

GEOGRAPHY 20: GLOBALIZATION

Spring 2017
Tues/Thurs, 3:30-5:00 PM
100 Lewis Hall

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Course Description

Globalization is perhaps *the* keyword for our times. It is said to explain everything: from global “McDonaldization” to endless cultural invention; from deindustrialization to industrial renaissance; from rising standards of living to rising inequality; from the erosion of borders to the creation of fences. Perhaps most of all, it is supposed to mean the death of geography. And yet, as of late 2016, many commentators have declared the death of globalization, the return of nationalism (economic, political, and cultural), and the reversal of the globalization wave. How are we to interpret this turn of events?

This course will explore the geography of globalization, in which “all that is solid melts into air.” It will ask just how new “globalization” is, what its roots are, and how it is understood in the contemporary moment. It will examine how certain spaces become connected while others are disconnected, how new geographies emerge and old geographies decline, and how new ways of being in the world are explored while older ways are challenged. Finally, it will ask what will become of the globalization era, and whether a more just global order or a return to nationalist conflict is on the horizon.

Course Objectives

Students who complete this course will:

- Develop a nuanced understanding of the social, economic, political, cultural, and spatial dimensions of globalization
- Examine and evaluate competing narratives of the causes and effects of globalization
- Explore methods of measuring globalization, and build their own research skills
- Cultivate written and verbal communication and group collaboration skills

Course Requirements & Grading Criteria

Completion of all course components is necessary to receive a passing grade in the course.

Attendance, section participation (20% of final grade):

Students are expected to complete assigned readings before lecture and section and arrive

each week prepared to participate **actively** in discussion. Two **pop quizzes** will be administered as part of your section grade. A maximum of **two unexcused absences** from section is permitted; beyond two, your participation grade will fall by 10 points per absence.

Writing assignments (30% of final grade):

Several writing assignments will be due over the course of the term. A separate handout will describe them in greater detail.

Mid-term exam (25% of final grade):

A take-home midterm exam covering Weeks 1-6 will be handed out at the end of lecture on Thursday, March 2 and will be due at the beginning of lecture on Thursday, March 7.

Final exam (25% of final grade):

The course final is scheduled for Friday, May 12, from 7-10 PM. (Yes, really.) It will be partially cumulative, but weighted more toward material from the second half of the course.

Grading Scale

93-100	A	83-87	B	73-77	C
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-
88-89	B+	78-79	C+	68-69	D+

Late work

Late submissions will lose **5 points for every 24 hours overdue**. In extraordinary circumstances, extensions may be arranged ahead of time. With the exception of a documented medical or family emergency, no extensions will be granted within 24 hours of the due date.

Academic Integrity

Any test, paper, report or homework submitted under your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not been submitted for credit in another course. All words and ideas written by other people must be properly attributed: fully identified as to source and the extent of your use of their work. Cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct will result in a failing grade on the assignment, paper, quiz, or exam in question and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.

Citation format

All written work will use the Chicago Manual of Style author-date format with a complete bibliography at the end. 5 points will be deducted from any submission that lacks proper citation and a bibliography. A complete guide to the Chicago style is available here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html.

Student Resources

Berkeley Student Learning Center: <http://slc.berkeley.edu>

Offers peer tutoring, writing support, and other academic resources.

Disabled Students' Program: <http://www.dsp.berkeley.edu>

Provides a wide range of resources to ensure equal access to educational opportunities,

including advising, diagnostics, note-taking services, and academic accommodations.

Tang Center Services: <http://uhs.berkeley.edu/students/counseling/cps.shtml>

Offers short and long-term counseling services to assist students with a variety of concerns including academic success, life management, career and life planning, and personal development.

Office Hours

Stehlin: Thurs., 10AM - 1PM, 561 McCone. Signup: <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/wkwfn>

Anderman: Mon., 1PM - 2PM, and by appointment, 583 McCone.

