

POLI 4050, Spring 2021

GLOBALIZATION

The Politics of Development and Culture

All that is solid melts into air.

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Virtual Class Meeting: 9:00 – 10:20 am on Tuesdays

Weekly Quiz: 9:00 – 10:20 am on Thursdays

Virtual Office Hour: 9:00 – 10:00 am on Wednesdays, or by appointment

We are increasingly living in a faster and smaller world. Globalization has radically changed our daily life for better or worse, so we must understand the nature of this gigantic transformation of social structures and cultural zones. Conventionally, globalization means tighter political, economic, cultural, and environmental interconnections and flows across existing borders and boundaries. In this course, we go beyond the conventional approach and take globalization as a set of processes which embodies both expansion and transformation of “modernity” – the global system of capital-nation-state.

Through lectures and discussions, we will consider answers to key questions such as: What are the competing conceptions of globalization? What is the essence of globalization? What are the origins and consequences of globalization? What’s new in new globalization? What are the principal agents of change? Are free trade and capital mobility good for development? How has globalization caused climate change and increased the risk of pandemics? How serious is globalization backlash? Are globalization and democracy complementary or contradictory with each other? How has globalization changed identity politics? Is the nation-state becoming obsolete? What does it mean to be a world citizen? If globalization is transformative, what will be and should be a new global system?

READINGS

The most important aspect of one’s intellectual life is reading books, for books are the only source of creativity and peace. “In omnibus requiem quaesivi, et nusquam inveni nisi in angulo cum libro.”

Each student is expected to read (before class) all the required readings for each session. The required readings are books and other forms (articles and book chapters). All the required readings other than books are posted on Moodle. Class discussions center around the following four books.

1. Steger, Manfred. 2020. *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press.
2. Baldwin, Richard. 2019. *The Great Convergence*. Harvard University Press.
3. Standing, Guy. 2016. *The Precariat*. Bloomsbury.
4. Singer, Peter. 2016. *One World Now*. Yale University Press.

Notice that this course is based on Affordable Educational Resource (AER). Standing’s *The Precariat* and Singer’s *One World Now* are available as free-to-student eBook through LSU Library. But, you need to purchase or steal Steger’s *Globalization* and Baldwin’s *The Great Convergence*.

REQUIREMENTS

This online course is based on both synchronous and asynchronous methods. This means that we will have a virtual class meeting via Zoom for 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday. Students will take a quiz during the class time for 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday. Power Point slides will be posted after virtual class meetings on Tuesdays, so that students should read them as well as the required readings to prepare for weekly quizzes and exams. Hence, students are expected to join virtual class meetings on Tuesdays, take weekly quizzes on Thursdays, read the Power Point slides as well as the required readings, and write reaction papers (see below). This is an online course that moves rapidly, so it is extremely important to pay close attention to the course schedule and check the course Moodle regularly.

1) Attendance (12% = 12 virtual class meetings excluding the first one \times 1% for each class)

As in-person classes, it is imperative to join virtual class meetings regularly in which the texts, topics, and categories are discussed, problematized and critiqued. Attendance will be taken for each class. Students may earn credit for their attendance at each class, while repeated and unexcused absence will cause deduction in student's total grade. Do not record a virtual class meeting under any circumstances, as you do not record an in-person class meeting without permission. I will hold virtual office hours for 9:00-10:00 am on Wednesdays, or by appointment. You are more than welcome to meet with me virtually if you have any questions or concerns. The best way to contact me for a short question is by email. I will make every effort to answer your question in a timely manner usually within 24 hours.

2) 10 Weekly quiz (30% = 10 weekly quizzes \times 3% for each quiz)

A weekly quiz consists of three questions about concepts, theories, historical events, etc. Each question requires an answer with three to five sentences. It will be posted on Moodle at 9:00 am on Thursday. Students have one hour and twenty minutes to complete and turn it in by 10:20 am on the same day. The dates of weekly quizzes are listed in the course schedule below.

3) Three examinations (36% = three exams \times 12% for each exam)

An exam consists of four or five essay questions plus extra credit bonus questions. Each question requires an answer with four to seven sentences. The exam will be posted on Moodle at 9:00 am on the exam day. Students have one hour and twenty minutes to complete and turn it in by 10:20 am on the same day. The exams are not cumulative. The details about the test will be discussed in class later. As an in-person course, you must study in advance in order to do well, since it is impossible to look up answers to each essay question. The exams are hard. The final (third) exam will be held during the official final exam time. The exam dates are listed in the course schedule below.

