

University of Manitoba
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology

SOC 3460 T01 SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION

Summer 2011
3 Credit Hours

M-F 1:30-3:30 PM
Room 313 Tier

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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, globalization, in part, makes you and I who we are. It 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, and, taking former President Carter’s words to heart, we’ll talk about who and what is driving globalization on. 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 component 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 upper division classes that are structured on the notion that you are an empty vessel to be filled by the wisdom of the instructor are rather 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, 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 colleagues. Offer it.

Discussions will be based on 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. As such, **there may be occasional, unannounced quizzes on the reading material** that will factor into your participation 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 platitudes 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-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). 2008. *The Globalization Reader* 3rd 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 Jump 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, a final research paper, 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: 100 (50 seminar leading; 50 in-class participation)
Reading Journals: 150 (75 each)
Final Test: 125
Final Paper: 125

Reading Journals: You will submit journal entries for each day of class, including a brief summary of the reading, your critical reflections, and a provocative question or comment on at least one of the readings for that day. These will collectively comprise your reading journal. Journal entries will be submitted daily by 5 PM the day before class to the class's electronic discussion forum. A hard copy of your journal will also be submitted to me once per week, on Fridays.

Seminar Leading: Once during the semester, each student will take the lead in the class seminar. This will involve providing a brief overview or summary of what you thought were the main points of the day's readings, and preparing several questions for class discussion based on the readings. Your introduction should be about 10 minutes, followed by your introduction of questions for discussion. You might also consider integrating any relevant, contemporary issues into the discussion, use video clips, podcasts, etc... The point is to get the class engaged in a relevant discussion through your presentation.

Your final paper will be 8-10 pages in length, on a topic of your choosing relevant to the topic of globalization. A one-two paragraph description of your topic is due on June 7, and a preliminary, annotated bibliography of sources (a minimum of 7, 4 of which must be from peer-reviewed journals or scholarly books) is due on June 14.

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 cell phones, iPhones, iPods, and other gadgetry. If you must take notes on a laptop, please do so, but keep your computer use to those activities necessary for class participation.

2. Academic Integrity:

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism and cheating (section 7.1), exam personation and duplicate submission (see Section 4.2.8 in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar 2009-2010). The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is F on the paper and F (CW) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (CW) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty. The Faculty is considering adopting a zero-tolerance approach for "cheating" on either a term test or a final examination. Under this approach, students for whom allegations of cheating have been upheld will receive a final course grade of F (CW) and a minimum two-year suspension. Multiple offences of cheating will result in an increased term of suspension.

If you engage in any of the above offenses, 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 2005: 267), where Smith is the author's last name,

2005 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. 2005. *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 10% reduction in your grade each day for the first five 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.

Last day for voluntary withdrawal: **June 15**

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 Jump site.

Week One	Topics	Readings
May 31	Introductions	
June 1	Globalization of What? By Who?	Boli and Petrova, "Globalization Today"; Thomas, "Globalization: The Major Players."

June 2	Rethinking Society	Beck, "Cosmopolitanism"
June 3	Modernization Theory	Rostow, "Stages of Economic Growth"
	World Systems Theory	Galeano, "The Open Veins of Latin America"; L&B Ch. 6 (Wallerstein);
Week Two June 6	World Polity and World Culture Theories	L&B Ch. 9 (Meyer et. al); Ch. 12 (Hannerz)
June 7	Film: Burn!	
June 8	Economic Globalization: Freedom or its Opposite?	L&B Ch. 1 (Micklethwait and Wooldridge); Ch. 28 (Rodrik)
June 9	Economic Globalization and Inequality	L&B Ch. 20 (Wolf); 21 (Hunter); 24 (Stiglitz)
June 10	End of the Nation State?	L&B Ch. 25 (Ohmae); 26 (Strange);
	Globalization and/as Neoliberalism	Harvey, "Introduction" and "Freedom's Just Another Word..."
June 13	Transnational Class Formation	Sklair "Capitalist Globalization"
	Civil Society	L&B Ch. 34 (Matthews); Ch. 35 (Bond)
June 14	Film: China Blue	
June 15	Questioning Globalization	Thompson, "Global Inequality, the Great Divergence and Supranational Regionalization"; BBC, "the Battle over Trade/Death of Doha"

June 16	Cultural Globalization	Ritzer, "Globalization";
June 17	Cultural Globalization	Kellner, "Media and Globalization"; L&B Ch. 47 (Lechner and Boli)
June 20	Counterhegemonic Globalization	Fraser, "Globalization and Justice"; L&B Ch. 54 (Evans);
June 21	Final Test	