Martin: Tues., 2:30 - 3:30, 5:10 - 6:10, 197 McCone.

Coates-Maldoon: TBA, 583 McCone. Signup TBA.

Howard: Wed., 10AM - 12PM, 583 McCone. Signup online.

Please include “GEOG 20” in the subject line of all email correspondence.

Sections

All sections will be held in Room 135 on the first floor of McCone Hall.

101	M	11AM - 12PM	Anderman	105	F	11AM - 12 PM	Martin
102	M	12PM - 1PM	Anderman	106	F	12PM - 1PM	Martin
103	W	2PM - 3PM	Coates-Maldoon	107	W	9AM - 10AM	Howard
104	TH	2PM - 3PM	Coates-Maldoon	108	TU	11AM - 12PM	Howard

Technology

Laptops are not permitted during lecture, with the exception of a **documented need** to type rather than take handwritten notes. Your performance in the class will benefit, according to recent research: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>. Cell phones will be placed on **vibrate** and stowed in your bag. If you need to take an emergency call, please leave the classroom quietly. Texting or other non-emergency use of phones is not permitted. If you think it’s possible to hide cell phone use, you are mistaken.

Course Website

Please see the course site at <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1457900> for the syllabus, announcements, and additional resources. PDFs of lectures will be posted here, along with supplementary materials and items of interest. **We will communicate information about readings, assignments, and section exercises primarily by bCourses, so please check your email regularly.**

Textbook & Readings

The textbook for this course is *Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions, and Uneven Integration* (2013) by Matthew Sparke. Roughly half of the reading material comes from this text. The rest of the readings will be available on the bCourses site in chronological order under “Modules.” Should

interest warrant, we will compile these into a bound reader. Readings marked as “Supplementary” or “For reference” on the syllabus can be found in “Modules” indented by one space. If concepts from these readings are raised in lecture, they may appear on an exam. Readings are an essential complement to lectures and sections, going over the same ground but also amplifying ideas, reinforcing technical concepts, filling out the picture, and providing more empirical evidence. You are responsible for all material in the assigned readings, whether or not it is covered in lecture.

For some readings, the page numbers of the most important passages to focus on will appear on the syllabus like so: **(127-34)**. This does not mean you should skip the other sections – at the very least skim them so that you know how the important parts fit into the overall argument.

Wise words about reading strategically: “Social science should be read differently than other kinds of material... Don’t start with the first word and continue to the last word. Try to figure out the overall argument before you begin reading, by looking for summaries at the beginning or end of each section or chapter. This isn’t a detective novel, so it’s better to know the conclusion before you set out... Don’t get bogged down. Once you know what you’re looking for, it’ll be easier to choose which paragraphs and sections to read carefully and which you can skim. Yes, skim. And if there’s material you can’t apprehend after a serious try, jot down your question to ask in class and then move on” (quoted from Marc Blecher, Oberlin College).

There is too much material to try to do the readings—even skimming!—at the last minute, so please keep up!

WEEK 1 – INTRODUCTION

Tues., Jan. 17 Introductions
Thurs., Jan. 19 *Introducing Globalization*, Ch. 1

*****PART I: WAYS OF THINKING GLOBALLY*****

WEEK 2 – GLOBALIZATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Tues., Jan. 24 *Introducing Globalization*, Ch. 2
Thurs., Jan. 26 Thomas Friedman, *The World is Flat* (2007), pp. 1-12 **(5-12)**
 Subcomandante Marcos, “The Fourth World War Has Begun” (1997), pp. 559-72 **(559-64)**
 John Gray, *False Dawn: The Delusions of Global Capitalism* (2002), pp. xii-xxiii **(xix-xiii)**

