INTS 301 • Theories of Globalization

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Texas A&M University  
Fall 2015  
Class meeting: MWF 3:00-3:50  
PETR 106

Course description
Examination of diverse global and international cultural processes in their economic and political contexts; analyses of theoretical lenses on transnationalism including diaspora, hybridity, liminality, marginality, cyborgism, nomadism, scapes and flows, and others; case studies of global cultures.

Prerequisites
Junior or senior classification, or approval of instructor.

TAMU Student Learning Outcomes
Texas A&M University has identified student learning outcomes that describe our institutional commitment to your educational goals. These include the ability to demonstrate critical thinking, effective communication, and social, cultural, and global competence.

Please see:  

Learning outcomes
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
• articulate the relationship between the period pertaining to “modernity” and the period known today as “globalization;”
• identify and explain substantively the role of disciplines informing the field of global studies;
• differentiate and discuss theoretical perspectives pertaining to globalization;
• relate theories of globalization’s effects on media, consumer, and capitalist activities to events within their own experience
• analyze critically academic and other texts.

Required course materials
• Readings will be made available from Notes ‘n’ Quotes in the form of a course reader.

Course requirements and evaluation

Weekly responses (8 responses total, 5 points each: 40 points  
Oral Presentation: 15 points  
Final exam: 45 points

Grading scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 0-59 = F
Complete all assigned readings prior to class (see calendar).

Weekly responses/Write-up (40 points total)
Students must bring in a printed weekly response to the week’s readings and/or films to their Friday class meeting. Late responses will receive no points, except in the case of university-approved excused absence (see statement on absences below). Responses should reflect your engagement with the readings by describing and explaining the significance of an important term, concept, idea, and/or position presented in the material.

- Each response paper must include a discussion question that you would like to hear addressed in class. Responses should be at least 300 words (equivalent to 1 full double-spaced typewritten page).
- Monday lectures will take up select questions. Weekly responses will each be worth a possible 5 points, awarded on the basis of how they exhibit student’s understanding of and engagement with the course material.

Oral Presentation (15 points): 10 to 15 minutes long. During the oral presentation, you are expected to present and discuss the reading for that day and use relevant handouts or power point.

Final Exam (45 points)

- The Final exam will be held on the date and at the time set in the official TAMU academic calendar.
- Exam will test material covered in readings, films (where appropriate), and lectures, and will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions.
- Exam is cumulative.
- Exam cannot be made-up, except in the case of university-approved absence.

Absences
Attendance in class is mandatory. For each unexcused absence in excess of two, student’s final grade will be reduced 5 full percentage points. The University views class attendance as the responsibility of the student; attendance is essential to complete the course successfully. For illness-or injury-related absences of fewer than three days, a note from a health care professional confirming date and time of visit will be required in order to count the absence as university-excused; for absences of three days or more, the note must also contain the medical professional’s confirmation that absence from class was necessary (see Rule 7.1.6.1 and 7.1.6.2). University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located on-line at http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07.

Academic integrity
Disabilities
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-8451637. For additional information, visit http://disability.tamu.edu.
Semester Calendar

FOUNDATIONS TO THE THEORY OF GLOBALIZATION (WEEKS 1-3)

WEEK 1 • Sociological Roots of Theories of Globalization
Introduction to the Course/Discussion of Syllabus
Reading: Karl Marx, “Basic concepts in Marxism” (Historical Materialism, Forces and Relations of Production, Base and Superstructure, Ideology and the State)

WEEK 2 • Sociological Roots of Theories of Globalization, Part 2
Reading: Max Weber “On Bureaucracy”; excerpts from The Protestant Ethic and The Spirit of Capitalism
Thorsten Veblen, excerpts from Theory of the Leisure Class

Weekly Write-up 1

WEEK 3 • Cultural Roots of Globalization
Reading: Claude Levi-Strauss excerpts from The Elementary Structures of Kinship
Marcel Mauss excerpts from The Gift
Karl Polanyi, excerpts from The Great Transformation (Chapters 4 and 5),

Weekly Write-up 2

MODERNITY: PRECURSORS TO GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURE (WEEKS 4-5)

WEEK 4 • Nationalism, Modernity, and Globalization
Reading: Rowtrow and Huntington, selections
“Theorists of Modernization” after WWII
Discussion of Dependency Theorists, Import Substituted Industrialization and Import Lead Industrialization

WEEK 5 • Contemporary Structural Theory, Totalization, and Globalization
Reading: Althusser and Poulantzas, “Ideology,” “Ideological State Apparatus,” and “Class Position,” “Class Place” and “Isolation Effects”
Pierre Bourdieu, “Symbolic Domination” “Fields and Habitus”

Weekly Write-up 3

GLOBLIZATION: THE CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE (WEEKS 6-13)

WEEK 6 • Challenges of Globalization (1)
b) François Bourguignon, Inequality and Globalization”, Foreign Affairs, January, February 2016 Issue.

WEEK 7 • Challenges of Globalization (2)
WEEK 8 • Globalization and End of Ideological Clashes? What is Next?
b) Samuel Huntington, The Clash of Civilizations, Foreign Affairs, Summer 1993

Weekly Write-up 4

WEEK 9 • World Politics and Development

Weekly Write-up 5

WEEK 10 • Global State and Governance
a) Barrie Axford, Chapter 7.

Weekly Write-up 5

WEEK 11 • Globalization and Environment

Weekly Write-up 6

WEEK 12 Globalization and Culture
a) Barrie Axford, Chapter 5.
b) Noam Chomsky, Media Control The Spectacular Achievements of Propaganda, pages 9-65.

Weekly Write-up 7

WEEK 13 • Ideology and Social Thought: The Intelligentsia and the Development Crisis
c) Immanuel Wallerstein: World System Analysis, Chapter 5.

Weekly Write-up 8

WEEK 14 • Summary, Review and Concluding Remarks

FINAL EXAM will be administered on the date and time set in the published schedule on the academic calendar.