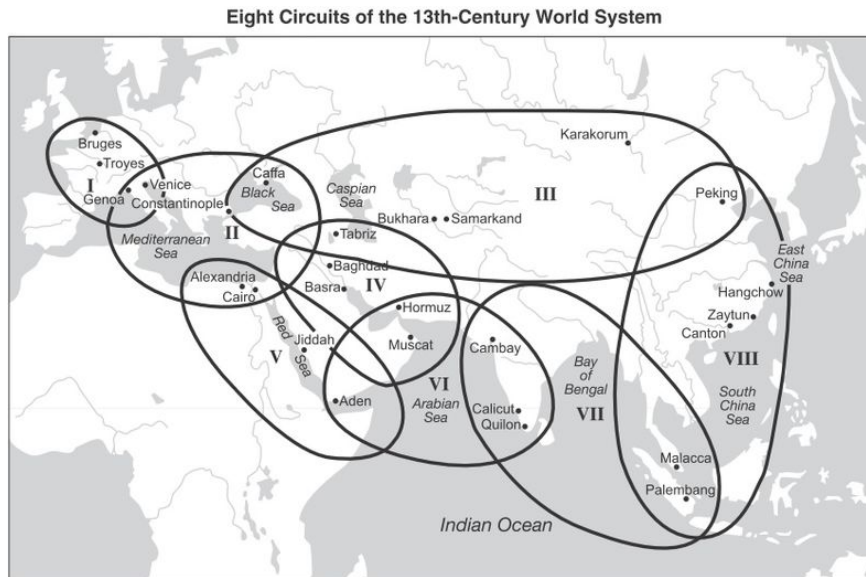


Spring 2020
Graduate Seminar
SOCI 804: Sociology of Globalization



Source: Janet L. Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony: The World System A. D. 1250–1350*, Oxford University Press, 1989 (adapted)

Convened by **Dr.
Manjusha Nair**
04:30 PM to 07:10 PM T
Aquia Building 219
mnair4@gmu.edu
Office hours: T 12-2 pm

This is a graduate seminar on themes related to globalization. There is no one definition of globalization, nor is there one perspective. Endless debates on whether globalization is real or imaginary, old or new, hop or flow, good or bad surround us. We know of neoliberalism, markets, counterhegemonic movements, dispossessions, structural violence, expulsions and exclusions and now post neoliberalism as characteristic of contemporary globalization. As a graduate seminar, we will interrogate a few key questions, but will not survey them.

We will follow an arc of reading, learning, and discussion that starts with a world historical analysis and ends with micro subjectivities. Our discussion will span the 13th century world system, capitalism and colonialism, contemporary structures and cultures, moral economies, and everyday lives. Along with the content of the reading, we would be concerned about the form, methodologies, and the possibilities and limits they pose to scholars. I expect that you know the basic debates and themes of globalization. If you need to review those from time to time, you may consult ***Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective*** by Philip McMichael (Sage, 2012).

In this seminar, you are expected to have a mature intellectual agenda, curiosity and willingness to learn and unlearn. You are expected to:

- ❖ Come prepared with a list of questions that you will put forth to the author (As if she was present)
- ❖ Present a reading to the class in 15 minutes or so

- ❖ Contribute substantively to class discussions
- ❖ Write a book review of 1000 words of the recommended books provided in the syllabus,
- ❖ Write a good research paper by the end of the course (topic to be approved by the convener).

Grading will consist of presentations (20%) homework and participation (20%) book review (20%) and paper (40%).

The research paper should be —maximum 5000 words long—about a topic of your choice regarding globalization. It has to link some theoretical proposition to empirical observation (which will include historical observation, analysis of secondary literature, documents, fiction, and artwork and so on). Please submit your one-paragraph topic statement by February 18. Please use my office hours for discussions of possible topics, problems and solutions as soon as they occur to you. Deadline for the finished paper: 4 p m, May 4, 2005. Please deliver your paper, in a print form, to my mailbox.

The book review is due on April 14. Visit <https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2015/03/27/essay-writing-academic-book-reviews> to learn more about writing a book review.

The books have been ordered through the GMU Bookstore. They will be available on reserve at the library soon.

Schedule

January 21

Introduction to Globalization

Required Movie before class: *Still Life* by Jia Zhangke. Discussion Question to keep in mind while watching: 1) What does the film say about China's globalization? 2) What does the film do that academic work cannot do?



Still Life(三峡好人)——zhangke jia (watch on youtube)

January 28

Social Sciences and the false models of reality

Required Reading:

Wolf, Eric R. *Europe and the People without History*. University of California Press, 2010.

