

Globalization and Global Histories: Re-learning Ways to Live in a Shared World

How can we understand contemporary globalization? How have the tensions and contradictions of the contemporary world come about, how do its complex interconnections work, and what are their politics and problems? According to the Oxford Dictionary of English, globalization is defined as ‘the process by which businesses or other organizations develop international influence or start operating on an international scale’. Yet today we talk about ‘the globalization of migration, the globalization of innovation, the globalization of local cultures, the globalization of... And if we search ‘the globalization of...’ on Google today, the search engine offers the following suggestions: ‘the globalization of war’, ‘...of food disorders’, ‘...of addiction’, ‘...of world politics’, ‘...of commerce’, ‘...of liberation’ in feminist movements. Far from simply referring to international economics, ‘globalization’ has thus become a keyword for us to describe, understand and communicate the ways in which a given phenomenon has been ‘globalizing’ or becoming ‘global’, while at the same time indeed never stopping to be ‘local’, or involving multiple different ‘local’ places, in different ways, at the same time. What we set to do in this summer course is to explore key questions about different contemporary globalizing processes, yet without trying to find definite answers about globalization that may be ‘universally true’, but getting further in our endeavors to understand it and, as a result, learning to ask better questions instead.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, a student will be supposed to be able to:

- Master the usage of terms and concepts that are key to our discussion of globalization today, and understand how they relate to each other both theoretically and empirically;
- Understand and describe the ways in which contemporary globalization has come about historically;
- Understand and describe the ways in which contemporary globalization works today on an economic, social, political, cultural and environmental level;
- Understand and describe the different politics and problems with contemporary globalization for people, other animals and things in different places worldwide;
- ■ Appreciate the complexity of global politics and the ways in which they work out at a local level, and vice versa;
- ■ Appreciate the complexity of global politics and the ways in which they work out in the unfolding of contemporary events.

Week 1 – Introduction to “Globalization”. Compare these two approaches:

- Friedman, Thomas (2007) “While I was Sleeping” in “How the World Became Flat”, *The World is Flat*, Picador, pp. 1-50 (read pp. 3-16 and 40-50, skim the rest) https://canvas.harvard.edu/files/4971600/download?download_frd=1
- Stieglitz, Joseph (2002) Chapter 3 “Freedom to Choose?” in *Globalization and Its Discontents*, Penguin, pp. 53-88 (also, if you have time skim Chapter 2, “Broken Promises” pp. 21-52). <http://digamo.free.fr/stig2002.pdf>

Week 2 – European Imperialism, Euro-Centrism and Provincializing Europe

- Hall, Stuart (1992) “The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power” *Formations of Modernity*, Polity Press, pp. 276-331. <https://analepsis.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/hall-west-the-rest.pdf>
- Chakrabarty, Dipesh (2000) “Provincializing Europe?” in *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*, Princeton University Press, pp. 42-46. <http://assets.press.princeton.edu/chapters/i8507.pdf>

Week 3 – The Workings of Contemporary Globalization: Neoliberalism, Free Trade and Competitive Individualism

- Peck, Jamie (2010) “Preface” in *Constructions of Neoliberal Reason*, Oxford University Press, pp. xi-xxi. <https://vdoc.pub/download/constructions-of-neoliberal-reason-6onor6ggh880>
- Harvey, David (2003) “Accumulation by Dispossession”, in *The New Imperialism*, Oxford University Press, pp. 137-182; <https://socialistregister.com/index.php/srv/article/download/5811/2707/7738>
- Tsing, Anna (2007) “Introduction” and “Frontiers of Capitalism”, in *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*, Princeton University Press, pp. 1-50 (read Introduction, skim Chapter 1). <https://politicapueblosindigenas.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/tsing-2004-friction-an-ethnography-of-global-connection.pdf>

Week 4 – Continued Imperialism and Frontiers/Borders in Contemporary Globalization

- Gregory, Derek (2005) “The Colonial Present”, in *The Colonial Present*, Blackwell, pp. 1-16. https://www.blackwellpublishing.com/content/bpl_images/content_store/sample_chapter/1577180909/Gregory_Colonial%20Present_sample%20chapter.pdf
- Anzaldúa, Gloria ([1987]2007) *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, pp. 23-35. <http://users.uoa.gr/~cdokou/TheoryCriticismTexts/Anzaldua-borderlands-la-frontera.pdf>

Week 5 – Reactionary Localism, “Clash of Civilizations” and Alternatives

- Huntington, Samuel (1993) “The Clash of Civilizations?”, in *Foreign Affairs*, No. 72 Vol. 3, pp. 22-49; http://www.guillaumenicaise.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/huntington_clash-of-civilizations.pdf
- Massey, Doreen (1994) “A Global Sense of Place” and “A Place Called Home?” in *Space, Place and Gender*, University of Minnesota Press, pp. 135-143, 146-156, pp. 157-173. http://aughty.org/pdf/global_sense_place.pdf

Week 6 - Globalization, or the Failure Thereof: Deadlock or Opportunity for Change in The Contemporary Moment

- Saval, Niki (2017) Globalization: The Rise and Fall of an Idea that Swept the World (The Guardian, 14 July 2017) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/14/globalisation-the-rise-and-fall-of-an-idea-that-swept-the-world>
- Hall, Stuart (2013) “The Kilburn Manifesto: Our Challenge to the Neoliberal Victory” (The Guardian, 24 April 2013) <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/apr/24/kilburn-manifesto-challenge-neoliberal-victory>)

Whole edited volume, with collection of articles, accessible for free:

- Hall, Stuart, Doreen Massey and Michael Rustin, eds. (2015) *After Neoliberalism: The Kilburn Manifesto* (Soundings) <https://lwbooks.co.uk/product/after-neoliberalism-the-kilburn-manifesto-free-e-book>