

**SYLLABUS: SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION**  
**SOCIOLOGY 265GS/FALL 2008, Th. 12:30-3:30**  
**PROFESSOR: WILLIAM I. ROBINSON**  
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### **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. Globalization is the buzzword of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Whether in the personal or the professional it is increasingly vital to become acquainted with the concept of globalization. Global/Globalization studies is now at the cutting edge of the study of contemporary society and at the cusp of social science research agendas. Across the board, the disciplines in the social sciences and humanities are being reshaped by a 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 distinct discourses, approaches, and areas in the social scientific study 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 globalism/the global system, 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 and globalization, local-global linkages, and resistance to globalization.

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 Grafikart, Grafikart, 6550 Pardall Road, Isla Vista. Ph: 968-3575.
- 2) William I. Robinson, *Promoting Polyarchy*
- 3) Michael Burawoy, et. Al. (eds.), *Global Ethnographies*

## **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 a term paper (details below).

## **Outline of Seminar**

The course is divided into the following weekly themes:

- Sept. 25: Introduction and Overview of Seminar
- Oct. 2: Macrosociologies, Theories of the Global System, Discourses on Globalization, Methods and Epistemologies, Part I
- Oct. 9: Macrosociologies, Theories of the Global System, Discourses on Globalization, Methods and Epistemologies, Part II
- Oct. 16: Political Globalization I: Global Politics, Governance, Transnational State, etc.
- Oct. 23: Political Globalization II: Power and Transnational Politics
- Oct. 30: Globalization and Culture
- Nov. 6: Transnational Social Movements, Transnational Civil Society, Globalization and the Environment
- Nov. 13: Globalization and Race/Ethnicity, Transnational Migrations, Transnational Communities, Transnationalism.
- Nov. 20: Globalization and Women/Gender
- Nov. 27: No Class/Thanksgiving
- Dec. 4: Conceptualizing the Local-Global: Global Ethnographies  
Course Conclusions: Globalization, Resistance, Hegemonies and Counterhegemonies, Alternative Futures

## **Format of Seminar**

The night prior to each class meeting students will e-mail their briefs 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, its relevance to globalization and transnational studies, and the state of theorizing and research into that particular topic. Following the instructor's opening comments we will go around the room once. Each student will make a 3-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 3 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 – than 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.**

We will end seminar discussion at 3:20 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](mailto:wirobins@soc.ucsb.edu)). In the past my seminar students have sent these late into the evening. 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 Wednesday 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, or requires further examination; 3) ideas or issues which you found ambiguous, poorly developed, or unclear.** In addition, each brief should include 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 critical review of the materials and topics covered in the course. I expect approximately 15 pages, and you should include a bibliography and appropriate citations. You should discuss what you have learned in the seminar, how the diverse themes have come together, and new lines of inquiry and research directions you feel are important in the field of the sociology of globalization. If you chose to read additional readings materials you will stand a better chance of scoring maximum points, but additional readings are *not required*. The paper does NOT require new research or fieldwork. To reiterate: it should be a broad ranging review of the seminar topics and a more intensive focus on one particular topic of your choice. As this is not a research paper but rather an exercise in critical assessment of a body of ideas and literature, you do not need to follow the usual structure guidelines for a paper (the research purpose, statement of hypothesis, etc.). 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 except for the two books you will find all these readings in the reader.

#### **SEPT. 25: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE SEMINAR**

No readings required.

#### **OCT. 2: MACROSOCIOLOGIES, THEORIES OF THE GLOBAL SYSTEM, DISCOURSES ON GLOBALIZATION, METHODS AND EPISTEMOLOGIES, PART I**

Readings:

- Scholte, "What is Happening?," and "What is 'Global' About Globalization"
- Held, et. al., "Introduction" from *Global Transformations*.
- Robertson and White, "What is Globalization?"
- Robinson, "Globalization: Nine Theses of Our Epoch"
- Benjamin Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld"

#### **OCT. 9: MACROSOCIOLOGIES, THEORIES OF THE GLOBAL SYSTEM, DISCOURSES ON GLOBALIZATION, METHODS AND**

## **EPISTEMOLOGIES, PART II**

- Robinson, “Theories of Globalization”
- Chase-Dunn, “Globalization: A World-Systems Perspective”
- Sklair, “Sociology of the Global System”
- Khagram and Levitt, “Constructing Transnational Studies”
- Meyer, et. al., “World Society and the Nation-State”
- Finnemore, “Norms, Culture, and World Politics: Insight’s from Sociology’s Institutionalism”
- Babones, “Studying Globalization: Methodological Issues”
- Robinson, “Critical Globalization Studies” (in reading packet);

