

SOCIOLOGY 221

GLOBALIZATION

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

FALL 2009

Course Overview

McDonalds, Starbucks, and the Gap are now common features on the street corners of Europe, South America, and Asia. Brad Pitt enjoys unprecedented popularity in the East while, in the United States, 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 by using a transnational optic. We will examine how social, religious, and cultural activities are organized in our increasingly interdependent world, compare them to those in the past, and explore how they transform 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 class. 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.

Robert Smith. *Mexican New York*. University of California Press.

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.

Christopher Steiner. *African Art in Transit*. Cambridge University Press.

Denise Bielby and C. Lee Harrington. *Global TV*. New York University Press.

Catherine Lutz and Jane L. Collins. *Reading National Geographic*. 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 14th

Khagram and Levitt, “Constructing Transnational Studies” in TSR

September 17th

Nye and Keohane, Appadurai, and Anzaldúa in TSR.

WEEK THREE - THE BROAD FOUNDATIONS

**September 21th – FIRST ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED BASED ON AHMED BOOK DUE
OCTOBER 5TH**

Ahmed, Leila. *Border Passages*.

September 24st

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

WEEK FOUR - HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

September 28nd –

YOM KIPPUR – CLASS CANCELLED

October 1th -

McNeil and Abu-Lughod in TSR

WEEK FIVE - QUESTIONS OF IDENTITY AND ALLEGIANCE

October 5th –

Winant and Gilroy in TSR. **FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE**

October 8th

Du Bois and Beck in TSR

WEEK SIX - MIGRATING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

October 14th (MONDAY CLASSES HELD ON WEDNESDAY)

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

October 15th

Robert Smith *Mexican New York*. Chapters 1,3,5 and 6

ASSIGNMENT TWO DISTRIBUTED BASED ON SMITH BOOK. DUE ON NOVEMBER 5TH

WEEK SEVEN - RELIGION ACROSS BORDERS

October 19th

Peggy Levitt *God Needs No Passport*, Prologue and Chapters 1-3

October 22nd

God Needs No Passport, Chapters 4-7 and Conclusion

WEEK EIGHT – THE DIFFUSION OF IDEAS, VALUES, AND CULTURE

October 26th

Levitt and Levitt and Merry articles to be posted on course conference.

October 29th

Kaufman and Patterson and Watson in TSR

WEEK NINE - ARTS AND CULTURE (Artists and Objects)

November 2nd

Steiner, Christopher. *African Art in Transit*, Introduction and Chapters 1-3

November 5th

Steiner, Chapters 4- Conclusion. **SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE.**

WEEK TEN - ARTS AND CULTURE (Representation)

November 9th

Articles from *Museum Frictions* to be posted on course conference.

November 12th Exercise on how to manage museums (distributed beforehand so you can come prepared).

WEEK ELEVEN – ARTS AND CULTURE

November 16TH – Catherine Lutz and Jane Collins *Reading National Geographic* Chapters 1-4,

November 19th - Lutz and Collins Chapters 5-9.

WEEK TWELVE – ARTS AND CULTURE

November 23rd - In class movie – Art Across Borders

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November 30th - Denise Bielby and C. Lee Harrington. *Global T.V.* – Intro and Chapters 1-3
ASSIGNMENT 3 DISTRIBUTED BASED ON LUTZ AND COLLINS, BIELBY AND HARRINGTON, OR ABU-LUGHOD BOOK. DUE ON DECEMBER 16TH AT 4:30 PM IN MY MAILBOX IN THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT OFFICE.

WEEK THIRTEEN – ARTS AND CULTURE

November 24TH - Movie viewing – The Shape of Water

WEEK FOURTEEN – GLOBAL MEDIA

November 30th - Bielby and Harrington. Global T.V. Chapters 4,5, and Conclusion

December 3rd - Lila Abu-Lughod. *Dramas of Nationhood*. Parts One and Two

WEEK FIFTEEN – MEDIA AND NATION BUILDING

December 7th Abu-Lughod. Part Three

December 8th Course wrap-up