

POLI 4050, Fall 2016

Globalization & Politics

Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 – 11:50 am, 0015 Atkinson

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Office Hours: 1:30 – 2:30 pm, Tuesday and Thursday or by appointment

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The crux of the current global capitalist system is the “trinity” of capital-nation-state. The critical elements of this trinity are capital/market (economic domain), nations/society (sociocultural domain), and the state/inter-state system (political domain). These elements are heterogeneous by their origins and fundamentally contradict with each other. But they got linked as a seemingly unified entity only recently through a series of historical flukes. They became complementary to each other, making “creative destruction” of the world. In this course, we go beyond the conventional approach and take globalization as a set of processes which embodies both expansion and transformation of the “trinity” of capital-nation-state. As Parkinson argues, “perfection of planned layout is achieved only by institutions on the point of collapse,” and this system may be falling into ruin just as it becomes complete. As such, our central question throughout the course is: If globalization is transformative and inexorable, what will be (should be) a new sociopolitical economic system?

In searching for an answer, we need to understand this phenomenon in terms of political, economic, and social/cultural transformations. This upper-level undergraduate course has two main purposes: to equip students with a solid understanding of the origins, historical developments, and consequences of the so-called globalization, and to understand current debates on globalization.

READINGS

Each student is expected to read (before class) all the required readings for each session (see the reading assignments below). Required books are:

- 1) Marx, Karl and Fredrick Engels. 2012[1848]. *The Communist Manifesto*. Modern edition with Eric Hobsbawm’s Introduction. London and New York: Verso.
- 2) Osterhammel, Jürgen, and Niels P. Petersson. 2009. *Globalization: A Short History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- 3) Rodrik, Dani. 2012. *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of World Economy*. Reprint edition. New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company.
- 4) Pieterse, Jan Nederveen. 2015. *Globalization and Culture: Global Mélange*. Third edition. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield.
- 5) Singer, Peter. 2004. *One World: The Ethics of Globalization*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

There are additional readings. These readings are posted on Moodle. All students should have a LSU account for access to Moodle.

REQUIREMENTS

Basically, classes will involve lectures and discussions of the reading materials assigned for each session. I will introduce and explain some issues and concepts that are not in the readings, so **attendance is crucial**. Participation from students is important and will count toward the final grade.

There will be class participation, midterm/final examinations, and five reaction papers.

1) Attendance and participation (20%):

Since the subject matter is extremely important and hard, it is imperative to come to class. It is virtually impossible for students to receive a satisfactory grade if they miss several classes. Attendance will be taken for each session. Students may earn credit for their attendance at each class session, while repeated and unexcused absence will cause deduction in student's total grade. In addition to attending class, students are highly encouraged to ask and answer questions, and to make appropriate comments on issues covered in class.

2) In-class midterm and final examinations (20% each, total 40%)

The format of the exams will be explained in class.

3) Five reaction papers (8% each, total 40%): Students will write total five reaction papers on Marx & Engels, Osterhammel & Petersson, Rodrik, Pieterse, and Singer. A reaction paper is a short paper (around three double-spaced pages), discussing some aspect of the book. Students must briefly summarize and evaluate the book. Note that "evaluate" means that one must identify some central aspect of the author's analysis and discussion, explain why one thinks this aspect is interesting/important, and present one's evaluation of the author's position. Students must try to make an argument, simply asserting their agreement or disagreement will not be sufficient. The reaction papers are due in class on the dates scheduled for discussion of the books (or, put it in my mailbox before 10:00 am on the due date if students have to miss a class). Students should submit a hard copy. Since we will discuss the book in class, late papers will not be accepted.

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall Holiday	Thursday, October 6	No class meeting
Presidential Election Day	Tuesday, November 8	No class meeting
Conference	Tuesday, November 22	No class meeting
Thanksgiving Holiday	Thursday, November 24	No class meeting
Midterm exam	Thursday, October 13	10:30 am – noon
Final exam	<u>Monday, December 5</u>	<u>10:00 am – noon</u>
1 st paper on Marx & Engels	Tuesday, August 30	In class
2 nd paper on Osterhammel	Thursday, September 8	In class
3 rd paper on Rodrik	Tuesday, September 27	In class
4 th paper on Pieterse	Tuesday, October 25	In class
5 th paper on Singer	Tuesday, November 15	In class

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND SPECIFIC TOPICS

PART I. FUNDAMENTALS OF GLOBALIZATION

WEEK 1 (08/23-25) INTRODUCTION

Scope and roadmap of the course. What is globalization? Global capitalist system as the “trinity” of capital-nation-state. Globalization as completing and *universalizing* the “trinity.” Globalization as breaking up the trinity. New trends. Hyperglobalist vs. skeptical vs. transformationalist views.

No required reading.

WEEK 2 (08/30-09/01) NEW EPOCH: “ALL THAT IS SOLID MELTS INTO AIR...”

The Manifesto as double theses. The rise of bourgeois civilization. Bourgeoisie as a true revolutionary. Footloose global capital by nature. Melting vision. Modernity. Market economy and market society. Vision and prophesy. Inevitability and contingency. The role of politics. “Association of free individuals” (AFI).

Marx & Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*.

Reaction paper due in class on Tuesday, August 30.