WEEK 3 – LOCAL & GLOBAL

- Tues., Jan. 31 Doreen Massey, *Space, Place and Gender* (1994), pp. 146-56
Supplementary: Gillian Rose, “Place and Identity: A Sense of Place” (1995), pp. 88-132
Supplementary: E.F. Schumacher, *Small is Beautiful* (1973), pp. 47-58
- Thurs., Feb. 2 Neil Smith, “Contours of a Spatialized Politics: Homeless Vehicles and the Production of Geographical Scale” (1992), pp. 54-81 **(64-78)**
Supplementary: Erik Swyngedouw, “Globalisation or ‘Glocalisation’? Networks, Territories and Rescaling” (2004), pp. 25-48

WEEK 4 – EMPIRE & AFTER

- Tues., Feb. 7 Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Empire* (1987), pp. 56-83
Supplementary: Janet Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony: The World System A.D. 1250-1350* (1989), pp. 3-40 **(3-20, 32-40)**
Supplementary: Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy* (2011), Ch. 2
- Thurs., Feb. 9 Vijay Prashad, *The Darker Nations* (2007), pp. 3-15, 31-50, 276-281
Supplementary: Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism* (2000 [1950]), pp. 31-46
For reference: Philip McMichael, *Development & Social Change, 4th Ed.* (2008), pp. 43-84

PART II: CURRENTS OF CONTEMPORARY GLOBALIZATION

WEEK 5 – GLOBAL COMMODITIES

- Tues., Feb. 14 *Introducing Globalization*, Ch. 3
- Thurs., Feb. 16 Deborah Cowen, *The Deadly Life of Logistics: Mapping Violence in Global Trade* (2014), pp. 53-90 **(57-68, 79-90)**
Nicole Starosielski, “Fixed Flow: Undersea Cables as Media Infrastructure” (2015), pp. 53-70 **(57-61, 65-68)**
Greg Miller, “Undersea Internet Cables are Surprisingly Vulnerable,” *Wired* (2015), October 29, <http://www.wired.com/2015/10/undersea-cable-maps/>
Supplementary: Marc Levinson, *The Box: How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger* (2006), pp. 1-15
Supplementary: Martin Dodge and Rob Kitchin, *An Atlas of Cyberspace* (2008), pp. 2-72
Fun and strange further reading: Neal Stephenson, “Mother Earth Mother Board,” *Wired* (1996), December 1, <http://www.wired.com/1996/12/ffglass/>
- Sun. Feb. 19 ****Assignment 1: Op-Ed topic due at 5:00 PM****

WEEK 6 – GLOBAL LABORS

- Tues., Feb. 21 *Introducing Globalization*, Ch. 4
Thurs., Feb. 23 Jane Collins, *Threads* (2003), pp. 1-26, 183-90
Supplementary: United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report* (2015), pp. 77-103
Supplementary: Hannah Appel, “Offshore Work,” *American Ethnologist* (2012), Vol. 39, No. 4, pp. 692-709

WEEK 7 – GLOBAL MONEY

- Tues., Feb. 28 *Introducing Globalization*, Ch. 5
Supplementary: Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy* (2011), Ch. 5
Thurs., Mar. 2 Jonathan Ostry, Prakash Loungani, and Davide Furceri, “Neoliberalism: Oversold?” (2016), pp. 38-41
David Harvey, *The Enigma of Capital and the Crises of Capitalism* (2009), pp. 1-39
Supplementary: Costas Lapavistas, *Profiting Without Producing: How Finance Exploits Us All* (2013), Introduction
****Take-home midterm exam handed out****

WEEK 8 – GLOBALIZING LAW

- Tues., Mar. 7 *Introducing Globalization*, Ch. 6
****Take-home midterm exam due at 3:00 PM****
Thurs., Mar. 9 James Surowiecki, “The Corporate-Friendly World of the T.P.P.,” *The New Yorker*, October 16, 2015 (<http://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/the-corporate-friendly-world-of-the-t-p-p>)
“Trade, At What Price?” *The Economist*, April 2, 2016 (<http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21695855-americas-economy-benefits-hugely-trade-its-costs-have-been-amplified-policy>)
Sean Starrs, “Making the World Safe for Big Business,” *Jacobin*, May 13, 2015 (<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2015/05/trans-pacific-partnership-china-united-states-asia/>)

