

**AGLO 303 (#7608)/RPOS 309 (#7662) Theoretical Perspectives on Globalization <sup>1</sup>  
Spring 2019, T/TH 4:15-5:35PM, BBB 012**

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Office: Humanities 361

Office Hours: T/TH 2-3PM (and by appointment) in HU 140 (University Writing Center)

This course takes up the ambitious task of *theorizing globalization*, one of the defining conceptual rubrics of our current historical moment. Under investigation, then, is not only *globalization* – its origins, dynamics, characteristics, and consequences – but also *theory*. What role can intellectual and critical inquiry play in the world today? What is the relationship between generalization and particularity, that is to say between conceptual models that engage in broad forms of periodization, systemic analysis, or abstraction, versus those analytical models that focus on the particular, the local, the historically or geographically specific? What is the relationship between theory and critique? What are the intellectual traditions that inform contemporary thought? And how might a reflective investigation of theory help us to better understand and respond to the globalizing processes and structures that condition the world in which we live?

That world, for better or worse, comes at us in ways that do not conform neatly to traditional academic disciplinary boundaries and methods of study. Theorizing globalization – a topic that is interdisciplinary by its very nature – entails, therefore, the investigation and critique of disciplinary knowledges. Surveying key texts and concepts that have shaped current scholarly understandings of globalization we will read thinkers from a number of traditional academic disciplines: economists, sociologists, political scientists, geographers, historians, anthropologists, literary and cultural theorists, and more. Any theoretical position has value and limitations; by looking at an object from one perspective, we see things that would otherwise be hidden, but we also obscure aspects that might have been visible previously. Our aim, then, is to analyze the assumptions, limits, and possibilities that underpin theoretical investigation into the various processes, structures, and histories that connect and divide the globe.

### **Required Texts**

- The readings for this course are available in the “Course Readings” folder on BlackBoard. You will need to download and print each of the assigned readings.

*You are required bring a hard copy of the assigned article to class so that we can refer to specific passages in discussion. Occasionally, I will verify that you have a copy of the reading with you in class. This will count as part of your “classwork and participation” grade for the semester.*

### **Breakdown of Grades**

- Midterm Exam 25%
- Final Exam 25%
- Paper Abstract 5%

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<sup>1</sup> This course was originally designed and taught by Dr. Bret Benjamin. I have adapted his materials, including the syllabus and assignments, for this course.

- Theoretical Analysis Paper 25%
- Quizzes 15%
- Classwork and Participation 5%

## Written Assignments

### Midterm and Final Exams

There will be a midterm and a final exam covering the readings for each half of the semester. The exam will include passage identification and essay questions. Make-up exams will be given only in circumstances involving a documented emergency. Students required to make-up an exam will be given an alternative version.

### Theoretical Analysis Paper

Handouts with specific details for each assignment will be passed out during the semester. The 5-7 page essay will be an original research project incorporating one or more of the theoretical texts we read in class. Before you begin writing, you will submit an abstract of your proposed research project on which you will receive my feedback.

### Quizzes

Regular reading quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Quizzes will not be announced in advance. Missed quizzes cannot be made-up. Your lowest quiz score of the semester will be dropped.

## Attendance Policy

Attendance is required. After three absences, I will lower your final class grade by one third of a letter for each additional class that you miss. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. You can miss three classes, and three classes only, before your grade begins to drop. If an extenuating situation arises, such as a prolonged illness or a death in the family, you should contact me immediately and your absences may be excused as long as documentation from the Undergraduate Dean's office is obtained. It is your responsibility to keep track of your own absences.

## Electronic Devices

No electronic devices for reading, listening, note-taking and writing (e.g., laptops, tablets, phones, headphones, etc.) will be permitted in class. If you have a medical reason for needing to use such a device, we can make special arrangements.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and, as such, instances of plagiarized materials will be dealt with harshly. Depending on the severity and the details of the case, I reserve the right to file formal disciplinary action with the University (a process that may result in suspension or expulsion) and the right to impose a grading penalty that may go so far as to issue a failing grade for the entire course. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE.

