GLOA 101: Introduction to Global Affairs

Scholars, politicians, activists, and others have heatedly debated the nature and consequence of globalization – those processes that bring about spatial, economic, cultural, and political “compression” of the world. This debate has been immensely productive, yielding new ways to understand our world and new avenues for action and scholarship. The goal of this course is not to say whether globalization is good or bad, because globalization is too complex to make such a generalization. Rather, the goal is to make sense of the complexities of globalization so that we can participate in global affairs in an informed way.

Course Objectives

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

- Discuss major terms, themes, and debates about globalization.
- Demonstrate an understanding of global patterns and processes.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the interconnectedness, difference, and diversity of a global society.
- Apply awareness of global issues to a consideration of individual or collective responsibilities within a global society.
- Devise analytical, practical, or creative responses to global problems or issues.

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Required Texts


Don’t be afraid! This book is, indeed, very big – at close to 600 pages it could be called a “door stopper” (that is, a book big enough to hold a door open). But we will only be reading about half of it, and we will read those in pretty small increments. Still, I recommend that you buy the book in paper, rather than trying to use it in an electronic format. Over the years, I have found that students who buy a paper version of required texts make a better course grade than those who buy an electronic version. I think that’s because it is easier to locate the information you need (for example, to prepare for an exam) in a paper copy than in an e-version. The page layout of this book is also good for writing your notes. Last, I think the book will be useful to you over your years at Mason, so I recommend you keep your copy rather than reselling it at the end of the semester.

Additional readings, videos, as noted in the syllabus
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Course Requirements and Grading

1. In-class, unannounced quizzes on the readings, averaged, 30% of your final course grade. These are unannounced quizzes on the reading assignments for the day and will be a combination of objective and personal-opinion questions. The quizzes are not meant to be difficult; they are meant to be a reading check. **Missed quizzes cannot be made up. A missed quiz will count as 0,** however, your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

   All of which means that this course rewards keeping up with the daily readings and consistently attending class.

2. Three in-class exams, each 20% of your final course grade (totaling 60% of your final course grade). These in-class exams will consist of short essay questions. Exams will cover only the readings and lectures for the specified section of the syllabus. There is no cumulative final exam in this course. Make-up exams will not be granted without proof of emergency. Exams will cover all readings, even those not discussed in class.

3. Map Quizzes, averaged, 10% of your final course grade.
   There will be five map quizzes spread throughout the semester. In each quiz, you will be presented with a blank outline map and asked to identify 10 countries that I select. **There are no quiz make-ups. A missed map quiz will count as 0.** You can use the practice outlines and answers available at [http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/testmaps/maps](http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/testmaps/maps).

4. Extra credit assignments
   Announced in class and worth a maximum of 2.5 points each. You may submit as many as you wish, but **only your highest 4 extra credit grades** will count toward the final grade.

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Course Policies

Class Attendance
You are expected to come to class regularly and stay in class until it ends.

2019-2020 George Mason University Catalog: “Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they are registered. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation.”

Use of electronic devices – laptops, tablets, smartphones – is strictly prohibited
A growing body of research indicates that traditional handwritten notes are more effective for learning than anything else. If you must use an electronic device for some reason, please discuss this with me beforehand. **If you text during class, you will be asked to leave.**
Final Grade Calculation

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<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
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<td>87.00 - 89.99</td>
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Honor code

This course is governed by the university’s Honor Code, which prohibits cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. Plagiarism includes presenting someone else’s work as your own and using material from a book or website without quoting or citing the reference. I automatically report all infractions to the university’s Honor Committee – without prior discussion with the student – and I make a grade recommendation to the Committee. Recommendations range from a zero on the assignment to an F in the course, depending on the nature of the infraction. For a first-time occurrence, the Committee generally accepts the faculty grade recommendation. For a second-time occurrence, the Committee determines the penalty, which may include academic suspension.

Disability accommodations

Academic accommodations for students with disabilities should be arranged through the Mason Korea central office.

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Dates of readings are subject to change
Bring the reading to the class in which it is required.

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Part One – The Changing Contours of the Global Economy

August 29

► Planet Money Makes a T-Shirt, http://apps.npr.org/tshirt/#/title. This is a 5-part series, of about 20 minutes total. Be sure to scroll down on each episode to read the additional material.

► Planet Money (audio only), Episode 499, “Richard Nixon, Kimchee, and the First Clothing Factory in Bangladesh,” Nov 27, 2013. (This episode is about 20 minutes long.)

► Planet Money (audio only), Episode 500, “The Humble Innovation at the Heart of the Global Economy,” December 4, 2013 (This episode is about 20 minutes long.)

►► Map Quiz #1 – Latin America and the Caribbean
September 3

September 5 and 10 (no class September 12)
    ► Steger, Chapter 1, “Globalization: a contested concept,” pages 1-17
    ► Dicken, Chapter 1, “What in the world is going on?” pages 1-9

September 17, 19
    ►► Map quiz #2 – Asia-Pacific
    ► Dicken, Chapter 2 – “The Centre of gravity shifts,” pages 14-17
    ► Dicken, Chapter 2 – “The Centre of gravity shifts,” pages 18-37

September 24, 26
    ► Dicken, Chapter 3, “Tangled Webs,” pages 54-66
    ► Steger, Chapter 3, “The economic dimensions of globalization,” pages 38-61
    ►► Tuesday, October 1, Exam #1

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    Part Two – Global shrinkage:
    technology, migration, the state

October 10, 15, 17 (no class Oct 3, 8)
    ► David Harvey, pages 40-47 in The Enigma of Capital (2010) (On Blackboard)
    ► Dicken, Chapter 4, “Technological Change,” pages 75-82, 83-94

October 22
    ►► Map Quiz #3 – Middle East and North Africa
    ► Steger, Chapter 4, “The political dimension of globalization,” pages 62-79

October 22, 24
    ► Dicken, Chapter 6 – “The state really does matter,” pages 174-178, 181-188, 188-194
October 29, 31
►►Map Quiz #4 – Sub-Saharan Africa
►Dicken, Chapter, 7, “The uneasy relationship between transnational corporations and states,” Pages 229-242, 245-248

►►Tuesday, November 5, Exam #2

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Part Three – Global and Local: Environment, Inequalities, Futures

November 7, 12


►Per Espen Stoknes, What We Think About When We Try Not to Think About Global Warming, Chapter 9, “The Power of Social Networks,” pages 95-109, Chelsea Green Press, 2015. (On Blackboard)

November 14, 19, 21
►►Map Quiz #5 – Europe and Scandinavia

November 26, 28, December 3
►Steger, Chapter 5, “The Cultural Dimension of Globalization”

►Steger, Chapter 7, “Ideologies of Globalization”

►Dicken, Chapter 11, “Making the world a better place,” pages 355-357, 378-389

►►Thursday, December 5, Exam #3