

Globalization, Technology & Justice

Course Syllabus

Arizona State University
Spring 2004 (JUS 591 / 691)
Wednesdays 5:40-8:30 | NUR 305

Instructor

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Course Description

This graduate seminar will serve as an advanced introduction to contemporary social science theories of globalization. Drawing upon the fields of anthropology, sociology, geography, and cultural studies, it will investigate modern developments in international relations, institutional compositions, cultural constructions, and urban planning. The orientation for seminar discussions and projects will be a focus on opportunities for justice within emergent (or pre-existing) global regimes and technological systems.

Some guiding questions include

- Are nation states and national borders losing their importance?
- How are institutions changing and to what effect?
- What are some cultural responses to globalization?
- What role do information and communications technologies (ICTs) play in development?

Course Objectives

There are two primary objectives for this seminar. First, you will gain familiarity with the social science literature on globalization, including ongoing debates within the field. Second, you will work to articulate connections between your research and changes in the global political economy.

Grading

Participation	30%
3 Short “Critical Reaction” Essays	30%
Final Project	40%

Course Expectations

Attendance: This class will be conducted as a seminar with a focus on in-class discussion. Because of this format, you are expected to attend all classes for the full scheduled time. Excessive tardiness will be counted as an absence. Provided you hand in all due materials on time, you can miss 1 class throughout the semester without penalty. Please let me know in advance if you are planning on missing a class.

Reading: **Complete all readings (and other assignments) prior to the class meeting for which they are scheduled.** There are ten required books for the course, but I will also be distributing photocopied readings to you in class. See the course outline below for details.

Participation: Through communication ideas are formed, revised, borrowed, and developed. It is through argument, description, explanation, and improvisation – within a community – that individual learning flourishes. This course requires full participation (including active listening, facilitating, note-taking, and question-asking) to create an environment of open and shared learning.

We will have weekly common readings around which we will focus our discussion. Each class meeting will begin with some contextual background provided by me and then proceed to a brief summary of the arguments made in the reading (presented by one or more seminar participants). Next, we will generate an in-depth critique of the arguments and then pursue questions sparked by the reading or discussion – as guided by the overarching course goals. Each student should prepare for these steps in advance of the seminar meeting.

Writing: There will be three brief “critical reaction” essays (5-7 pages) that explore arguments made in the texts and one final project (20-25 pages) that connects your research interests to changes in the global political economy. The brief essays focus on critical analysis of the reading for two or more weeks, aiming at comparison and integration across texts, leading to the development of a clear normative position on your part. The three essays are due no later than the following dates: (1) February 11; (2) March 10; (3) April 14. You are encouraged to submit them earlier if you’d like. You should meet with me early on in the semester to discuss ideas for your final project paper. I recommend that you approach this paper as an article that you are preparing for publication, and you will present a conference version of your paper on the last day of class. Get an early start and maintain steady progress throughout the term in order to avoid the end-of-the-semester rush. **No late writing assignments will be accepted.**

Academic Honesty

In order to avoid plagiarism, your papers must provide full citations for all references: direct quotes, summaries, or ideas. While you are encouraged to develop your thinking with your peers, you cannot use their material without citing it. Work from other courses will not be accepted in this course. Allowing your writing to be copied by another student is also considered cheating. Please review the Student Code of Conduct for complete guidelines on academic honesty. Note: Any instance of plagiarism or cheating can be grounds for failure of the entire course or expulsion from the university.

Gender-Fair Language

Language structures thought and action. Biases in language can (and do) naturalize inequities. Imprecise language also signifies un-interrogated values and sloppy thinking. For all of these reasons, the use of gender-fair language is expected in this course. For example, do not use words like “mankind” or “men” when referring to people in general; alternate between “she” and “he” instead of always using “he”, or construct sentences in the plural instead of the singular so you can use “they” or “them” and avoid the problem altogether.

