

GLOBALIZATION & TRANSNATIONALITY



ANTH 385 – CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY – DR. MAX FORTE

Course Coordinator:
Dr. Maximilian C. Forte
Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology
Concordia University
Office: H-1125-11
Office Hours:
Thursdays, 10:00am–1:00pm
Contact: maximilian.forte@concordia.ca

Winter Semester, 2016–2017
03 credits
January 13 – April 7, 2017
Meeting days and times:
Fridays: 2:45pm–5:30pm
Campus: SGW, H-433

“Some of the most significant cultural phenomena of our time have to do with responses to and interpretations of the global system as a whole. More specifically, globalization involves pressure on societies, civilizations and representatives of traditions, including both “hidden” and “invented” traditions, to sift the global-cultural scene for ideas and symbols considered to be relevant to their own identities.” ~ Roland Robertson

“The global is the true state of affairs and the only adequate framework for the analysis of any part of the world, at least since the rise of the first commercial civilizations.” ~ Jonathan Friedman

“The paradox of the current world conjuncture is the increased production of cultural and political boundaries at the very time when the world has become totally bound together in a single economic system with instantaneous communication between different sectors of the globe.” ~ Linda Basch, et al.

From the Undergraduate Calendar:

ANTH 385 – Globalization and Transnationality

Globalization has been used generally to denote the increasingly rapid and far-flung circulation of people, money, commodities, and images around the world. This course introduces students to a sample of issues covered by anthropologists and sociologists in respect to this process, while at the same time also exploring transnational social networks that cross state borders but are not necessarily global in scope.

Please note that links in the PDF syllabus may not work – use the course website instead.

Overview

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a range of theories and concepts of globalization and transnationalism, the debates around neoliberal globalization, and the ways that anthropologists and other social scientists have sought to study global phenomena.

Some Questions

When did we become globalized? What are the “facts” of globalization? What are the structures and who are the agents of globalization? Is globalization a new and better stage of human history? Or is globalization a new form of colonization? Does talking about globalization require abandoning older and ongoing analyses of world capitalism, cultural imperialism, and transnationalism? How does globalism differ from universalism and/or cosmopolitanism? How do creolization and transculturation relate to globalization? Do local places and nations matter no longer? Is the state rendered irrelevant by globalization? What are the consequences of the different types of globalization (economic, political, cultural)? What are the forms and logics of de-globalization movements?

Defining, Conceptualizing, Theorizing

Talking of globalization does not seem to solve a “problem” in the social sciences, as much as it creates a new one. It is now a well-established problem, appearing as a research program and the source of countless publications and a wide range of competing theories. Even so, in many ways the crest of the globalization wave lasted from the end of the 1980s to the early 2000s, soon to be diminished by a critical awareness of neoliberalism and renewed attention to imperialism. At present, there are also significant movements pressing for de-globalization.

This course spans these areas of inquiry, adopting a critical framework that questions the fanfare that first heralded the purported arrival of globalization, to a critique of the processes which are encompassed by the idea, to an appraisal of research in anthropology and sociology on globalization. Anthropology in particular was decisively impacted and reshaped by a heightened awareness of global processes, with greater attention paid to the relationships between the local and the global.

Our Core Concerns

We therefore examine the principal facets of globalization, across some of the varying understandings of the idea, as well as competing definitions and conceptualizations of globalization. More importantly, we will study some of the different theorizations of

globalization that attempt to produce the appropriate facts of the phenomena captured by the term.

Among the core areas of interest in this course, apart from a presentation of competing theories and ideologies of globalization/globalism/globality, we can include the following:

- (a) Neoliberalism: global finance, shifts in the international division of labour, and structural adjustment;
- (b) The Transnational Capitalist Class;
- (c) Global trade;
- (d) Multilateral financial institutions;
- (e) Cultural conflicts around globalization;
- (f) Transnational social movements, “global civil society,” non-state actors, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- (g) The media and the production of a putative “global cultural consciousness”;
- (h) Time-space compression;
- (i) Travel, migration, diasporas;
- (j) Global-local creolization; and,
- (k) Anthropological research methodologies.

Required Texts and Other Readings

The book we will be reading, in addition to articles, is:

David Harvey
A Brief History of Neoliberalism
Oxford University Press, 2007

See the course website for links to the Bookstore and the Library Reserve. If you have any difficulties obtaining the items, contact the course director.

