1. Course Objective

“Those who exercise power always arrange matters so as to give their tyranny the appearance of justice” - La Fontaine, 1668.

Over the course of last two decades the term "globalization" has become more and more pervasive in describing and analyzing the world we live in, but what does it actually mean? Is it a new development? What are the political, economic and cultural dimensions supporting and producing it? What counter-forces does it create? Is globalization a force for higher economic growth, prosperity, and better democratic rights? Or is it a force for increasing poverty, environmental degradation, exploitation of the developing world, and suppression of human and workers’ rights?

Defined as a process by which the lives of people around the world become increasingly interconnected in economic, political, cultural and environmental terms, along with an awareness of such interconnections, does it lead to a truly global flow of capital, labor and opportunity or does it limit itself to a few regions or counties at the expense of others? Or, what we experience is a form of double movement, “globalization and social marginalization” on the one hand and “resistence by the communities around the globe to the unleashing forces of global capitalism”?

The study of globalization requires a multidisciplinary approach and by no means is limited to economics. Therefore, this course will also be interdisciplinary by design, in its critical approach as well as in its multidimensional content. Yet, we will be concerned mostly with the determinants of the new wave of globalization by examining the debates around the globalization of international finance, trade and investment in conjunction with the issues raised by the anti-globalization movement. While our goal is to examine contesting arguments on all sides of these debates and to evaluate them against criticisms and evidence in a rigorous and critical fashion, we will primarily focus on the discontents literature regarding the merits of globalization.

Please also note that this course is organized according to the principle that there is no such thing as neutral science.

2. Course Structure

The course is designed as a an upper level seminar class based on lectures, assigned readings from books and various articles, films, and class discussions. The students are expected to come to each class after having read the assigned readings, and to participate in classroom discussions. Students are responsible for ALL ASSIGNED MATERIALS.
3. Course Requirements and Grade Weights

- Quizzes. We will have a minimum of 10 short essay pop quizzes based on the assigned readings for that day. (20%)

- Class participation, i.e., asking questions, making arguments, citing evidence, demonstrating knowledge of readings assigned for the day. News updates and bi-weekly short essays are also counted as a part of your class participation. The extent to which your class interventions are relevant, and focused directly on the discussion underway will be factored into this part of your grade. (20%)
  
  - Bi-weekly short essays circulated via e-mail list, maximum 2 pages. Due by 6 pm on Sundays and Tuesdays before each class. Pick one-two argument(s) made by the readings for the relevant week, and critique it, drawing if desired on the other readings for that week. Take a clear position, making your own critical argument at the start of the essay and structuring it to present your argument.
  
  - News updates. At the beginning of each class, one student will present a brief overview (5 mnts. long) of news from media outlets on topics related to the subjects of this course. The globalization phenomenon is always in the news, and I will be talking about current events from time to time. Keep informed of current issues regarding globalization by following daily news both from domestic and international media sources.

- Take-home final examination. Take-home examinations are due in class on April 24. Exams must be typed and should be no longer than 8 pages in length. (20%)

- Research Paper (35%):
  
  - 8000-10,000 word research paper due in class on March 27, or earlier. The topic for the paper must be approved in advance. The research paper is divided into several stages, including a one-page proposal (due January 30), (2%) 2-4 page annotated description of the paper outline and sources (due Feb 15), (3%), and the final paper. (20%)
  
  - Research presentation. Present your research paper’s puzzle, argument, evidence, and implications in a 10-to-15-minute “conference-style” talk. Respond to questions. (10 %)

- Serve as discussant/commentator on another student’s research presentation. Based on another student’s research paper, write 2-3 pages of detailed but constructive comments, focusing on substantive arguments and evidence. Present these comments orally for 5 minutes after the subject’s research presentation. (5%)

4. Required Books and Readings


Additional required readings will be available from Blackboard. The students are expected to do the required readings before the associated class. Questions regarding the assigned readings and topics prior to each class are welcome. I will return your e-mails within 24 hours.

5. Term Paper

The research paper is on a topic of your choice with a well-focused question. You must make a clear argument and defend your claims rigorously and systematically with evidence. Check the course web site for the handout on formatting and style guidelines and instructions for this assignment.

6. Academic Ethics:

Cheating on assignments and exams, or plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one’s own anything done by another) is penalized by Denison University. A student found in such a situation will be given an F in the class and will be brought to the Provost’s Office for further penalties.

7. Students with Disabilities

Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately as soon as possible to discuss his or her specific needs. I rely on the academic support & Enrichment Center in 104 Doane to verify the need for reasonable accommodations based on documentation on file in that office.

