Courses in Globalization Studies

A Glo 103
Perspectives on Globalization (3)

*This course offered fully online.* The course introduces different perspectives from the social sciences, humanities and the natural sciences used in the study of globalization. It encourages discussion and critical thinking while covering questions such as: What is globalization? When did it begin? What are its impacts on society? What are its impacts on the earth, its resources, and the other life forms with which we share it? How can we study it? The course seeks to enhance a student's ability to (1) recognize and interpret different viewpoints from which globalization processes are currently being studied and debated, (2) identify the many pathways through which globalization is transforming the daily life and conditions of existence of people and communities everywhere, and (3) identify the diverse processes by which globalization is transforming the geo- and bio-spheres in ways that look to threaten the well-being of earth's human and non-human inhabitants.

The multidisciplinary perspectives on globalizing processes presented, cover among other topics, the economic configuration of global production and distribution networks, the changing nature of the state and political power, the dynamic of global cultural flows, along with the emergence of global natural resource constraints and environmental problems. At the same time, it reviews the impact and responses to globalization in workplaces, households and communities from different regions of the world. Only one version of A GLO 103 or A CAS 103 may be taken for credit.

(1815) McWilliams, Neusa
6 Week 1: May 24-July 2

A Glo 225 (=A Gog 225/A Usp 225)

World Cities: Geographies of Globalization (3)

*This course offered fully online.* This course takes a critical look at globalization and its impacts on cities around the world. Globalization includes an array of economic, cultural, and political forces that are effectively shrinking our world. The first part of the course focuses on the ways transnational movements or ‘flows’ of trade, finance, people and culture operate in and through a network of linked ‘global’ cities, the top tier of which function as the ‘command and control’ centers at the ‘core’ of the global economy. The second part of the course shifts attention to the global ‘periphery’ and to some of the lower tier cities of the world’s urban hierarchy: in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The concern here will be to examine the local consequences of globalization in two overlapping realms. The first will involve looking for and at evidence of the less salutary effects of globalization forces in these cities: for example, higher levels of social and spatial inequality, deteriorating environmental and health conditions, diminished per-capita share of local resources and infrastructures, and cultural homogenization. The other realm will be an investigation of local activities that occur in response and as resistance to the pervasive forces of globalization. The goal here will be to document and evaluate the effectiveness of some of the local movements and organizations that have struggled for social justice in the face of what they perceive to be oppressive (global) economic and cultural forces. After taking A GOG/GLO/USP 225 students will be able to compare cities on the global ‘periphery’ with each other, as well as with those in the global ‘core’ to learn about and understand how some aspects of economic and cultural globalization play out and are adapted to ‘on the ground’ and to think critically about how people might effectively organize their thoughts and exercise their rights to the city in the era of globalization. A GOG/A GLO/A USP 225Z are the writing intensive versions of A GOG/A GLO/A USP 225; only one version may be taken for credit.

(1881) Murphy, Nicholas
12 Week: May 24-August 13