PART II. GLOBALIZATION AS COMPLETING THE TRINITY

WEEK 3 (09/06-08) THE HISTORY OF GLOBALIZATION I

Conceptualization. Periodization. East vs. West. Different trajectories. Time-space compression. Global historical perspective. Early modern period. Cross-cultural exchange and long-distance trade. Biological old regime and organic societies. Polycentric world. Importance of the 19th century. Industrialism. Modern growth. Malthusian vs. Smithian vs. Schumpeterian growth.

Osterhammel & Petersson, *Globalization: A Short History*, Chapter I-III.

Reaction paper due in class on Thursday, September 8.

Marks, Robert. 2015. “The Material and Trading Worlds, circa 1400,” in *The Origins of the Modern World*, Robert Marks (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015), pp. 19-40.

WEEK 4 (09/13-15) THE HISTORY OF GLOBALIZATION II

Origins and globalization of the European inter-state system. Braudel’s conception. Capitalism and territorialism. Free trade. Colonialism and new imperialism. Global crises in the early 20th century. Glorious thirty years. The 1970s as the turning point.

Osterhammel & Petersson, *Globalization: A Short History*, Chapter IV-VII.

WEEK 5 (09/20-22) NATIONS AND NATIONALISM

Nationalism as the spirit of capitalism. Reciprocity. “Do nations have navels?” Print-capitalism. Conception of “meanwhile.” Imagining, re-imagining, and re-presenting. Centrist liberalism triumphant. Universalism as ideology.

Anderson, Benedict. 1983. *Imagined Communities*. New York: Verso, Chapter 1 – Chapter 3.

PART III. GLOBALIZATION AS BREAKING UP THE TRINITY

WEEK 6 (09/27-29) CLASS COMPROMISE UNDER “THIN” GLOBALIZATION

The state and market revisited. Transaction costs. Social insurance. Efficiency thesis vs. compensation thesis. Free market fundamentalism. Importance of social capabilities. World trade regime. Exchange rate regimes. Gold standard. Bretton Woods compromise. GATT and WTO. IMF and the World Bank.

Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, Chapter 1-4.

Reaction paper due in class on Tuesday, September 27.

WEEK 7-8 (10/04-11) “THICK” GLOBALIZATION AND THE POLITICAL TRILEMMA

Dissolution of the Bretton Woods consensus. The Washington Consensus. Financial globalization. Impossible trinity. Premature deindustrialization. “Second unbundling.” Low growth regime. MNCs and global production networks. Trilemma. Global Bretton Woods model.

Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, Chapter 5-12.

WEEK 7 (10/6) FALL HOLIDAY

No class meeting.

WEEK 8 (10/13) MIDTERM EXAMINATION

10:30 am – noon in class.

WEEK 9 (10/18-20) NEOLIBERALISM AND THE 2008 GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

Neoliberalism. Financialization. Efficient market hypothesis. Deregulation. Derivatives. Bubble economy and déjà vu. Money glut vs. saving glut theses. Black Swan. Austerity or spending?

Skidelsky, Robert. 2010. Part I: The Crisis, in *Keynes*, pp. 3-54. New York: Public Affairs.

Film: *The Big Short* (2015) directed by Adam McKay.

WEEK 10 (10/25-27) NEOLIBERAL GLOBALIZATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Excessive inequality. “Precariat.” Market society revisited. High-risk society. Structural dependence of the state on capital. Strange non-death of neoliberalism. Repoliticization or depoliticization? Democratic incapacity? Power of ideology. Are we all neoliberals now?

Standing, Guy. 2014. *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class*. New York: Bloomsbury, Chapter 1-2.

WEEK 11 (11/01-03) CULTURAL GLOBALIZATION I

Migration and human integration. Clash of civilization. “Glocalization” and “grobalization.” McDonaldization. Globalization of “nothing”? Hybridization.

Pieterse, *Globalization and Culture*, Chapter 1-3.

Reaction paper due in class on Tuesday, October 25.

WEEK 12 (11/08) PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DAY

No class meeting.

WEEK 12 (11/10) CULTURAL GLOBALIZATION II

Global mélange. Anti-hybridity backlash. Nationalism and ethnocentrism. Identity politics. Islam. China. Classical liberal solution. Scope of reciprocity.

Pieterse, *Globalization and Culture*, Chapter 4-8.

WEEK 13 (11/15-17) IS “ONE WORLD” A BETTER WORLD?

Cosmopolitanism = liberalism; internationalism = socialism? Environmental problem. Ethics of globalization. Global justice. Global governance. Global citizenry. “Empire.” Capital, social force and power revisited. What is to be done?

Singer, *One World*.

Reaction paper due in class on Tuesday, November 15.

WEEK 14 (11/22-24) CONFERENCE AND THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

No class meeting.

WEEK 15 (11/29-12/01) “THE FUTURE IS ALREADY HERE...”

Global stagnation. How to resume global growth? (Re)rise of China. “New medievalism.” Transnationalism, deterritorialism, and regionalism. Human history “revealed” by technology? (fn. 4, Ch. 15, in *Das Kapital*, Vol. 1) “Second machine age.” Artificial intelligence and the future of labor. “Third industrial revolution.” Is a decent society via the “AFI” finally feasible? The role of politics revisited. Summary of the course.

No required reading.

WEEK 16 (12/05) FINAL EXAMINATION

10:00 am – noon in class on Monday.