WEEK 9 – GOVERNING THE GLOBAL

- Tues., Mar. 14 *Introducing Globalization*, Ch. 7
Thurs., Mar. 16 Lynn Staeheli, “Globalization and the Scales of Citizenship” (1999), pp. 60-77
Supplementary: Stéphane Rosière and Reece Jones, “Teichopolitics: Reconsidering Globalisation Through the Role of Walls and Fences” (2012)
Supplementary: Derek Gregory, *The Colonial Present: Iraq and Afghanistan* (2007), pp. 17-29
Sun., Mar. 19 **Assignment 1: Globalization Op-ed due at 5:00 PM**

WEEK 10 – THE GLOBAL CITY

- Tues., Mar. 21 *Introducing Globalization*, Ch. 8
Thurs., Mar. 23 Jennifer Robinson, *Ordinary Cities: Between Modernity and Development* (2006), pp. 116-40
Supplementary: Saskia Sassen, “The Global City: Introducing a Concept (2005), pp. 27-43

WEEK 11 – SPRING BREAK

WEEK 12 – GLOBAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

- Tues., Apr. 4 *Introducing Globalization*, Ch. 9
Thurs., Apr. 6 Christian Parenti, *Tropic of Chaos* (2011), pp. 16-42
Supplementary: Naomi Klein, “Let Them Drown,” *London Review of Books*, June 2, 2016 (<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v38/n11/naomi-klein/let-them-drown>)
Supplementary: Philip McMichael, “The Impact of Globalization, Free Trade, and Technology on Food and Nutrition in the New Millennium” (2001), pp. 215-20

WEEK 13 – GLOBALIZING CULTURE

- Tues., Apr. 11 Arjun Appadurai, *Modernity at Large* (1996), pp. 27-47
Supplementary: Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism* (1993), pp. xi-xxvii
Thurs., Apr. 13 Anna Tsing, *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Encounter* (2005), pp. 1-18
Supplementary: Immanuel Wallerstein, “The National and the Universal: Can There Ever Be Such a Thing as World Culture?” (1997), pp. 91-106
Supplementary: Ulf Hannerz, “Theory in Anthropology: Small is Beautiful? The Problem of Complex Cultures,” (1986), pp. 362-7

PART III: SUMMARY & PROSPECTS

WEEK 14 – ALTERGLOBALIZATIONS

- Tues., Apr. 18 *Introducing Globalization*, Ch. 10
Thurs., Apr. 20 Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Commonwealth* (2010), pp. vii-xiv
Paul Mason, *Why It's Still Kicking Off Everywhere* (2013), pp. 65-85
Supplementary: Paul Mason, *Why It's Still Kicking Off Everywhere* (2013), Ch. 6
Sun., Apr. 23 ****Assignment 3: Film Review due at 5:00 PM****

WEEK 15 – GLOBALIZATION IN CRISIS

- Tues., Apr. 25 Izabella Kaminska, “On the Ongoing Demise of Globalisation,” *Financial Times*, October 11, 2016 (<https://ftalphaville.ft.com/2016/10/11/2177071/on-the-ongoing-demise-of-globalisation/>)
- Thurs., Apr. 27 Matt Phillips, “Here’s What the End of Globalization Looks Like,” *Vice Money*, November 14, 2016 (<https://news.vice.com/story/heres-what-the-end-of-globalization-looks-like>)
- William Greider, “Paul Krugman Raises the White Flag on Trade,” *The Nation*, March 14, 2016 (<https://www.thenation.com/article/paul-krugman-raises-the-white-flag-on-trade/>)

RRR WEEK – MAY 2-6

- Tues., May 2 Optional review session
- Friday, May 12 **Final exam, 7-10 PM, 105 North Gate Hall**