Assignments and Grading

The key components of this course for which you will earn a grade are as follow below.

By proportion of the final course grade

- (1) Take-home essay exam #1: **40%**
- (2) Take-home essay exam #2: **40%**
- (3) Take-home essay exam #3: **20%**

Schedule of due dates

- (1) Take-home essay exam #1, covering sessions 1 through 4: due on **Friday, February 17**, at 12 noon (12h00), by **email** to maximilian.forte@concordia.ca. Please attach your paper to your email message, in one of the following file formats: .odt, .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .txt, *but no PDFs or any other file format*. Please double-check that you have attached your paper before sending your email. This group of papers will also be returned by email.
- (2) Take-home essay exam #2, covering sessions 5 through 8: due in class, at the start of class, on **Friday, March 24**.
- (3) Take-home essay exam #3, covering sessions 9 and 10: due in class, at the start of class, on **Friday, April 7**.

Guidelines

For each essay exam, you will receive an assignment sheet at least one week before the essay is due. You will be asked to address a single question. The aim is to make sure you have covered and understood the course lectures and readings, and are able to apply what you learned by addressing a key “problem”. Formatting and other guidelines will be listed on each assignment sheet. Essays are submitted in class, at the start of class, and no later (no late papers will be accepted). Papers will be returned in class (except for the final one), or during office hours if you were away on the day papers were returned. If you wish to retrieve your final paper, which will be available during the examinations period, you will be notified of the date on which the instructor will be available in his office--this may be before or after the final grades are submitted. The final paper may be retrieved during specific office hours that will be set aside for a date in April, to be announced.

Given that the three essay exams cover different amounts of material, they carry different weight in terms of the final grade. The maximum word limit for the essays also vary as follows:

- Essay #1: No more than a maximum of 1,500 words (6 double-spaced pages).
Essay #2: No more than a maximum of 1,500 words (5 double-spaced pages).
Essay #3: No more than a maximum of 750 words (3 double-spaced pages).

No Late Work is Acceptable

Extensions are not taken by students, under any circumstances. An extension can only be granted by the course coordinator, in advance of the due date for an assignment, and only under extreme circumstances.

Otherwise, no late work is accepted in this course. No technical reasons are acceptable for late work, therefore identify alternatives that might be needed to complete and submit an assignment.

Incomplete grades (INC) are not granted in this course, under any circumstances.

Attendance

Every semester there is a minority of students who believe that a course can be taken as if it were a correspondence course, or an online course. Instead, regular attendance at lectures is critical to passing this course, and to avoid unnecessary failures the following policy will be strictly enforced:

In cases where a student is absent for most or all of the classes, the student will receive a **failing grade** for the course. Also, see the section below titled, "How Not to Succeed in this Course".

Citing Sources

To refer to any ideas, information or quotes that you acquired from the assigned readings, simply end the sentence in which the material appears with a reference in brackets, as follows: (Smith, 92)--where Smith is the surname of the author, and 92 is the page number on which the material appears. Do not formally cite lecture notes. No bibliography is needed, unless you use sources in addition to those assigned--in that case a bibliography should appear at the end of your essay. Do not use footnotes or endnotes.

Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism

First, students are required to read and follow Concordia University's policies on Academic Integrity. See:

<https://www.concordia.ca/students/academic-integrity.html>

On plagiarism, you must read:

<http://www.concordia.ca/students/academic-integrity/plagiarism.html>

How (Not) to Succeed in this Course

- Students will receive a failing grade for this course if they choose to treat it as a “distance education” or “correspondence course,” in other words, by missing most or all classes.
- All assigned readings are mandatory, and represent a minimum amount of reading needed to succeed in this course. In each of your written assignments, you are required to apply what is learned in class from lectures and assigned readings, and to show evidence of having covered these materials by using one’s judgment in selectively applying them where they are most appropriate.
- As with any course, the rule of thumb is that at a *minimum* one should be doing three hours of work for each hour spent in class, each week. One should thus budget for between seven and nine hours of study for this course, each week, beyond class time.
- It is usually not advisable to avoid taking notes, assuming you will remember everything, or that all that is needed is what is on the lecture slides (which are *not* lecture notes). You should also be asking questions in class any time that material presented or assigned as reading is not clear to you.