Recommended Readings:

Fabian, Johannes. *Time and the other: How anthropology makes its object*. Columbia University Press, 2014.

Alatas, Syed Farid, *Applying Ibn Khaldun: The Recovery of a Lost Tradition in Sociology*,. London and New York: Routledge, 2014.

February 4

Globalization I?

Required Reading:

Abu-Lughod, Janet L. *Before European hegemony: the world system AD 1250-1350*. Oxford University Press, USA, 1989.

Recommended:



Watch Caravans of Gold by Basil Davidson, 1989

Rediker M, Linebaugh P. *The many-headed hydra: sailors, slaves, commoners, and the hidden history of the revolutionary Atlantic*. Boston: Beacon. 2000.

February 11

Markets and Society

Required Reading:

Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation*. Boston: Beacon press, 1944.

Recommended:

Graeber, David, *Debt: The First 5,000 Years*, Melville House, 2011.

Block, Fred, and Margaret R. Somers. *The power of market fundamentalism*. Harvard University Press, 2014.

February 18

Hegemony and Capitalism

Required Reading:

Arrighi, Giovanni. *The long twentieth century: Money, power, and the origins of our times*. Verso, 1994.

Recommended:

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1974. "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*,

Frank, André Gunder. 1998. *Re-ORIENT: Global Economy in the Asian Age*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Paper proposal due!

February 25

New Configurations of Capitalism

Required Reading:

Boltanski, Luc & Eve Chiapello. *New Spirit of Capitalism*, Verso, 2007.

Recommended:

Karatani, Kojin. *Transcritique: On Kant and Marx*. MIT Press, 2005.

Hardt, Michael, and Antonio Negri. *Empire*. Harvard University Press, 2000.

March 3

Nature and history in the longue durée

Required Reading:

Radkau, Joachim. *Nature and power: a global history of the environment*. Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Recommended:

Foster, John Bellamy, Brett Clark, and Richard York. *The ecological rift: Capitalism's war on the earth*. NYU Press, 2011.

Patel, Raj, and Jason W. Moore. *A history of the world in seven cheap things: A guide to capitalism, nature, and the future of the planet*. Univ of California Press, 2017.

March 17

Asian Futures?



Required Reading:

Duara, Prasenjit. *The Crisis of Global Modernity: Asian Traditions and a Sustainable Future*, Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Recommended:

Beck, Ulrich. *Risk society: Towards a new modernity*, Sage, 1992.

Latour, B., 2013. *An inquiry into modes of existence*. Harvard University Press.

March 24

Cities divided

Required Reading:

Garrido, Marco Z. *The Patchwork City: Class, Space, and Politics in Metro Manila*. University of Chicago Press, 2019.

Recommended:

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt. 2005. *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton.

Davis, Mike. *Planet of the Slums*, Verso, 2007.

March 31

Markets and Intimacy

Guest Discussant: Prof. Chris Morris

Required Reading:

Meiu, George Paul. *Ethno-erotic economies: sexuality, money, and belonging in Kenya*. University of Chicago Press, 2017.

Recommended:

Parreñas, Rhacel. *Illicit flirtations: Labor, migration, and sex trafficking in Tokyo*. Stanford University Press, 2011.

Bernstein, Elizabeth. *Temporarily yours: Intimacy, authenticity, and the commerce of sex*. University of Chicago Press, 2007.

April 7

Growth (il)logics

Required Reading:

Livingston, J., 2019. *Self-Devouring Growth: A Planetary Parable as Told from Southern Africa*. Duke University Press.



Recommended:

Goldman, Michael. *Imperial nature: The World Bank and struggles for social justice in the age of globalization*. Yale University Press, 2005.

Li, Tania Murray. *Land's end: Capitalist relations on an indigenous frontier*. Duke University Press, 2014.

April 14

Culturally speaking

Required Reading:

Canclini, Néstor García. *Imagined globalization*. Duke University Press, 2014.

Recommended:

Appadurai, Arjun. *Modernity at large: cultural dimensions of globalization*. University of Minnesota Press, 1996.

Mazzarella, William. *Shoveling smoke: Advertising and globalization in contemporary India*. Duke university press, 2003.

Book Review due!!!!!!

April 21

Unbecoming human

Required Reading:

Biehl, João. *Vita: Life in a zone of social abandonment*. University of California Press, 2013.

Recommended:

Levien, Michael. Dispossession without development: Land grabs in Neoliberal India. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Clarno, Andy. Neoliberal apartheid: Palestine/Israel and South Africa after 1994. University of Chicago Press, 2017.

April 28

Conclusion

Presentation of papers

Deadline for the finished paper: 4 p m, May 4, 2005. Please deliver your paper, in a print form, to my mailbox.