

Global and Transnational Sociology

Section 1

Instructor/Title	Dr. Ralph I. Hosoki
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【Course Outline / Description】

We often talk about globalization, but what exactly is it? Its economic dimensions are often the most salient in the news and in our immediate lives as we come into contact with and are noticeably affected by commodities and capital. However, globalization is much more complex, and has multiple interweaving dimensions. In this course, we will explore not only the economic, but also the demographic, political, and cultural dimensions of globalization. Importantly, we will think about how globalization manifests itself along the global, organizational, national, and individual levels, while critically assessing its positive and negative impacts – who “wins” and why? Substantively, we will touch on topics such as transnational corporations and global commodity chains, trade and capital flows, international migration, international organizations (e.g., intergovernmental organizations like the United Nations and international nongovernmental organizations like Amnesty International), transnational advocacy initiatives for issues such as environmental protection and migrant rights, norm diffusion, cultural imperialism, cultural homogenization and hybridization, etc.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

The objective of this course is to provide the necessary theoretical and substantive knowledge to enable students to think critically about globalization’s effects on society at large, and to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for global current events that often affect all of our lives.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Foundational foci on globalization

- 1 (9/4 T): Introduction and class overview: What is globalization?
- 2 (9/6 Th): Different dimensions and levels of globalization

Foundational sociological theories

- 3 (9/11 T): Functionalism
- 4 (9/13 Th): Conflict Theory

Globalization and Human Movement

- 5 (9/18 T): Economic migration theories (Neoclassical Economics, the New Economics of Migration, Dual Labor Market Theory, and World Systems Theory)
- 6 (9/20 Th): Sociological migration theories (Social Network Theory, Institutional Theory, Cumulative Causation, and Migration Systems Theory)

Foundational ideas and theories pertaining to economic globalization

- 7 (9/25 T): State regulation vs. free trade – documentary
- 8 (9/27 Th): State regulation vs. free trade – global and historical shifts from Keynesianism to neoliberalism

9 (10/2 T): Modernization Theory, Dependency Theory, and World Systems Theory

Economic globalization

10 (10/4 Th): Economic globalization (I): Global trade and capital flows and regulations

11 (10/9 T): Economic globalization (II): Transnational corporations and global commodity chains

Foundational theories pertaining to political globalization

12 (10/11 Th): Realism

13 (10/16 T): Complex Interdependence and Constructivism

14 (10/18 Th): Midterm Exam Review Session

Midterm Exam

15 (10/23 T): Midterm Exam

16 (10/25 Th): No classes in the afternoon (University Festival Preparation Day)

Foundational ideas pertaining to political globalization

17 (10/30 T): The national vs. global polity – the global polity and its governance structure and workings

18 (11/01 Th): Social movement basics (resource mobilization, political opportunity, and framing)

Foundational ideas, theories, and issues pertaining to cultural globalization

19 (11/6 T): Cultural homogenization and hybridization

20 (11/8 Th): Culture, identity, and conflict

The Modern World Culture

21 (11/13 T): An introduction to the Modern World Culture – The Modern World Culture and the world

22 (11/15 Th): The Modern World Culture and the organization (schools) and the state

23 (11/20 T): The Modern World Culture and the individual; Choose presentation topic and groups

Tying Everything Together

24 (11/22 Th): Case study of the Global Environmental Movement (I) – history and application of ideas and theory

25 (11/27 T): Case study of the Global Environmental Movement (II) (in class, watch most of the documentary, *A Fierce Green Fire*)

26 (11/29 Th): Case study of the Global Advocacy for Migrant Rights (I) – background and history

27 (12/4 T): Case study of the Global Advocacy for Migrant Rights (II) – processes and application of ideas and theory

Group Presentations

28 (12/6 Th): In-class group presentation preparation time (bring your laptops)

29 (12/11 T): In-class video: *Guns, Germs, and Steel*

30 (12/13 Th): Group presentations

Final Exam

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

Lechner, Frank J. and John Boli (eds). 2012. The Globalization Reader (4th ed). Malden: Blackwell.

And other journal articles.

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Grade breakdown:

Attendance and participation: 30 points (30%)

Midterm exam: 25 points (25 %)

Group presentation: 15 points (15 %)

Final exam: 30 points (30 %)

Total: 100% (100 points)