How Work is Graded

For all work done in this course you will receive a numerical grade which will be converted to a letter grade when final grades are processed. To translate numbers into letter grades, please consult the following chart, copied directly from a faculty handbook in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. It is vital that you understand that the characterizations below (i.e., “excellent”) are central in guiding the instructor’s evaluation of the quality of a paper.

Work that covers all of the basics, in a reasonably competent fashion, without major flaws, is deemed “satisfactory.” Work that has few flaws, and shows an advanced understanding, writing and research ability is deemed “very good.” Work that leaves little room for improvement (within the context of expectations of a 300 level course), demonstrating that the student has taken considerable initiative, showing sophisticated understanding and ability, is deemed “excellent.”

A+	90-100	}	“Excellent”
A	85- 89		
A-	80- 84		
B+	77- 79	}	“Very Good”
B	73- 76		
B-	70- 72		
C+	67- 69	}	“Satisfactory”
C	63- 66		
C-	60- 62		
D+	57- 59	}	“Poor”
D	53- 56		
D-	50- 52		
F or FNS	40 (30-49)	}	“Fail/ No Record/ No Submission”
R	20 (0-29)		

Course Policies

Incomplete grades are not granted in this course, and no student should expect to receive an INC notation.

There is one major exception to these policies: *in the event of a major public health crisis, or events beyond the University’s control, alternative course requirements and grading policies will be developed and used.*

Please do not call the Department’s main office for course-related inquiries.

Announcements, E-Mail Use

In the event of an unscheduled cancellation of a class, the appropriate notice is posted by the University on its website. See the “Class Cancellations” link on www.concordia.ca. In addition, digital billboards on campus will announce the cancellation. You will also be notified by email.

Please check your email as late as two hours before the start of class to ensure that the class has not been cancelled for that day.

Otherwise, for the duration of this course please check your email at least once each week, and look for any messages that begin with the course number.

Having said that, please ensure that you have the right email address entered in your MyConcordia student profile. That is the same email address to which course messages are sent.

Disclaimer

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Improving Students’ Academic Experience

The University offers many services that can help students. To improve students’ ability to succeed in their courses, get the most out of the university experience, and ensure their success in completing their degree, it is strongly recommended that you make a note of the following list of services:

- *Writing Assistance:* <http://cdev.concordia.ca/our-services/learning-support/writing-assistance/>
- *Concordia Counseling and Development* offers career services, psychological services, student learning services, etc. <http://cdev.concordia.ca/>
- *Advocacy and Support Services:* <http://supportservices.concordia.ca/>
- *Student Transition Centre:* <http://www.concordia.ca/extended-learning/stc/>
- *New Student Program:* <http://cdev.concordia.ca/our-services/services-for-new-students/>
- *Access Centre for Students with Disabilities:* <http://supportservices.concordia.ca/disabilities/>
- *Student Success Centre:* <http://cdev.concordia.ca/our-services/resources-and-drop-in-centres/student-success-centre/>
- *The Academic Integrity Website:* <http://www.concordia.ca/programs-and-courses/academic-integrity/>
- *Financial Aid & Awards:* <http://faao.concordia.ca/main/>
- *Health Services:* <http://www-health.concordia.ca/>

Schedule of Sessions and Readings

Session Topics:

1. A New World Order: The “End of History” and the “Clash of Civilizations”
2. Conceptualizing Globalization
3. “Cultural Globalization,” Consciousness, and the Mass Media
4. McWorldization, Disneyization, and Americanization
5. Globalization and the World-System
6. American Empire or the Transnational Capitalist Class?
7. Globalization Theory in Anthropology
8. Globalization and Ethnographic Research Methods
9. Neoliberalism as Globalization, Part I
10. Neoliberalism as Globalization, Part II
11. Neoliberalism as Globalization, Part III

Session 1: A New World Order: The “End of History” and the “Clash of Civilizations”

Friday, January 13, Part 1

Friday, January 20, Part 2

Required Readings:

Part 1

1. Jan. 13: Introduction, 1-14 (Eriksen: Globalization – The Key Concepts)
2. Jan. 13: Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History” (1989)

Part 2

3. Jan. 20: Introduction, 1-4 (Harvey: A Brief History of Neoliberalism)
4. Jan. 20: Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?”
5. Jan. 20: Stanley Hoffmann, “Clash of Globalizations”

Optional Extra Reading:

- Gerard Piel – “The West Is the Best”

Sunday, January 22, 2017

- Last day to add winter-term courses.
- Deadline for withdrawal with tuition refund from winter-term courses.

