

Spring 2017
Robinson Hall A101, Tuesdays 4:30-7:10pm
Office Hours: Tues 1-2pm, Thurs. 1:30-2:30pm,
or by appointment.

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SOCI 804: Sociology of Globalization Syllabus

While globalization most simply means becoming more like a globe, the deep integration of societies, economies, politics, and cultures has fundamentally changed social life. Sociologists have sought to study the transnational institutions and communities that have emerged. In this course, we will read the major sociological works in globalization studies, as well as significant works by other social scientists.

This semester, we will meet three times with Professor Rodney Hopson and the students in his course Neighborhood, Community, Education Policy (EDUC 887) to explore collectively the relationships between the local and global, and the dynamics of globalization in cities, neighborhoods, and schools. These meetings will also involve the Cities and Globalization Working Group: <http://citiesandglobalization.org/>. These meetings are listed in the schedule below.

Course Objectives

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

- Discuss major terms, themes, and debates, especially around the relationships between the local and the global, in globalization studies.
- Analyze globalization texts.
- Explain the historical contexts and larger theoretical projects of globalization texts.
- 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.

Jan. 24: Introduction, Why sociology? Why globalization? (Paper #1, written in class)
Ghosh, Amitav. 2015. *Floods of Fire*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Jan. 31: World Systems Theory and Globalization (Paper #2)

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 2004. *World-Systems Analysis. An Introduction*. Duke University Press.

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1974. "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 16: 387-415. (28 pages)

4:30-5:30pm: Group Discussion with EDUC 887 and the Cities and Globalization Working Group.
Location: Merten Hall 1202.

Feb. 7: Global Economy (Paper #3)

Parrenas, Rhacel. 2001. *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

Feb. 14: Global Economy (Paper #4)

McMichael, Philip. 2016. *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective*. Los Angeles: Sage.

Feb. 21: Global Economy and Cities (Paper #5)

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

4:30-5:30pm: Lecture by Professor Rodney Hopson and Group Discussion with EDUC 887. Location TBA.

Feb. 28: Global Economy (Paper #6)

Nadeem, Shehzad. 2011. *Dead Ringers: How Outsourcing Is Changing the Way Indians Understand Themselves*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

March 7: Global Economy (Paper #7)

Milanovic, Branko. 2016. *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization*. Harvard University Press.

Spring Break: No class March 13-19

March 21: Imperialism, Globalization, and Sociology (Paper #8)

Go, Julian. 2016. *Postcolonial Thought and Social Theory*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

March 28: Methodological Nationalism (Paper #9)

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)

April 4: Woodrow Wilson Center Discussion on the Local and the Global, Cities and Neighborhoods (Paper #10, Blog Post, due on Thursday at midnight of this week)

April 11: Global Governance: the Nation State and World Society (Paper #11, Research Topic)

Meyer, John, Thomas Boli, and, F. O. Ramirez. 1997. "World Society and the Nation-State," *American Journal of Sociology* 103(1): 144-81. (37 pages)

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)

April 18: *Cultural Globalization (Paper #12)*

Csordas, Thomas J., ed. 2009. *Transnational Transcendence: Essays on Religion and Globalization*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Intro, ch. 1, 2, 3, 9.

April 25: *Cultural Globalization (Paper #13)*

Ritzer, George. 2004. "An Introduction to McDonaldization," pp. 1-23. (23 pages)

Adams, Laura L. 2008. "Globalization, Universalism and Cultural Form." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 50: 614-640. (26 pages)

Sylvain, Renee. 2005. "Disorderly development: Globalization and the idea of "culture" in the Kalahari." *American Ethnologist* 32(3): 354-370. (16 pages)

April 27: *Exchange drafts of final paper by email by midnight.*

May 2: *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: Tuesday, May 16th 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.

Two papers must be completed by everyone:

- 1) Paper #10: On Tuesday, April 4th, we will have class at the Woodrow Wilson Center (Federal Triangle Metro station in DC). For this paper, you write a blog post about the event and email it to me by Thursday, April 6th at midnight. If you cannot make the event, you can instead write a blog post about the meetings with EDUC 887 exploring the local and the global. We will talk about writing blog posts in a previous class.
- 2) 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.

Required Texts

All texts listed are required texts.

- Always use a pen or pencil when reading to underline and take notes.
- Always bring all the readings for the day assigned.
- Do not get bogged down in the details of the reading. We are reading for argument, methods, and big themes. In class, we will look at specific details that are relevant to the discussion.

Additional Items

- 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 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>
- I will not tolerate plagiarism. George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. For more info: <http://honorcode.gmu.edu>. We will talk about what plagiarism is in class.
- Other useful campus resources:
Writing Center: A114 Robinson Hall, 703.993.1200, <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>.
University Libraries “Ask a Librarian,” <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), 703.993.2380, <http://caps.gmu.edu>