### **OCT. 16: POLITICAL GLOBALIZATION II: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE, TRANSNATIONAL STATE, TRANSNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

Readings:

- Held, McGrew, et. al. “The Territorial State and Global Politics”;
- Boli and Thomas, “World Culture in a World Polity”;
- Smith, “Global Politics”
- Keniche Ohmae, “The End of the Nation State”;
- Robinson, “Capitalist Globalization and the Transnationalization of the State;

### **OCT. 23: POLITICAL GLOBALIZATION I: POWER AND TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS**

Readings:

- Robinson, *Promoting Polyarchy: Globalization, U.S. Intervention, and Hegemony* (read chapters 1, 2 and 7, plus *at least* two of the four case studies (chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6).

### **OCT. 30: GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURE**

Readings:

- Jan Nederveen-Pieterse, “Globalization and Culture: Three Paradigms”
- Tomlinson, “Cultural Globalization”;
- Steger, “Global Culture: Sameness or Difference?”
- Appuradai, “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy”

- Kellner and Pierce, “Globalization and Media”
- Beyer, “Religion and Globalization”
- **NOT REQUIRED BUT INCLUDED IN READING PACKET:** Slavoj Zizek, “Multiculturalism, Or, the Cultural Logic of Multinational Capitalism”

**NOV. 6: TRANSNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY AND TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, GLOBALIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Readings:

- Keck and Sikkink, “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics: Introduction”
- Cohen and Rai, “Global Social Movements”
- Smith, “Contested Globalizations” and “Rival Transnational Networks”
- Ronaldo Munck, “Labor in the Global”
- Leslie Sklair, “Social Movements and Global Capitalism”
- Kriesberg, “Social Movements and Global Transformation”
- Yearley, “Globalization and the Environment”

**NOV. 13: GLOBALIZATION AND RACE/ETHNICITY/TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATIONS AND TRANSNATIONALISM**

Readings:

- Yon Le Espiritu, “Home Making”
- Robinson, “Transnationality”;
- Kearney, “The Local and the Global: The Anthropology of Globalization and
- Robinson, “Latino Populations in the United States...”
- Robinson, “Aqui Estamos y No Nos Vamos!: Global Capital and Immigrant Rights”
- 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”
- Marable, “Globalization and Racialization”
- **NOT REQUIRED READING BUT INCLUDED HERE:** Rouse, “Questions of Identity: Personhood and Collectivity in Transnational Migration to the United States”
- **NOT REQUIRED BUT INCLUDED HERE:** Portes, “Transnational Communities: Their Emergence and Significance in the Contemporary World-System”;
- **READINGS BY STUART HALL ON GLOBALIZATION AND RACE (NOT INCLUDED HERE BUT RECOMMENDED**

- **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: THE JOURNAL *RACE AND CLASS***

**NOV. 20: GLOBALIZATION AND WOMEN/GENDER/SEXUALITY**

Readings:

- Fox, “Women’s Work and Resistance in the Global Economy”
- Moghadam, “Globalization and Transnational Feminist Networks”
- Ehrenreich and Hochschild, *Global Woman*, excerpts in reading packet (Introduction and chapters by Brennan, Thai, and Sassen).
- Parreñas, “The International Division of Reproductive Labor: Paid Domestic Work and Globalization”
- Pyle, “Critical Globalization Studies and Gender”
- Farr, “Globalization and Sexuality”
- Connell, “Masculinities and Globalization”

**DEC. 4: CONCEPTUALIZING THE LOCAL-GLOBAL: GLOBAL ETHNOGRAPHIES GLOBAL ETHNOGRAPIES**

**COURSE CONCLUSIONS: GLOBALIZATION, RESISTANCE, HEGEMONIES AND COUNTERHEGEMONIES, ALTERNATIVE FUTURES**

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 one 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).
- Carroll, “Hegemony, Counter-Hegemony, Anti-Hegemony”

There are dozens of social science journals that now publish broadly on globalization. The following are some of these (esp. first three):

- Globalisations;

- Transnational Networks;
- International Sociology;
- Global Society;
- Third World Quarterly;
- Journal of World-Systems Research
- Race and Class

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*
- Sassen, *A Sociology 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*
- Malcolm Waters, *Globalization* (updated edition)
- David Held (ed), *The Global Transformation Reader: An Introduction to the Globalization Debate* (2<sup>nd</sup> updated edition)