Session 2: Conceptualizing Globalization

Friday, January 27

Required Readings:

1. David Held, Anthony McGrew, David Goldblatt and Jonathan Perraton, “Globalization”
2. Marco Caselli, “Globalization: In Search of Definition of a Controversial Concept”

3. Axel Dreher, Noel Gaston, Pim Martens, "Towards an Understanding of the Concept of Globalisation"

Session 3: "Cultural Globalization," Consciousness, and the Mass Media

Friday, February 3

Required Readings:

1. A.D. Smith, "Towards a Global Culture?"
2. Neil Smith, "Liberalism and the Roots of American Globalism"

Session 4: McWorldization, Disneyization, and Americanization

Friday, February 10

Required Readings:

1. George Ritzer, "The McDonaldization of Society"
2. Alan Bryman, "The Disneyization of Society"

Session 5: Globalization and the World-System

Friday, February 17

Required Readings:

1. Thomas Clayton, "'Competing Conceptions of Globalization' Revisited: Relocating the Tension between World-Systems Analysis and Globalization Analysis"
2. Christopher Chase-Dunn, Yukio Kawano and Benjamin D. Brewer, "Trade Globalization since 1795: Waves of Integration in the World-System"

Optional Extra Reading:

- Carl Strikwerda, "From World-Systems to Globalization: Theories of Transnational Change and the Place of the United States"

Monday, February 20, 2017

- Mid-term break begins.

Session 6: American Empire or the Transnational Capitalist Class?

Friday, March 3

Required Readings:

1. William I. Robinson and Jerry Harris, "Towards a Global Ruling Class Globalization and the Transnational Capitalist Class"

2. Leo Panitch & Sam Gindin, "Planning the New American Empire"

Session 7: Globalization Theory in Anthropology

Friday, March 10

Required Readings:

1. Appadurai, Arjun. (1990). "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy". *Theory, Culture & Society*, 7 (2/3), 295-310.
2. Hannerz, Ulf. (1990). "Cosmopolitans and Locals in World Culture". *Theory, Culture & Society*, 7(2), 237-251.
3. Kearney, M. (1995). "The Local and the Global: The Anthropology of Globalization and Transnationalism". *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 24, 547-565.

Optional Extra Reading:

- Friedman, Jonathan. (1990). "Being in the World: Globalization and Localization". *Theory, Culture & Society*, 7(2), 311-328.
- Tsing, Anna. (2000). "The Global Situation". *Cultural Anthropology*, 15(3), 327-360.

Session 8: Globalization and Ethnographic Research Methods

Friday, March 17

Required Readings:

1. Marcus, George E. (1995). "Ethnography in/of the World System: The Emergence of Multi-Sited Ethnography". *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 24, 95-117.
2. Feldman, Gregory. (2011). "If Ethnography is More than Participant-Observation, then Relations are More than Connections: The Case for Nonlocal Ethnography in a World of Apparatuses". *Anthropological Theory*, 11(4), 375-395.

Sunday, March 19, 2017

- Last day for academic withdrawal from two-term and winter-term courses.

Session 9: Neoliberalism as Globalization, Part I

Friday, March 24

Required Readings:

1. Chapter 1. Freedom's Just Another Word . . . 5-38 (Harvey: A Brief History of Neoliberalism)

2. Chapter 2. The Construction of Consent 39-63 (Harvey: A Brief History of Neoliberalism)

Session 10: Neoliberalism as Globalization, Part II

Friday, March 31

Required Readings:

1. Chapter 3. The Neoliberal State 64-86 (Harvey: A Brief History of Neoliberalism)
2. Chapter 4. Uneven Geographical Developments 87-119 (Harvey: A Brief History of Neoliberalism)

Session 11: Neoliberalism as Globalization, Part III

Friday, April 7

Required Readings:

1. Chapter 5. Neoliberalism 'with Chinese Characteristics' 120-151 (Harvey: A Brief History of Neoliberalism)
2. Chapter 6. Neoliberalism on Trial 152-182 (Harvey: A Brief History of Neoliberalism)

Thank you for taking this course, and have a happy spring and summer.