

Fall 2018
Aquia Building 219, Wednesdays 4:30-7:10pm
Office Hours: Mon 3:30-5pm, Wed. 2-3pm,
or by appointment.

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SOCI 804/633: Sociology of Globalization

Syllabus

In this course, we explore the literature on economic, political, social, and cultural globalizations. We primarily focus on the sociological literature, both the “classics” and the newest works, as well as the problems posed by globalization and imperialism for the very practice of sociology itself. But we also dive into fiction, history, area studies, and popular journalism to clarify the nature of sociological approaches and imagine potentially new directions for sociology.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to

- Discuss the conventional sociological approaches to globalization (including major concepts and debates) and innovations in globalization studies.
- Analyze globalization texts, placing them in their historical contexts and larger theoretical projects.
- Discuss possible empirical projects and methods that might follow from globalization studies.
- Write a literature review on an aspect of globalization related to one’s dissertation or thesis projects, using the appropriate sociological conventions.

Course schedule and readings

All books are available in the Mason Bookstore. All articles are available on Blackboard. All readings must be brought to class in non-digital, printed form.

Aug. 29: Introduction, Why sociology? Why globalization? (Paper #1, written in class)
Ghosh, Amitav. 2015. *Flood of Fire*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Sept. 5: World Systems Theory and Globalization (Paper #2)
Wallerstein, Immanuel. 2004. *World-Systems Analysis. An Introduction*. Duke University Press.
Ritzer, George. 2004. “An Introduction to McDonaldization,” pp. 1-23.

Sept. 12: World Systems Theory and Globalization (Paper #3)
Bair, Jennifer Lynn and Matthew C. Mahutga. 2016. “Commodity Chains and Development.” Pp 645-666 in Hooks, Gregory (Ed.), *Sociology of Development Handbook*. Berkeley: UC Press.
Bair, Jennifer. 2005. “Global Capitalism and Commodity Chains: Looking Back, Going Forward.” *Competition and Change* 9(2): 153–80.
Mahutga, Matthew C. 2014. “Global Models of Networked Organization, the Positional Power of Nations and Economic Development.” *Review of International Political Economy* 21(1): 157-194.

Sept. 19: *Global Economy (Paper #4)*

Sassen, Saskia. 2001. *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Sept. 26: *Global Economy (Paper #5)*

Slobodian, Quinn. 2018. *Globalists: The End of Empire and the Birth of Neoliberalism*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Oct. 3: *Global Economy (Paper #6)*

Parrenas, Rhacel. 2001 [not 2015]. *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

Oct. 10: *Methodological Nationalism (Paper #7)*

Chernilo, Daniel. 2011. "The critique of methodological nationalism: Theory and history." *Thesis Eleven* 106: 98-117. (19 pages)

Wimmer, Andreas and Nina Glick Schiller. 2002. "Methodological Nationalism and Beyond: Nation-state building, migration, and the social sciences." *Global Networks* 2(4): 301-334. (33 pages)

Oct. 17: *Methodological Nationalism (Paper #8)*

Weiss, Linda. 1997. "Globalization and the Myth of the Powerless State," *New Left Review* 225: 3-27. (24 pages)

Kay, Tamara. 2005. "Labor Transnationalism and Global Governance: The Impact of NAFTA on Transnational Labor Relationships in North America," *American Journal of Sociology* 111(3): 715-756. (41 pages)

Oct. 24: *Imperialism, Globalization, and Sociology (Paper #9)*

Fanon, Frantz. [1961] 2004. *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove/Atlantic.

Oct. 31: *Imperialism, Globalization, and Sociology (Paper #10)*

Bhabra, Gurinder K. 2014. *Connected Sociologies*. London: Bloomsbury.