4) Three reaction papers (21% + α = 3 papers \times 7% + α)

Students will write three reaction papers on Baldwin, Standing, and Singer. A reaction paper is a short paper (approximately three to four double-spaced pages), discussing some aspect of the book. In the reaction paper students must briefly summarize and critique the text. Note that "critique" does not mean negative criticism. It means that one must identify some central aspect of the author's analysis, explain why one thinks this aspect is interesting and important, and present one's own thoughts about the author's position. I take reaction papers very seriously, for I believe that writing critical reflection requires deep meditation and a high level of intellectual activity. As such, I will give extra credit (α) for a paper that presents highly perceptive argumentation. A reaction paper is due on the date scheduled for discussion of the book. The due dates are listed in the course schedule below.

Attendance (12%) + Quizzes (30%) + Exams (36%) + Papers (21%) + Gift (1%) = Total 100%.

GRADING SCALE

A+	100 ~ 97	B+	89 ~ 87	C+	79 ~ 77	D+	69 ~ 67	F	59 ~ 0
A	96 ~ 93	B	86 ~ 83	C	76 ~ 73	D	66 ~ 63		
A-	92 ~ 90	B-	82 ~ 80	C-	72 ~ 70	D-	62 ~ 60		

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: cheating on exams, plagiarizing, buying or selling assignments, altering grades, intentional deception, and collaborating with others without permission. This is an on-line course, so posting test answers on social media or any internet sites during and after the test, and emailing others with test answers during and after the test are strictly prohibited. A student suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability.

POLICY ON DEADLINES

The course takes deadlines seriously, so everyone must adhere to this policy. I recognize, however, that there are legitimate reasons for missing a deadline. If you encounter a problem that prevents you from meeting a deadline, please contact me. I understand that problems can arise, and I will accommodate difficulties that you may encounter. But please be prepared to provide appropriate documentation, such as doctor's note. Makeup exams will not be given unless the instructor is notified in advance and agrees that the absence is a university-excused absence (Note PS-22).

The University is committed to making reasonable efforts to assist individuals with disabilities in their efforts to avail themselves of services and programs offered by the University. To this end, LSU will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with documented qualifying disabilities. If you have a disability and feel you need accommodations in this course, you must present a letter to me from Disability Services in 115 Johnston Hall, indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested accommodations.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Diversity is fundamental to LSU's mission and the University is committed to creating and maintaining a living and learning environment that embraces individual difference. Cultural inclusion is of highest priority. LSU recognizes that achieving national prominence depends on the human spirit, participation, and dedicated work of the entire University community. LSU strives to create an inclusive, respectful, intellectually challenging climate that embraces individual difference in race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, spirituality, socio-economic status, disability, family status, experiences, opinions, and ideas. LSU proactively cultivates and sustains a campus environment that values

open dialogue, cooperation, shared responsibility, mutual respect, and cultural competence – the driving forces that enrich and enhance cutting edge research, first-rate teaching, and engaging community outreach activities.

THE COURSE SCHEDULE AND SPECIFIC TOPICS

subject to minor change

I. PROBLÉMATIQUE

Week 1: January 11-17 Introduction: Problematizing the Global

Problematization. Épistémè. Historicizing conventional categories. Genealogy as critique. Globalization as structure or choice? Structure and agency. Inevitability and contingency. The role of politics as “the art of the possible.” Angelus Novus. Scope and roadmap of the course.

- Read the syllabus carefully.
- Virtual class meeting 1: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, January 12
- No weekly quiz.

Week 2: January 18-24 The Fundamental Facts about the Capitalist Development

Five facts about global capitalist developments. Fundamental break in history. New epoch. The invention and death of “man.” Capitalism – melting vision. Great divergence. Great convergence. Global inequality. Profound question concerning technology à la Heidegger.

- Read: Lenton, Timothy et al. 2019. “Climate Tipping Points” Nature, 28 November: 592-595.
- Virtual class meeting 2: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, January 19
- Quiz 1: 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday, January 21

Week 3: January 25-31 The Conceptualization of Globalization

Conventional approaches. Measuring globalization. Time-space compression. Hyperglobalist vs. skeptical vs. transformationalist views. The essence of globalization. Global system of the capital-nation-state: “the trinity.” Modernity.

- Read: Steger, Globalization: A Short Introduction, Chapter 1
- Virtual class meeting 3: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, January 26
- Quiz 2: 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday, January 28

Week 4: February 1-7 The Periodization of Globalization

The history of globalization. Cross-cultural exchange and long-distance trade. Biological old regime. Dual revolution. Critical juncture of the 19th century. Historically contingent origins of capitalism. Belle époque. Imperialism of free trade. Les trente glorieuses. The 1970s as the turning point. New historiography: global history.

- Read: Steger, Globalization: A Short Introduction, Chapter 2
- Virtual class meeting 4: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, February 2
- Quiz 3: 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday, February 4

Week 5: February 8-14 Critical Reflections on the Meaning of Globalization

- Virtual class meeting 5: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, February 9
- Exam 1: 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday, February 11

Week 6: February 15-21 Mardi Gras Holiday

- No virtual class meeting. No weekly quiz. Keep reading.

PART II. THE GREAT CONVERGENCE?

