GLOBALIZATION AND LATIN AMERICA: MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

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DESCRIPTION

Despite the trendiness of the term and the opulent bibliography on the topic, which grows exponentially day after day, there is a great deal of confusion about the meanings of globalization. Such confusion is understandable indeed, given the contested status of a term that finds itself at the center of complex political struggles and ideological mystifications that pit globaliphilics and hyperglobalizers against globaliphobics and skeptics, not to mention the myriad of transformationalists or third way globalists, for the control of a global imaginary that, according to German philosopher Peter Sloterdijk, serves as a sort of negative ideology for these cynical postmodern times in which we live. What do we mean when we talk about globalization today? Is “transnational” equivalent to “international” or “multinational”? Is globalization a synonym for “postmodernity,” or “New World Order,” or “the information age,” or “late capitalism,” or a multiplicity of “scapes,” or the ultimate “Empire”? Is there a “global culture”? And what does it mean? Is it a synonym for “cultural globalization” or “the globalization of cultures”? What is the role that culture plays in current global processes? Does culture have the same function in central economies and peripheral ones?

This course explores some of the current debates on globalization in Latin America and recent and interrelated transformations in the economies, politics, and cultures of the region. Several issues will be examined from different disciplinary perspectives: the impact of global pop culture, the informal economy, the culture of narco-trafficking, the rise of ethnic and social movements, transnational migrancy, and the supposed dissolution of the nation-state. Students will be encouraged to address topics relevant to their major(s) in an interdisciplinary manner. The course incorporates a series of guest lectures by experts in their fields (academics from OSU and other Universities).

TEXTS


Articles in WebCT

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research report</td>
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<td>Draft Research paper</td>
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<td>Final Research paper</td>
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These grading criteria are applicable to both undergraduate and graduate students. However, graduate students are expected to produce a more substantial research paper, both in extension (10-15 pages for undergraduates; 15-20 pages for graduate and professional students) and theoretical/critical content. The topics will be determined during the first week of classes according to the students' interests and the class schedule. Students could choose an interdisciplinary methodology, or a more specifically economic, political, social, or cultural approach.

**Academic Misconduct**

"All copying, cheating, plagiarism, fraud, deceit, and other unacceptable forms of academic conduct are strictly prohibited and all cases or suspicions of such activity will be reported to the Office of Academic Misconduct without exception and per university policy. All work in class is expected to be the student's own; this is especially true regarding exams and papers. Students are encouraged to study together and to discuss the concepts and/or readings together. Regardless, each student must turn in his or her own work for any and all assignments, including homework."

**Students with disabilities**

"Anyone who requires an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate special needs and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted that office, I encourage you to do so."

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

March 29 Introduction
31 Globalization: The last stage of capitalism, a new civilization, or a cultural revolution?

- Hoogvelt, *Globalization and the Postcolonial World* (chapters 1, 2, 3)
- Sklair, *Globalization* (chapter 3, 4)

April 5

The New Economic Order: The globalization of poverty

- Hoogvelt, *Globalization and the Postcolonial World* (chapters 4, 5, 6, 7)
- Sklair, *Globalization* (chapters 5, 6)

7 Latin America in the New World Order

- WebCT: Monsiváis, “Will Nationalism be Bilingual?”, from McAnany
- WebCT: García Canclini, “North Americans or Latin Americans?”, from McAnany
- WebCT: Mosco, “Free Trade in Communication: Building a World Business Order”, from *Beyond National Sovereignty*
- Fischer & Ponniah, eds. *Another World is Possible* (selections)

Guest speaker

12 Informal economy and social marginality

- WebCT: Rakowski, from *Contrapunto. The Informal Sector Debate*
- WebCT: Tokman, “The informal sector”, from *Beyond Regulation*
- Fischer & Ponniah, eds. *Another World is Possible* (selections)

Guest speaker

14 The spinning vortex of disintegrating integration

- Hopenhayn, *No Apocalypse, No Integration*
- Fischer & Ponniah, eds. *Another World is Possible*. (Part II, selections)
- WebCT: Bauman, *Globalization. The Human Consequences* (excerpts)

19 Whose sovereignty is this? The nation-state in the global order

- Fischer & Ponniah, eds. *Another World is Possible* (selections)
- Petras, *The New Development Politics* (selections)

Guest speaker

21 Transnational Narco-trafficking and global geopolitics

- WebCT: Bellone, “The Cocaine commodity chain”, from *Latin America in the World-Economy*
- WebCT: Mayer, "Coca as Commodity: Local Use and Global Abuse" (The Articulated Peasant, chapter 6).

26 Narco-trafficking, social violence and crisis of the nation-state


28 Social and Indigenous Movements

- Petras, The New Development Politics (selections)

Guest speaker

May

3 Social and Indigenous Movements: Bolivia

- WebCT: Albó, “And from Kataristas to MNRistas? The Surprising and Bold Alliance Between Aymaras and Neoliberals in Bolivia” (Van Cott 1994)
- WebCT: Albó, “Bolivia: From Indian and Campesino” (Sieder, ch 3)
- WebCT: Jelin, “Emergent Citizenship or Exclusion?” (Smith & Korzeniwick, ch 5).

5 Social and Indigenous Movements: The World Social Forum

- Fischer & Ponniah, eds. Another World is Possible. (selections)

10 Transnational Migrancy

- NACLA Report on the Americas 35.2 (October 2001)
- Fischer & Ponniah, eds. Another World is Possible. (Part III, chapter 20)

Guest speaker

12 Transnational Migrancy


17 Globalized nations

19 The centrality of culture

- WebCT: Hall, “The centrality of culture: notes on the cultural revolutions of our time,” in Thompson, Media and Cultural Regulation
The New Culture of Capitalism

- Rifkin, Jeremy. *The Age of Access* (chapters 1, 5, 6, 8)

Cultural consumption and social identity

- Sklair, *Globalization* (chapter 7)
- WebCT: Lee, *Consumer culture reborn* (chapter)

The Global Imaginary and Global Pop Culture: The Global Synopticon

- WebCT: UNESCO 1998, del Corral et al, “Cultural and economic development through copyright in the information society”
- WebCT: Oliveira, “Brazilian Soaps outshine Hollywood”, from *Beyond National Sovereignty*
- WebCT: UNESCO 1998, Throsby, “The role of music in international trade and economic development”

Is another world possible (and desirable)?

- Sklair, *Globalization* (chapter 12)
- Fischer & Ponniah, eds. *Another World is Possible*. (selections)
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Beverley, John and José Oviedo, eds. 1993. Postmodernism Debate in LA, Special Issue of boundary 2 20.3.


Calderón, Fernando. 1993. "LA Identity and Mixed Temporalities; or How to Be Postmodern and Indian at the Same Time." Boundary 2 20.3: 55-64.