Nov. 7: *Socialist Globalizations (Paper #11, Research Topic)*

Brown, Kate Pride. 2018. *Saving the Sacred Sea: The Power of Civil Society in an Age of Authoritarianism and Globalization*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Nov. 14: *Cultural Globalization (Paper #12)*

Hironaka, Ann. 2014. *Greening the Globe: World Society and Environmental Change*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Nov. 21: *Thanksgiving Break/No Class*

Nov. 28: *Cultural Globalization (Paper #13)*

Ren, Xufei. 2011. *Building Globalization: Transnational Architecture Production in Urban China*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Nov. 30: *Exchange drafts of final paper by email by midnight.*

Dec. 5: Popular Views of Globalization (Paper #14)

Friedman, Thomas. 2005. "It's a Flat World, After All," *NY Times Magazine*. (10 pages)

Samuelson, Robert. 2016. "The (largely false) globalization narrative." *Washington Post* (August 7). (2 pages)

Return comments on drafts (in hardcopy during class).

Final Paper Due: Wednesday, December 12th at 7:15pm.

Course Requirements

Class participation	20%
Short weekly papers (11 out of 14, and two required papers)	20%
Comments on research paper	5%
Final Research Paper	55%

To receive a passing grade, all four components must be completed.

Grading scale

A	95	over 93
A-	92	90-92
B+	88	87-89
B	85	83-86
B-	82	80-82
C+	78	77-79
C	75	73-76
C-	72	70-72
D	65	60-69
F	0	0-59

Class participation: Participation includes attendance, being on time, bringing the reading, asking questions, and, especially, participating in discussion. The weekly readings will be used extensively during class discussion.

Short weekly papers: This is a 2-page paper on the readings each week. You can write more than two pages if you wish. Please include:

- 1) What is/are the main argument(s) of the reading?
- 2) Choose a passage (or two or more) that illuminates at least one of these arguments.
- 3) What do you find most interesting or surprising about the reading?
- 4) How does it relate to previous readings and discussions we have had?
- 5) Discuss or list one or two questions you have about the reading.

The paper must be brought to the beginning of class. Please arrive to class a couple of minutes before 4:30pm because we begin promptly at 4:30pm. 11 out of 14 papers will go towards your grade.

One paper must be completed by everyone:

- 1) Paper #11: In addition to your regular weekly paper, please read an article from *Annual Review of Sociology* (the *Annual Review of Anthropology* is also fine) on a topic related to your dissertation or thesis interest. These articles are all literature reviews. For the

final paper, you will write your own literature review, so this article will be a model for you. In one page, discuss your topic of interest, how this article helps you in your field, and how your literature review might differ from this article.

Comments on Final Paper Each student will give a draft of their final paper to two other members of class. These “commentators” will write at least one page of comments about the draft to the author to help the author improve the final paper. Making comments in track changes is not fulfillment of this requirement. These comments will be submitted with the final paper and graded.

Final research paper

Each student will prepare a 20-page literature review. Your papers should advance your own intellectual project (your thesis or dissertation). I will meet with each of you individually during the semester to discuss your work and to generate a topic. I am glad to read drafts of the research paper. With your research paper, please include the commentators’ comments and memo explaining how you incorporated their comments.

MA Student Requirements:

MA students have the same required components and percentages as above, but slightly different page and focus requirements: Class participation; Short weekly papers (2 pages; 10 out of 14 recorded); Commenting; Final Research Paper (15 pages).

Late Policy

For each day that any written work is late that grade will be reduced by a step (e.g., an A paper will become an A- paper one day after the due date, a B+ paper two days after the due date, etc).

Laptop, E-Book, I-Phone Policy

I do not allow the use of laptops, e-book readers, i-phones, or other devices in class because I want everyone to be fully present in the classroom. Therefore, hardcopies of all the books and articles must be used in the classroom.

Academic Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

<https://ds.gmu.edu>

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is a serious offense and you are expected to read and follow the Honor Code that can be found in the University Catalog. You will be asked to produce original work for your assignments, and must provide proper citation of the ideas and words of other authors. If you are uncertain about what counts as plagiarism, see here:

<http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>

Other useful campus resources:

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), 703.993.2380, <https://caps.gmu.edu>

University Libraries “Ask a Librarian,” <https://library.gmu.edu/ask>

Writing Center: Robinson Hall B213, 703.993.1200, <https://writingcenter.gmu.edu>