Week 7: February 22-28 A Liberal (He)Story of Globalization

G7, I6, R11, A7 – the convergence of what? Stylized history based on liberalism. Globalization as lowering transaction costs. Four phases. Three-cascading constraints. The meaning of “unbundling.” World trade regime. The Bretton Woods system. The GATT. The WTO. ICT Revolution. Skill-biased technological change (SBTC). The significance of China (and India).

- Reaction paper on Baldwin is due: 9:00 am on Tuesday, February 23
- Virtual class meeting 6: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, February 23
- Quiz 4: 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday, February 25

Week 8: March 1-7 What’s Really New in the New Globalization?

Theoretical foundations of “free market” and “free trade.” Denationalization of comparative advantage. Knowledge economy. Global value chains (GVCs). Fragmentation. Smile curve. Rethinking policies. Spatial paradox. Third unbundling. The second machine age.

- Keep reading/consulting Baldwin.
- Virtual class meeting 7: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, March 2
- Quiz 5: 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday, March 4

Week 9: March 8-14 A Radiant Future? Critique of the Global Convergence

Premature deindustrialization. GVCs as global exploitative device? Global enclave. Low growth regime. Individualization of civil society. Collective action problem. Depoliticization. Functionalist/teleological mode of explanations. Little room for politics.

- Keep reading/consulting Baldwin.
- Virtual class meeting 8: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, March 9
- Quiz 6: 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday, March 11

PART III. NEOLIBERAL GLOBALIZATION

Week 10: March 15-21 Neoliberalism as a Political Project

The Mont Pèlerin Society. Neoliberalism as policy regime and ideology. Market society. “Laissez-faire was planned.” The neoliberal state: small but strong. Global unrests in the 60s and the economic crises in the 70s. Counterrevolution. TINA. The Washington Consensus. Shock doctrine. Financialization. Neoliberal consequences = Brave New World + 1Q84.

- Read: Steger, Globalization: A Short Introduction, Chapter 3-4
- Read: Przeworski, Adam. 2014. "Choices and Echoes: Stability and Change of Policy Regimes."
- Virtual class meeting 9: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, March 16
- Exam 2: 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday, March 18

Week 11: March 22-28 March Break

- No virtual class meeting. No weekly quiz. Keep reading.

Week 12: March 29-April 4 The Emergence of the Precariat and the Globalization Backlash

Labor market flexibility. New dangerous class. 4 A's. High-risk society. Burnout society. Liquid society. Class-in-itself and class-for-itself. Class-for-others à la Sartre. Class politics vs. identity politics. La vie quotidienne. Déjà vu of Belle époque? The second machine age revisited. The meaning of labor.

- Reaction paper on Standing is due: 9:00 am on Tuesday, March 30
- Virtual class meeting 10: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, March 30
- Quiz 7: 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday, April 1

Week 13: April 5-11 Globalization, Democracy, and Culture: A Difficult Combination?

The capitalist state vs. the state in capitalism. Nation as an imagined community. Globalization as hybridization. Scope of reciprocity. Democratic backsliding. Cultural backlash. Nationalism, populism, nativism, and racism. Boundary fetishism. Multiple national identities? Diversity as bricolage.

- Read: Steger, Globalization: A Short Introduction, Chapter 5 and 7;
- Read: Broz, Lawrence, Jeffrey Frieden, and Stephen Weymouth. 2020. "Populism in Place."
- Read: Pieterse, Jan Nederveen. 2020. Globalization and Culture, Chapter 5-6
- Virtual class meeting 11: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, April 6
- Quiz 8: 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday, April 8

PART V. FOR A BETTER WORLD

Week 14: April 12-18 From International Justice to Global Justice

Ethical foundation of the world. Hare's two-level theory. Effective altruism. Global citizenry. Climate change revisited. Anthropocene. Distributive justice. Utilitarianism. The WTO and its critics. World poverty. Global inequality. State sovereignty. Humanitarian intervention. The importance of the U.N.

- Reaction paper on Singer is due: 9:00 am on Tuesday, April 13
- Read: Steger, Globalization: A Short Introduction, Chapter 6.
- Virtual class meeting 12: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, April 13
- Quiz 9: 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday, April 15

Week 15: April 19-25 Tentative Conclusions: The Structure Is Crumbling... Angelus Novus

Heideggerian question revisited. Human history "revealed" by technology (Das Kapital, Vol. 1, Ch. 15, fn. 4). Epochal transformation of the trinity. "The future is already here" vs. "what is to be done?" Neomedievalism as a future global configuration. Autumntide of modernity. "Is there anything more dangerous than dissatisfied and irresponsible gods who don't know what they want?" (Harrari, 2015). The angel of history.

- Virtual class meeting 13: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, April 20
- Quiz 10: 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday, April 22
- Exam 3: 12:30-2:30 pm on Thursday, April 29 under Week 16