

SYLLABUS: SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION
SOCIOLOGY 265GS/FALL, Th. 4-7 PM
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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. 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. **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, 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,
- 2) Ehrenreich and Hochschild (eds), *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers*
- 3) Jan Nederveen-Pieterse, *Globalization and Culture: Global Melange*
- 4) William I. Robinson, *Promoting Polyarchy*

- 5) William I. Robinson, *A Theory of Global Capitalism*
- 6) Michael Buroawoy, et. Al. (eds.), *Global Ethnographies*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance is required. Twenty percent of your grade will derive from attendance and another 20 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 30 percent of your grade will derive from written responses to readings in the form of weekly reflection essays/abstracts on the readings. The final 30 points of your grade will derive from a term paper (details below).

STRUCTURE OF SEMINAR

The course is divided into the following weekly themes:

- 1) Sept. 23: Introduction and Overview of Seminar
- 2) Sept. 30: Macrosociologies, Theories of Global System, Discourses on Globalization
- 3) Oct. 7: Political Globalization I: Power and Transnational Politics
- 4) Oct. 14: Political Globalization II:
Debate on Transnational Capitalist Class/ Transnational State
- 5) Oct. 21: Globalization and Culture
- 6) Oct. 28 Transnational Social Movements
- 7) Nov. 4: Globalization and Race/Ethnicity/Transnational Migrations
- 8) Nov. 11: No Class/Veterans Day
- 9) Nov. 18: Globalization and Women/Gender
- 10) Nov. 25: No Class/Thanksgiving
- 11) Dec. 2: Conceptualizing the Local-Global: Global Ethnographies

The instructor will open the meeting with summary comments 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 lecture we will move into seminar mode. At that point, the student or students who have been assigned to give that week's presentation will present on the week's reading. As everyone will have done the reading, these formal presentations should be *brief, approximately one half hour*. In addition, the student, or students, presenting must prepare a 1-2 page handout for the group. This handout should include a *very brief* outline of the topic and the presentation and, even more important, a list of discussion questions for the group. I will check to make sure this handout includes a list of well thought-out discussion questions. Since every student is expected to have done the readings,

your presentation should *not* consist of a detailed summary, but rather draw out the critical issues raised by the week's readings. Prepare an outline for your presentation but *do not read from a prepared text*. Speaking to a group on the basis of an outline is an important skill to develop. I would like to meet each Wednesday during my office hours with the student or students who will present the following day. We will discuss the week's topic and review your plan for the presentation.

Following student presentations, the presenters, together with the instructor, will facilitate discussion, including a review of the questions on the handout. The instructor will also participate directly in discussion, occasionally present additional lecture material, and interject otherwise when appropriate.

READINGS:

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.

WEEKLY REFLECTION ESSAYS, TERM PAPER, AND IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Abstracts

Abstracts are due each Wednesday by 5:00 p.m. Please place them in my box. Late delivery will result in a loss of 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.**

In-Class Presentations

Students will make a brief presentation on one or two of the week's readings. Please practice and time yourself. If you present individually, I expect you to speak for no more than 20 minutes, and 30 minutes if two students present together. I will signal you during the presentations with a five-minute warning. Please remember that the purpose of the presentation is merely to lay out the issues and set the framework for class discussion.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1) SEPT. 23: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE SEMINAR

No readings required.

2) SEPT. 30: MACROSOCIOLOGY, THEORIES OF THE GLOBAL SYSTEM, AND DISCOURSES ON GLOBALIZATION

Readings:

- Scholte, "What is Happening?," and "What is 'Global' About Globalization" (in reading packet).
- Held, et. al., "Introduction" from *Global Transformations* (in reading packet).
- Roland Robertson, "Globalization Theory, 2000+: Major Problematics"
- Robinson, "Globalization: Nine Theses of Our Epoch" (in reading packet)
- Benjamin Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld" (in reading packet)

- Sklair, “Sociology of the Global System” (in reading packet)
- Meyer, et. al., “World Society and the Nation-State” (in reading packet).

3) OCT. 7: 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). *Presenters: Read the entire book.*

4) OCT. 14: POLITICAL GLOBALIZATION II: DEBATE ON THE TRANSNATIONAL CAPITALIST CLASS AND THE TRANSNATIONAL STATE

Readings:

- Robinson, *A Theory of Global Capitalism.*

5) OCT. 21: GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURE

Readings:

- Jan Nederveen-Pieterse, *Globalization and Culture: Global Melange*

6) OCT. 28: TRANSNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY AND TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

(PROFESSOR JOHN FORAN WILL GUEST-FACILITATE THIS MEETING)

Readings:

- Keck and Sikkink, “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics: Introduction” (in reading packet);
- Della Porta and Tarrow, “Transnational Processes and Social Activism: An

- Introduction” (in reading packet);
- W. Lance Bennet, “Social Movements Beyond Borders: Understanding Two Eras of Transnational Activism” (in reading packet);
- Valentine Moghadam, “Gender and Globalization: Female Labor and Women’s Mobilization” (in reading packet)
- Ponniah and Fisher, “Introduction: The World Social Forum and the Reinvention of Democracy” (in reading packet)
- Ronaldo Munck, “Labor in the Global” (in reading packet)
- Leslie Sklair, “Social Movements and Global Capitalism” (in reading packet)

7) **NOV. 4: GLOBALIZATION AND RACE/ETHNICITY/TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATIONS**

Readings:

- Robinson, “The Global Economy and the Latino Populations in the United States: A World Systems Approach” (in reading packet);
- Amin, “The Rise of Ethnicity: A Political Response to Economic Globalization” (in reading packet)
- Portes, “Transnational Communities: Their Emergence and Significance in the Contemporary World-System” (in reading packet);
- Sassen-Kook, “Labor Migration and the New International Division of Labor” (in reading packet)
- Robinson, excerpt from Transnational Conflicts, “Transnational Migration” (in reading packet)

8) **NOV. 18: GLOBALIZATION AND WOMEN/GENDER**

Readings:

- Ehrenreich and Hochschild, *Global Woman*, read Introduction, chapters by Parreñas, Brennan, Gamburd, Thai, Sassen, and then select another four chapters of your choice (make sure to indicate in your brief which four chapters you read).
- Ward and Pyle, “Gender, Industrialization, Transnational Corporations and Development: An Overview of Trends and Patterns” (in reading packet).
- Beijing Declaration (in reading packet)

9) **DEC. 2: Conceptualizing the Local-Global: Global Ethnographies 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 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).