ESL/LD Students

Course requirements can be adjusted to serve the needs and capabilities of ESL and LD students. Please speak with me during the first two weeks of class to make arrangements. Students may be advised to attend additional sessions during my office hours so they can draw comparable value from the course.

Required Texts

- Caldeira, Teresa P. R. 2000. *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in São Paulo*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Fortun, Kim. 2001. *Advocacy after Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Graham, Stephen, and Simon Marvin. 2001. *Splintering Urbanism: Networked Infrastructures, Technological Mobilities and the Urban Condition*. New York: Routledge.
- Hardt, Michael, and Antonio Negri. 2000. *Empire*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- Harvey, David. 1990. *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.
- Inda, Jonathan Xavier, and Renato Rosaldo. 2002. *The Anthropology of Globalization: A Reader*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.
- Lahiri, Jhumpa. 1999. *Interpreter of Maladies: Stories*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
- Lyon, David. 2001. *Surveillance Society: Monitoring Everyday Life*. Buckingham England ; Philadelphia: Open University.
- Ong, Aihwa. 1999. *Flexible Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Peña, Devon Gerardo. 1997. *The Terror of the Machine: Technology, Work, Gender, and Ecology on the U.S.-Mexico Border*. 1st ed. Austin, TX: Center for Mexican American Studies the University of Texas at Austin.

Course Outline

Week 1 (1/21): Introduction

Week 2 (1/28): Mutations in Capital

- David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity*.

Week 3 (2/4): Anthropological Approaches to Globalization

[The readings for this week come from the *Anthropology of Globalization* reader.]

- Jonathan Xavier Inda & Renato Rosaldo, "Introduction."
- Arjun Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference."
- James Ferguson, "Global Disconnect."
- Jonathan Friedman, "Globalization and Localization."
- Nancy Scheper-Hughes, "The Global Traffic in Human Organs."
- Anna Tsing, "Conclusion."

Week 4 (2/11): Global Divisions of Labor

- Devon Gerardo Peña, *The Terror of the Machine*.
- First critical reaction essay due.

Week 5 (2/18): Political Materialities

- Teresa Caldeira, *City of Walls*.
- Torin Monahan, 2002, "Los Angeles Studies," *City & Society* XIV (2): 155-184.
[Available from: http://torinmonahan.com/papers/LA_Studies.pdf]

Week 6 (2/25): Electronic Infrastructures and Urban Development

- Stephen Graham & Simon Marvin, *Splintering Urbanism*.

Week 7 (3/3): Technologies of Social Control

- David Lyon, *Surveillance Society*.

Week 8 (3/10): Literary Imaginaries

- Jhumpa Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*.
- Second critical reaction essay due.

Week 9 (3/24): Tracking Cultural Agency

- Aihwa Ong, *Flexible Citizenship*.

Week 10 (3/31): Global Political Economy and Resistance (Part 1)

- Michael Hardt & Antonio Negri, *Empire*. (Parts 1, 2, & Intermezzo)

Week 11 (4/7): Global Political Economy and Resistance (Part 2)

- Michael Hardt & Antonio Negri, *Empire*. (Parts 3 & 4)

Week 12 (4/14): Ethnography and Postmodern Ethics

- Kim Fortun, *Advocacy After Bhopal*.
- Third critical reaction essay due.

Week 13 (4/21): Cultural Studies and Identity Constructions

[Readings for this week will be made available as handouts or placed on library reserve.]

- Trinh T. Minh-ha, 1989, "Infinite Layers/Third World?"
- Gloria Anzaldúa, 1987, "The New Mestiza."
- Coco Fusco, 1995, "Who's Doin' the Twist? Notes Toward a Politics of Appropriation."
- Lila Abu-Lughod, 1989, "Bedouins, Cassettes, and Technologies of Popular Culture."
- Akhil Gupta & James Ferguson, 1997, "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference." [In *Anthropology of Globalization* reader.]

Week 14 (4/28): Final Project Presentations