8. Grading Scale

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97.5-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-97.49</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.5-89.9</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>82.5-87.49</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.5-79.9</td>
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<td>70-72.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67.5-69.9</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.49</td>
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<td>less than 60</td>
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I reserve the right to adjust this schedule of grade equivalents in the student’s favor.
9. Course Outline and Reading Assignments

The following is a tentative list and schedule of topics and required readings. All readings should be completed by the date listed. Additional readings may be assigned from time to time. Polanyi; Baker et al.; and Greider refer to “Polanyi, K. (1944); “Baker, D.; Epstein, G. and Pollin, R. (Eds) (1998); and “Greider, W. (1998). *Refers to suggested but not required readings.

Globalization and Its Discontents

Course Outline

PART I: UNDERSTANDING GLOBALIZATION

1. What is Globalization?


a. The Rise of the Market Society (Jan 16&18)

Polanyi Ch. 3, 4, 5, 6

b. Economic Globalization: Definitions, Patterns and Trends (Jan 25)

Baker at al., Introduction (Ch.1); Greider, Ch. 1, 2


PART II: THE ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION

2. Globalization, Economic Convergence and the Varieties of Capitalism:

a. International Economics Institutions: The Birth and Revival of the Liberal Creed (Jan 30)

Polanyi, Ch. 11, 12; Baker et al., Ch. 2 (p.37-66)

b. Washington Consensus: Globalization, our way or highway? (Feb 1)


3. Globalization of Financial Markets and Financial instability:

   a. The Rentiers’ Regime (Feb 6)

Greider, Ch. 11, 13; Baker et al., Ch. 7 (p.163-191), 8 (p.195-218)


b. The Rise of Financial Crises (Feb 13)

Greider, Ch.12


4. Globalization of International Trade and Production

   a. Globalization of Trade and the Rise of FDI (Feb 15)

Greider, Ch.6, 7; Baker et al. Ch. 5, 6 (p.97-146)

b. Subsidies by Developed Countries (Feb 20)

Former Chief Economist of the World Bank, Joseph Stiglitz in his book on globalization (Stiglitz 2002: xv) comments:

"Today, few -- apart from those with vested interests who benefit from keeping out the goods produced by the poor countries -- defend the hypocrisy of pretending to help developing countries by forcing them to open up their markets to the goods of the advanced industrial countries while keeping their own markets protected, policies that make the rich richer and the poor more impoverished -- and increasingly angry."


Monbiot, G. (2005), They bleat about the free market, then hold out their begging bowls, The Guardian, December 13.


Chatterjee, P. (2005), Some Strings Attached: Cotton, Farm subsidies tie up global trade talks, CorpWatch, December 13th. Available at: http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=12876

*Oxfam Briefing Paper 81 (2005), Truth or Consequences: Why the EU and the US must reform their subsidies, or pay the price. Available at: http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/trade/downloads/bp81_truth.pdf

5. Globalization and the Labor

a. Worker Rights, Labor Standards, and Globalization (Feb 22)

Greider, Ch. 4, 5, 15, 17; Baker et al. Ch. 10 (p. 245-272)

*Lloyd, V. and Weissman, R (2001), Against the Workers, Multinational Monitor 22 (September). Available at: http://multinationalmonitor.org/mm2001/01september/sep01corp1.html

b. International Migration (Feb 27)

Baker et al. ch. 13, 14 (p. 325-356, 365-366)

6. Globalization, Poverty and Inequality (March 1)

Baker et al. ch. 11 (p. 273-295),

Is Global Income Inequality Increasing or Decreasing?
(http://ucatlas.ucsc.edu/income/debate.html)


*Morley, S. A. (2001), The Income Distribution Problem in Latin America and the Caribbean, CEPAL.


Required film: Corporation, March 3

7. Globalization, Environment and Public Health (March 6)

a. Intellectual Property Rights & TRIPs: Do WTO rules limit drug affordability and thus cost lives in the developing world?


b. Environmental Effects of Globalization: Is there a race to the bottom in environmental regulation? (March 8)

Baker et al., Ch. 12 (p. 297-321)


Vallette, J. (1999), Larry Summers' War Against the Earth, Counter Punch.


* Shiva, Vandana (2005), Water Privatisation And Water Wars, July 12, ZNET. Available at: http://www.zmag.org/Sustainers/Content/2005-07/12shiva.cfm

PART III: NON-MAINSTREAM APPROACHES TO GLOBALIZATION

8. Capitalism, Globalization and Imperialism (March 20&22)


PART IV: THE SOCIO-POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF GLOBALIZATION

9. The Rise of Neo-Fascist Parties and the Revival of Racism (March 27)

Polanyi Ch. 19, 20; Greider Ch. 16


Bunzl, J. (2002), Le Pen is Chief Beneficiary of Corporate Globalisation, Globalization Available at: http://globalization.icaap.org/content/v2.2/bunzl.html

Term Paper is due, March 27

PART V: ALTERNATIVES TO GLOBALIZATION


Greider Ch. 14, 19; Baker et al. Ch 19 (p. 433-464).


**Take Home Final is due, April 24**

**PART VI: RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS** (April 12, 17, 19, 24, 26)