

University of Manitoba
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology

SOC 2240 SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION

Winter 2015
3 Credit Hours

MWF 11:30-12:20 PM
Room 201 Isbister

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“Globalization is a policy, not an act of God”
-Jimmy Carter

The Point of Taking This Class:

You are what sociologists like to call a “globalized subject.” I am, too. That is, the processes of globalization, in part, make you and I who we are. Globalization shapes the relationships we have, the media we absorb, our chances of getting a job and making a living. Some are riding a “rising tide” of wealth. Others are being kicked off the lifeboat. We live in a world where time and space are foreshortened, and this has consequences for us all. Big ones. Even if you had never set foot outside of Winnipeg, globalization has seeped into you. It’s not a bad idea to know a little about what globalization is all about, since, like it or not, it’s in us, as well as being “out there.” We eat it, drink it, wear it, watch it, and think it.

This course addresses processes of globalization and their impact on personal biographies, social institutions, and social structure. We’ll discuss various theories of globalization, stratification, local-global linkages, transnational movements, and migration. We’ll talk about what, exactly, globalization IS, whether it’s an adequate concept to describe our condition, and, taking former President Carter’s words to heart, we’ll talk about who and what is driving globalization. We’ll take a look at some of the consequences for people near and far, whether globalization is increasing or decreasing inequality, and how people’s experiences of globalization vary according to nationality, race, ethnicity, gender, and class. All of this is an important part of exploring the historical and social dynamics that shape our world.

A Typical Class:

My first assumption is that you are a smart and critical person, with some interesting questions, thoughts, doubts, and convictions about the world around you. My second

assumption is that classes structured on the notion that you are an empty vessel to be filled by the wisdom of the instructor can be a bit dull. Such a format would be a total waste of topics as lively as those on offer, and a waste of your big, fruitful brains. As such, you will be expected to contribute to the class on a regular basis. By “regular basis,” I mean every single time we get together as a class. This class sinks or swims on the enthusiasm, critical engagement, insight, questions, and arguments contributed by its participants, and NOT on the long-windedness (eloquent though it may be) of the instructor. You have a great deal to offer your classmates. Offer it.

Lectures and discussions will be based on, and expand upon, the assigned readings. As such, I expect that you will have completed and taken a moment to reflect upon these readings. Without this basic requirement, all is lost. You will be graded on your participation based on attendance and engagement. In addition, **there will be occasional, unannounced quizzes on the reading material.** We will have 6 quizzes, and I will take the best 5 for your grade. I will do some lecturing to lay a foundation for discussion or to provide background to the issues at hand. There will be a few movies. For the most part, however, this is a chance for you to challenge yourself and your peers to think about and discuss critical social issues in a way that gets beyond platitude and goes deeper than what currently passes for “common sense.” A typical class will feature frank but collegial disagreement and debate backed up by supporting information. **You will do well to bear in mind what you likely already know: that sociology is not just general knowledge; it is empirically- and theoretically-based questioning of “common-sense” understandings of the world.**

Required Texts and Reading:

Many of the readings are in:

Lechner, Frank and John Boli (Eds). 2012. *The Globalization Reader* 4th Edition. Malden: Blackwell.

You can and should pick this up at the UM Bookstore. The remainder of the readings are available online through the course D2L site. They are in .pdf format, so you’ll need Adobe Reader or something similar to read them. You can download Adobe Reader for free from www.adobe.com.

Assessment:

Your grade for this class will be determined by your reading journal, performance on a final exam, and leadership of and participation in class discussions. The grade will be broken into a point system with a maximum of 500 points as follows:

Participation (attendance and engagement): 50 (10%)

Quizzes: 5x20 points = 100 (20%)

Mid-Term Test: 100 (February 13, in class) (20%)

Final Test: 100 (April 10, in class) (20%)
Essay: 150 (Due Date: March 20) (30%)

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A+	90-100%	450-500 points
A	80-89%	400-449 points
B+	76-79%	378-399 points
B	70-75%	350-377 points
C+	66-69%	328-349 points
C	60-65%	300-327 points
D	50-59%	250-299 points
F	49% or less	0-249 points

Rules, Rules, Rules.

1. Classroom Comportment.

We want to maintain an environment of lively discussion that allows for disagreement and a diversity of views and perspectives. Basically, this means behaving respectfully toward the instructor and toward one another. It also means that you have a responsibility to yourself and to the rest of the class to speak your mind, and to do so in a way that furthers the conversation. We must all be willing and able to speak, to support our arguments with logic and empirical evidence, and to be willing to modify our pre-existing stances and beliefs.

