and much research is new. You may wish to draw on supplemental readings for your term paper and/or presentations. Note that all readings apart from the books you will find in the reader.

**JAN 10: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE SEMINAR**

No readings required.

**JAN 17: THEORIES OF GLOBALIZATION AND THE GLOBAL SYSTEM**

Readings:

- Scholte, “What is Happening?” and “What is ‘Global’ About Globalization”
- Held, et. al., “Introduction” from *Global Transformations*.
- Robinson, “Theories of Globalization”
- Sklair, “Sociology of the Global System”
- Robinson, “Critical Globalization Studies”
- Handler, “What We Don’t Talk About When We Talk About The Global in North American Higher Education”
- Robinson, “Globalization and the Sociology of Immanuel Wallerstein” [THIS READING IS OPTIONAL, IF YOU HAVE TIME]

**JAN 24: SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION**

Readings:

- Saskia Sassen, *Sociology of Globalization*, everyone will read chapters 1 and 2, and everyone will read three out of the next six chapters. Prior to this class meeting we will arrange who reads what chapters so that all chapters are covered.

**JAN 31: THE GLOBAL ECONOMY AND GLOBAL CAPITALISM**

Readings:


**FEB 7: GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURE, TRANSNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY, TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**
Readings:

- Jan Nederveen-Pieterse, “Globalization and Culture: Three Paradigms”
- Appuradai, “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy”
- Slavoj Zizek, “Multiculturalism, Or, the Cultural Logic of Multinational Capitalism”
- Leslie Sklair, “Social Movements and Global Capitalism”
- Cohen and Shirin, “Global Social Movements”
- Ronaldo Munck, “Labor in the Global”

FEB 14: Globalization, the Environment, and Climate Change

Readings:

- Noemi Klein, *This Changes Everything*, you will read major excerpts of the book, long but very easy and engaging reading. I will provide further guidance before this class meeting

FEB 21: GLOBALIZATION AND RACE/ETHNICITY, WOMEN/GENDER, IMMIGRANT LABOR, TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION, TRANSNATIONALISM

Readings:

- Robinson, “Transnationality”
- Robinson and Santos, “Global Capitalism, Immigrant Labor, and the Struggle for Justice”
- Robinson, “Globalization and Race in World Capitalism”
- Dunaway and Clelland, “Challenging the Global Apartheid Model”
- Oyogoa, “Cruise Ships: Continuity and Change in the World System”
- Fletcher, “Race in the Capitalist World-System”
- Basch, Schiller, and Blanc, “Transnational Projects: A New Perspective” and “Theoretical Premises”
- Portes, Guarnizo, and Landolt, “The Study of Transnationalism: Pitfalls and Promises of an Emergent Research Field”
- Fox, “Women’s Work and Resistance in the Global Economy”
- Ehrenreich and Hochschild, “Introduction”
- Parreñas, “The International Division of Reproductive Labor: Paid Domestic Work”
and Globalization”

- NOT REQUIRED READING BUT INCLUDED HERE FYI: Rouse, “Questions of Identity: Personhood and Collectivity in Transnational Migration to the United States”

FEB 27: CASES STUDY: IMMIGRANT WOMEN WORKERS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Readings: Grace Chang, Disposable Domestics, read entire book

MARCH 7: CONCEPTUALIZING THE LOCAL-GLOBAL: GLOBAL ETHNOGRAPHIES

Readings:

- Burawoy, et. al., Global Ethnography, read: Introduction by Burawoy, Introduction to Part One plus at least one chapter in Part One; Introduction to Part Two plus at least one chapter in Part Two; Introduction to Part Three and at least on chapter in Part Three; Conclusions by Burawoy; plus pick one additional chapter from any section (thus you will read four substantive chapters, plus introduction and conclusion, and the introduction to each section).

MARCH 14: CRISIS, RESISTANCE, AND ALTERNATIVE FUTURES: CHINA CASE STUDY AND ARTICLES ON ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

- So, “Introduction”
- Ren, China on Strike, read Introduction and pick one chapter from part I, pick three chapters from part II, pick two chapters from part III, and read Postscript
- Robinson and Barrera, “Global Crisis and Twenty-First Century Fascism: A U.S. Case Study.”
- Raskin, et. al, “History of the Future”
- Robinson, “Reform is Not Enough to Stem the Rising Tide of Inequality Worldwide”
- Amin, “Ending the Crisis of Capitalism or Ending Capitalism”

There are dozens of social science journals that now publish broadly on globalization. The following are some of these:

- Globalizations;
- Global Networks;
- International Sociology;
- Journal of Critical Globalization Studies
The following are some collections and basic works you may want to have on your own bookshelf:

- George Ritzer (ed), *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization*
- Scholte and Robertson, *Encyclopedia of Globalization*
- Appelbaum and Robinson (eds), *Critical Globalization Studies*
- Letcher and Boli (eds.), *The Globalization Reader*
- Khagram and Levitt, *The Transnational Studies Reader*
- Held, et. al., *Global Transformations*
- Jan Aart Scholte, *Globalization: A Critical Introduction*
- Steger, *Globalization: The Greatest Hits*