

SOCIOLOGY 221

GLOBALIZATION

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Office Hours –Mondays and Thursdays 10:00-11:00
or by appointment

FALL 2008

Course Overview

McDonalds, Starbucks, and the Gap are now common features on the street corners of Europe, South America, and Asia. Arnold Schwartzneggar enjoys unprecedented popularity in the Far East while, in the U.S., we are fascinated by karaoke and Bollywood films. Does this globalization of production and consumption mean that we are all becoming the same? In this course, I will introduce you to a way of understanding globalization through a transnational optic. We will examine how economic, political, and cultural arrangements are organized in our increasingly interdependent world, compare them to those in the past, and explore how they are transforming the social and economic landscape.

The course also has a larger, intellectual goal. I would like students to understand that there are many ways to ask and answer questions. I also want students to strengthen their analytical and critical thinking skills so they can evaluate different intellectual positions in a rigorous way. Many of our discussions will focus on the same set of questions - what is the question the author is trying to answer? What is the argument? What are his or her underlying assumptions? What is the evidence he or she brings to bear? What are the argument's strengths and weaknesses?

I place great emphasis on students' ability to write clearly and convincingly. Organization, grammar and logic count. There will be three short 3-5 page writing assignments -- more in-depth descriptions and guidelines will follow. Students are expected to attend class, complete the readings, come prepared to contribute to class discussion, and produce high-quality, well-written responses to the assignments. Please bring a copy of the readings with you to all classes. I also ask that all students visit me at least once during my office hours before the middle of the term.

The following books are available for purchase at the WC bookstore and are on reserve at the library.

Peggy Levitt and Sanjeev Khagram, eds. *The Transnational Studies Reader (TSR)*. Routledge Press

Fareed Zakaria *Post-American World* Norton

Gay Seidman *Beyond the Boycott: Labor Rights, Human Rights and Transnational Activism*
American Sociological Association Rose Series and Russell Sage Foundation Press.

Daniel Smith. *A Culture of Corruption*. Princeton University

Pico Iyer. *The Global Soul*. Simon and Shuster

Leila Ahmed. *Border Passages*. Penguin Books

Peggy Levitt. *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape*. The New Press.

Lila Abu-Lughod. *Dramas of Nationhood*. University of Chicago Press

Course grading is as follows:

Class Participation 25%

Assignment One 25%

Assignment Two 25%

Assignment Three 25 %

**ASSIGNMENTS TURNED IN LATE WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY MARKED DOWN.
PLEASE DO NOT E-MAIL YOUR ASSIGNMENTS.**

WEEK ONE -- COURSE INTRODUCTION

WEEK TWO – INTRODUCTION TO GLOBALIZATION

September 8th

Khagram and Levitt, “Constructing Transnational Studies” in TSR

September 11th

Nye and Keohane, Appadurai, and Slaughter in TSR.

WEEK THREE - THE BROAD FOUNDATIONS

**September 15th – FIRST ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED BASED ON IYER AND AHMED
BOOK DUE OCTOBER 6TH**

Ahmed, Leila. *Border Passages*.

September 18st

Gupta and Ferguson, Wimmer and Glick Schiller, and Khagram in TSR.

WEEK FOUR - HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

September 22nd –

McNeil and Abu-Lughod in TSR

September 25th -

Winant and Gilroy in TSR

WEEK FIVE - QUESTIONS OF IDENTITY AND ALLEGIANCE

September 29th –

Du Bois and Beck in TSR

October 2nd FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE

Peggy Levitt *God Needs No Passport*, in particular prologue, introduction, chapter 3, conclusion

WEEK SIX - MIGRATING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

October 6^h

Portes, Guarnizo, and Landolt and Levitt and Glick Schiller in TSR

October 9th

NO CLASS – YOM KIPPUR Make up Movie night and Pizza to be scheduled.

WEEK SEVEN - LOOKING AT THE UNITED STATES

October 13rd

NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

October 16th

Fareed Zakaria *Post-American World* **ASSIGNMENT TWO DISTRIBUTED BASED ON ZAKARIA BOOK. DUE ON NOVEMBER 13TH**

WEEK EIGHT – ARTS AND CULTURE

October 20^h -

Bhabha, Kim, and Flores in TSR

October 23nd

Read short story to be assigned

WEEK NINE - THE DIFFUSION OF IDEAS, VALUES, AND CULTURE

October 27th

Meyer and Watson in TSR

October 30th

Kaufman and Patterson in TSR. In class movie – Art Across Borders

WEEK TEN - CAPITALISM, CLASSES AND CORPORATION

November 3rd

NO CLASS

November 6th

Gay Seidman – Beyond the Boycott

WEEK ELEVEN - CAPITALISM, CLASSES AND CORPORATION CONT.

November 10th - Evans and Ong in TSR

November 13th - Daniel Smith, especially Introduction, Chapter 1, 3, 6,7 and Conclusion

WEEK TWELVE – SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, NON-STATE ACTORS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

November 17th – Boli and Thomas, Keck and Sikkink in TSR

November 20th - Levitt and Merry paper to be distributed. **ASSIGNMENT 3 DISTRIBUTED BASED ON SMITH OR ABU-LUGHOD BOOK. DUE ON DECEMBER 5TH**

WEEK THIRTEEN - SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, NON-STATE ACTORS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

November 24^h - Movie viewing – The Shape of Water

WEEK FOURTEEN - VIOLENCE, CRIME, AND SECURITY

December 1th

Nadelman, Kaldor, and Kyle and Dale in TSR

December 4th

Read first half of Lila Abu-Lughod. *Dramas of Nationhood*

WEEK FIFTEEN – WRAP-UP

December 8th

Finish *Dramas of Nationhood*