From the University Guidelines on Scholastic Integrity:

Presenting as one's own work the work of another person (for example, the words, ideas, information, data, evidence, organizing principles, or style of presentation of

someone else). Plagiarism includes paraphrasing or summarizing without acknowledgment, submission of another student's work as one's own, the purchase of prepared research or completed papers or projects, and the unacknowledged use of research sources gathered by someone else. Failure to indicate accurately the extent and precise nature of one's reliance on other sources is also a form of plagiarism. The student is responsible for understanding the legitimate use of sources, the appropriate ways of acknowledging academic, scholarly, or creative indebtedness, and the consequences for violating University regulations.

Examples of plagiarism include: failure to acknowledge the source(s) of even a few phrases, sentences, or paragraphs; failure to acknowledge a quotation or paraphrase of paragraph-length sections of a paper; failure to acknowledge the source(s) of a major idea or the source(s) for an ordering principle central to the paper's or project's structure; failure to acknowledge the source (quoted, paraphrased, or summarized) of major sections or passages in the paper or project; the unacknowledged use of several major ideas or extensive reliance on another person's data, evidence, or critical method; submitting as one's own work, work borrowed, stolen, or purchased from someone else.

## Schedule of Readings

- 1/24 Introductions--What is Globalization? What is Theory?
- 1/29 Karl Marx, from the Preface to the *Critique of Political Economy* (4-5) and "The Manifesto of the Communist Party" (473-491, 499-500)
- 1/31 Keynes, "The End of Laissez Faire" (654-657, 663-672)
- 2/5 Milton Friedman, from *Capitalism and Freedom*: "The Relation Between Economic Freedom and Political Freedom," "The Role of Government in a Free Society" (7-36)
- 2/7 W.W. Rostow, "Stages of Economic Growth" (47-55)
- 2/12 Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Underdevelopment" (76-84)
- 2/14 Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System" (95-98,101-113)
- 2/19 Maria Mies "Housewifization International" (112-127, 142-144)
- 2/21 Cynthia Enloe, "Going Bananas!" from *Beaches, Bananas, Bases* (211-249)
- 2/26 Amartya Sen, "Development as Freedom: Introduction," "The Perspective of Freedom," "Women's Agency and Social Change" (3-4, 13-34, 189-203)
- 2/28 Kenichi Ohmae, "The End of the Nation State" (207-211)  
Workshop: Conducting Research for Papers
- 3/5 Midterm Review
- 3/7 **Midterm Exam**
- 3/12 Thomas Friedman, "It's a Flat World Afterall" (247-255)  
Workshop: Citing Sources and Using Quotations/Paraphrasing
- 3/14 Arjun Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy" (27-37, 45-47)
- 3/19 NO CLASS – Spring Break
- 3/21 NO CLASS – Spring Break
- 3/26 Frederick Cooper "What is the Concept of Globalization Good For: An African Historian's Perspective" (189-213)
- 3/28 David Harvey, "Neoliberalism and the Restoration of Class Power" (9-29)

- 4/2 David Harvey, "Neoliberalism and the Restoration of Class Power" (41-68)
- 4/4 Arruzza, Bhattacharya, Fraser, "Notes for a Feminist Manifesto" (113-134)
- 4/9 John Smith, "Imperialism in the Twenty-First Century" (1-10, 14-20)
- 4/11 CNN article on 2019 Oxfam Report (no need to print) and Mike Davis, "Planet of Slums" (5-34)
- 4/16 Paul Crutzen, "Geology of Mankind" and Will Steffen, et. al. "The Anthropocene: From Global Change to Planetary Stewardship"
- 4/18 Jason Moore, Raj Patel, "Unearthing the Capitalocene: Towards a Reparations Ecology"
- 4/19 **Abstracts due on Bb by 5:00pm**
- 4/23 Individual Paper Conferences- NO CLASS
- 4/25 Individual Paper Conferences- NO CLASS
- 4/30 TriContinental Dossier: "Cities Without Water"  
Workshop: Crafting a Strong Thesis Statement
- 5/2 **Research Essay Due on Bb by 5pm- NO CLASS**
- 5/7 Final Exam Review
- 5/13 **Final Exam 10:30-12:30**