**GLOBAL SYSTEMS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The world at present is an arena of various contesting forces under the ubiquitous phenomenon we call globalization. Over the previous three decades, academics have swarmed to study its processes and impacts on the societies worldwide. Indeed, globalization has ushered in a period of rapid change across spaces and cultures. This change has affected the various institutions of societies across the globe, brought distinctly different cultures together into a creative process of friction and transformation, and restructured the world economy and politics. The magnitude and scale of this change has been unmatched in the human history, thus becoming the subject of interest of numerous academic inquiries. This multitude of academic approaches has resulted in a variety of opinions on the very concept of globalization, and a range of theoretical frameworks explaining the phenomenon. In this course, we will examine different perspectives on the subject and will proceed to study how it has been influencing various spheres of the social and physical worlds, including economy, politics, culture, agriculture and environment.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE**

This course intends to encourage thinking into the globalization phenomenon and the ways in which it affects our lives. It offers academic works in various areas of human sphere with the purpose of inculcating a deeper insight into the ways in which human societies undergo a process of transformation due to increased interconnectivity, movements and trade. It is expected that the students will be better able to position themselves and social changes vis-à-vis events and developments taking place remotely.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

**Textbook**: Ritzer, George. 2007. *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

**Supplementary Readings:** Additional readings would be distributed in the class, emailed and/or uploaded on Moodle on weekly basis.

**Grade breakup:**

Class participation and attendance 10%

Quizzes 20%

Mid-term exam 30%

Final Exam 40%

**READING PLAN**

**WEEK 1 – Introduction**

Topics included: Introducing the modern world; Overview of history; Industrialization, colonialism and trade.

Kottack, Conrad P. 2011. *Anthropology – Appreciating Human Diversity,* 14th ed. New York: McGraw Hill. Read Chapter 23 “The World System” pp. 548 – 567.

**WEEK 2 – The Globalization Debate**

Readings: Robertson & White “What is Globalization?” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

Waters, Malcolm. 2001. *Globalization.* London, New York: Routledge. Read Chapter 1 “A World of Difference”.

Ashcroft et al. 2007. *Post colonial studies: the key concepts.* New York: Routledge. *“Globalization”* pp. 100-104.

**WEEK 3 – Theorizing Globalization**

Text Readings: Robinson, William I. “Theories of Globalization” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

**WEEK 4 – The World-Systems perspective**

Text Readings: Wallerstein, Immanuel. 2004. *World-Systems Analysis – An Introduction.* Durham: Duke. Read Chapter2 “*The Modern World-System as a Capitalist World-Economy: Production, Surplus Value, and Polarization.” Pp. 23-41*

**WEEK 5 – How to study Globalization?**

Text Readings: Babones, Salvatore. “Studying Globalization: Methodological Issues” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

**WEEK 6 – Economy**

Dicken, Peter. “Economic Globalization: Corporations” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

Goodman, Douglas. “Globalization and Consumer Culture” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

Clegg & Carter. 2007. “The Sociology of Global Organizations” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

*In the news*: “Should Americans Care About Apple’s iPhone-Factory Conditions?” by Sam Gustin published in Time.com. (http://business.time.com/2012/01/26/should-americans-care-about-apples-iphone-factory-conditions)

**WEEK 7 – Culture**

Tomlinson, John. “Cultural Globalization” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

Crawford, Beverly. 2007. “Globalization and Cultural Conflict: An Institutional Approach” in *Conflicts and Tensions* edited by Anheier & Isar.London: Sage.

Bharucha, Rustom. 2007. “Dimensions of Conflict in Globalization and Cultural Practice: A Critical Perspective” in *Conflicts and Tensions op. cit.*

Adams et al. 2007. “Resistance to Cultural Globalization – A Comparative Analysis” in *Conflicts and Tensions op. cit.*

**WEEK 8**

Progress review; Mid-term exam

**WEEK 9 – Politics**

Delanty & Rumford. 2007. “Political Globalization” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

Sassen, Saskia. 2007. *A Sociology of Globalization.* W.W. Norton & Company: New York. Read Chapter 7 “Local Actors in Global Politics”.

**WEEK 10 – Agriculture**

McMichael, Philip. 2007. “Globalization and the Agrarian World” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

Bardhan, Pranab. 2007. “Globalization and Rural Poverty” in *The Impact of Globalization on the World’s Poor*. Nissanke & Thorbecke (Eds). Palgrave Macmillan: New York.

McMillan, Zwane & Ashraf. 2007. “My Policies or Yours: Does OECD Support for Agriculture Increase Poverty in Developing Countries?” in *Globalization and Poverty* edited by Harrison, Ann. University of Chicago Press: Chicago

**WEEK 11 – Environment**

Yearly, Steve. 2007. “Globalization and the Environment” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

Hornborg, Alf. 2006. “Ecosystems and World-Systems: Accumulation as an Ecological Process” in *Global Social Change – Historical and Comparative Perspectives*. Chase-Dunn & Babones (Eds). The Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore.

**WEEK 12 – Media**

Kellner & Pierce. 2007. “Media and Globalization” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

Artz, Lee. 2003. “Globalization, Media Hegemony, and Social Class” in *The Globalization of Corporate Media Hegemony*. Artz & Kamalipour (Eds). State University of New York Press: Albany.

Sussman, Gerald. 2003. “Information Technology and Transnational Networks: A World-Systems Approach” in *The Globalization of Corporate Media Hegemony. Op. cit.*

**WEEK 13 – Migrations**

Sassen, Saskia. 2007. *A Sociology of Globalization.* W.W. Norton & Company: New York. Read Chapter 5 “The Making of International Migrations”.

Mittelman, James. 2000. *The Globalization Syndrome – Transformation and Resistance*. Princeton University Press: Princeton, NJ. Read Chapter 3 “Globalization and Migration”.

Dauvergne, Catherine. 2008. *Making People Illegal – What Globalization Means for Migration and Law*. Cambridge University Press: New York. Read Chapter 3 “Migration in the Globalization Script”.

**WEEK 14 – Inequality**

Turner & Babones. “Global Inequality: An Introduction” in *Global Social Change – Historical and Comparative Perspectives*. Chase-Dunn & Babones (Eds). Op. cit.

Firebaugh & Goesling. 2007. “Globalization and Global Inequalities” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

Korzeniewicz & Moran. 2007. “World Inequality in the Twenty-first Century: Patterns and Tendencies” in *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization* op. cit.

**WEEK 15 | Progress review; Wrap-up Session**