Part of maintaining a respectful environment is being fully present. Turn off your laptops, cell phones, iPhones, iPods, iPads, and other gadgetry.

2. Academic Integrity:

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, ("**Personation at Examinations**" (**Section 5.2.9**) and "**Plagiarism and cheating**" (**Section 8.1**)) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html> . Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

Should you engage in any acts of academic dishonesty, expect no mercy from me if you get caught. While most of these acts are pretty straightforward, some students are a bit uncertain about plagiarism.

PLAGIARISM: READ THIS. I WILL ACCEPT NO EXCUSES FOR PLAGIARISM.

While it sounds fancy, **plagiarism** is basically ripping off somebody else's writing and ideas and presenting them as your own. **It is serious, and it is easily avoided.** If you get an idea from somewhere else and present it in your work, whether you are quoting directly from it or not, provide a proper citation in an acceptable format. If it is a direct quote, place it in quotation marks. In the body of your text, you can provide a parenthetical citation like (Smith 2014: 267), where Smith is the author's last name, 2014 is the year of publication, and 267 is the page upon which you found the idea or quotation. Then give a full reference in a separate reference section at the end, like so:

Smith, Bob. 2014. *My Unbelievably Brilliant Book of Ideas*. New York: Conglomerate Publishing Co.

For citations of journal or newspaper articles, online sources, presentations, and other tricky stuff, consult a style guide like the one found at:

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Cutting and pasting material from the Web is NOT research. It is plagiarism, and it will be detected. Do not cut and paste from the Web or any other source.

You should also be aware that it is a serious breach of academic integrity to manipulate, falsify, or falsely represent data used in a paper, presentation or thesis. The Faculty of Arts treats data manipulation as exceptional cases of academic fraud, with penalties of 'F' on the paper, 'F-CW' in the course, and suspension ranging from 2-5 years.

3. Late Work

I expect you to complete the course assignments by the due dates listed above. Failure to do so will result in a 15% reduction in your grade each day for the first three days, after which time you will receive a zero grade on the assignment.

In the event that you fall victim to a documentable catastrophe, or feel called to participate in a pivotal event designed to bring about revolutionary change in the world, either of which results in a late assignment, come and explain your situation to me, and we'll arrive at an accommodation.

4. Unclaimed term work disposal

Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property

of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

Last day for voluntary withdrawal: March 19

Reading and Events Calendar:

Readings should be completed BEFORE the date listed. "L&B" refers to the Lechner and Boli text. All other readings are on the course D2L site.

	Topics	Readings
Jan 7-9	Introductions Globalization of What?	L&B Ch. Boli and Petrova, "Globalization Today"
Jan 12-16	Globalization by Whom? Rethinking Society Modernization Theory	Thomas, "Globalization: The Major Players." Beck, "Cosmopolitanism" (or Calhoun?) Rostow, "Stages of Economic Growth"
Jan 19-23	Dependency Theory World Systems Theory World Polity and World Culture Theories	Galeano, "The Open Veins of Latin America" L&B Ch. 6 (Wallerstein) L&B Ch. 10 (Meyer et. al); Ch. 11 (Robertson)
Jan 26-30	Film: Burn!	
Feb. 2-5	Economic Globalization: Making and Trading Globally Freedom or its Opposite? Economic Globalization and Inequality	L&B Ch. 19 (Fallows); 20 (Korzeniewicz) L&B Ch. 1 (Micklethwait and Wooldridge); 3 (Robinson) L&B Ch. 22 (Wolf); 23 (Hunter Wade); 27 (Stiglitz)
Feb. 9-13	Global Crisis? Political Globalization: End of the Nation State?	L&B Ch. 25 (Milanovic); 26 (Bardhan) L&B Ch. 25 (Ohmae); 28 (Strange); 30 (Rodrik)

	Globalization and/as Neoliberalism	Harvey, "Introduction" and "Freedom's Just Another Word..."
Feb 23-27	Transnational Class Formation Civil Society Film: China Blue	Sklair "Capitalist Globalization" L&B Ch. 43 (Bond); Ch. 45 (de Jonge Oudraat & Haufler)
Mar 2-5	Film: China Blue (con't) Questioning Globalization Cultural Globalization	Thompson, "Global Inequality, the Great Divergence and Supranational Regionalization"; BBC, "the Battle over Trade/Death of Doha" Ritzer, "Globalization"
Mar 9-13	Cultural Globalization Counterhegemonic Globalization	L&B Ch. 46 (Tomlinson) Fraser, "Globalization and Justice"; L&B Ch. 54 (Evans);
Mar 16-20		
Mar 23-27		
Mar 30-Apr 1		
Apr 6-10	Overflow & Final Test	