

Political Science and International Affairs
University of Northern Colorado

POLITICAL SCIENCE 240: GLOBALIZATION

Spring 2016
M/W/F, 9:05-9:55 am
McKee 252

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Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays, 10:15-11:30 am, and by appointment

[Globalization] is not merely an objective process, but also a plethora of stories that define, describe, and analyse that very process. The social forces behind these competing accounts of globalization seek to endow this relatively new buzzword with norms, values, and meanings that not only legitimate and advance specific power interests, but also shape the personal and collective identities of billions of people. – Stegar, Preface to Globalization (2003)

Course Description:

It is difficult to define “globalization” simply. As a set of complex and dynamic processes, globalization encompasses political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions. International financial transactions, technological innovations like the internet, and migrating domestic workers each tell part of the story of what we have come to know as “globalization.” These “real world” aspects of globalization raise important normative and analytical issues. That is, globalization has been heralded by some as a process fostering economic development and spreading life-improving technological innovations. Yet, it also has a “dark side.” Globalization’s underbelly is evident in the highly uneven distribution of its financial and other benefits, as well as in the violent and/or illicit processes, like sex and drug trafficking, that are facilitated by intensified transnational linkages.

This course addresses the following questions: What is “globalization,” and what’s “new” about the globalization we experience today? ♦ What major debates and controversies shape our understanding of globalization? ♦ What are some of the most striking features of technological, political, and economic globalization, and how do these aspects of globalization produce uneven effects across regions and social groups? ♦ How has globalization affected organizing and strategies for social change?

Ultimately, students in this course will examine multiple dimensions of—and perspectives on—globalization, and will learn to think critically about the relationship between globalization and people, markets, politics and the environment.

Course Objectives:

Substantive knowledge:

- To recognize and describe the technological, political, economic, social, and environmental (etc.) aspects of globalization;
- To demonstrate an understanding of the major debates surrounding globalization;
- To describe “real world” globalization processes and their effects.

Critical thinking:

- To apply major debates to empirical examples of globalization;
- To assess the causes and consequences of major features of globalization;
- To identify and understand the central argument and set of assumptions guiding a text.

Required Texts:

1. Rodrik, Dani, *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy* (Norton, 2011).
2. Naím, Moisés, *Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers, and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy* (Random House, 2005).
3. Thayer, Millie, *Making Transnational Feminism: Rural Women, NGO Activists, and Northern Donors in Brazil* (Routledge, 2010).

All required texts will be available for purchase at the UNCO Bookstore located on the first floor of the University Center (970-351-2135). All articles and book chapters *not contained* in the above texts are available on Blackboard.

Note: You will also be responsible for material contained in films, handouts, lectures, guest lectures, and other supplements to the readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

1. **Attendance. (10%)** Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at the start of class (you run the risk of being marked absent if you arrive late). Missing more than five classes—i.e. almost two full weeks of class—will result in failing this course requirement. *Because of this attendance policy, you do not need to email me if you miss class. However, a written letter of explanation and in-person meeting with me during office hours is required if you miss five or more courses. Missing more than five classes will put you at risk for failing the course.*
2. **Preparation and Engagement. (15%)** This course component is based upon your participation in class discussions, including your demonstrated thoughtfulness, respect for your peers, and evidence that you have completed the readings prior to coming to class. This category also includes short in-class quizzes and participation exercises. Note that bringing the assigned readings with you to class with help you be engaged and participate during class. *Exercises and quizzes cannot be made up, nor are there late submissions accepted.*

3. **“In the news” assignment.* (25%)** For these two assignments (due Feb. 8 and March 30), you will select and bring to class a news story/article pertaining to the course section’s topic. You will also write and submit (along with your article) a critical assessment of your article/story that integrates course content. Further instructions to be given in class.
4. **Midterm Exam.* (25%)** An in-class exam to be taken **Monday, Feb. 29.**
5. **Final Exam.* (25%)** To be taken **Friday, May 6, 10:45-1:15 pm.**

* **There are no exam make-ups.** Please note the date of class exams on your calendar and talk to me ASAP if you foresee a problem with an exam date. Dates of final exams are determined by the University and cannot be adjusted.

Academic Integrity: Any violation of academic integrity standards (plagiarism, etc.) will be addressed in accordance with University policy. See

http://www.unco.edu/dos/pdf/StudentCodeofConduct.pdf#nameddest=SC_integrity.

Technology Policies and Expectations: It is expected that during our relatively short amount of time together each week in class you will be respectful of your instructor and peers. This is demonstrated by **not using headphones in class and keeping phones off (or silenced) and in your bag -- not on your desk -- for the entire class period.** If you prefer to take notes on a laptop or other device, please sit towards the side of the classroom so as not to distract your peers.

Disability Accommodations: Any student requesting disability accommodations for this class must inform the instructor to receive appropriate and timely accommodations for the semester. All accommodations will be given on a confidential basis. Students are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Services office on campus (970-351-2289) to receive certified documentation and an accommodation letter to present to the course instructor. If you are unsure if you qualify for accommodations, please contact the Disability Support Services office at the number above.

Sexual Misconduct and Title IX: Title IX, part of federal law, makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. The University of Northern Colorado prohibits and will not tolerate sexual misconduct or gender-based discrimination of any kind. If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, please contact the UNC Counseling Center (970-351-2496) or the Assault Survivors Advocacy Program (970-351-4040). If you would like to learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, please visit

www.unco.edu/sexualmisconduct. **Other resources:** Know Your Title IX

(<http://knowyourix.org/>); End Rape on Campus (<http://endrapeoncampus.org/>); SurvJustice

(<http://survjustice.org/>). **Note:** UNC is legally obligated to investigate sexual misconduct (including, but not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and intimate partner violence). If you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a faculty member, they have an obligation to report it to UNC’s Title IX Coordinator. “Disclosure” may include communication in-person, via email/phone/text message, or through in/out of class assignments.

PART I: Unpacking a Contested Concept

Weeks 1-2: “What’s New?” and Major Debates

What is globalization? How “new” is this phenomenon? What are some of major debates over globalization in regard to its origins, causes, and effects?

- Jan. 11** Course Introduction & Overview
- Jan. 13** Stegar, “Globalization: A Contested Concept”
- Jan. 15** Sen, “How to Judge Globalism”
- Jan. 18** NO CLASS – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 20** Wolf, “Will the Nation-State Survive Globalization?”
- Jan. 22** Stiglitz, “The Overselling of Globalization” (through pg. 246)

PART II: Globalization’s Multidimensional Processes & Effects

Weeks 3-4: Technological Globalization

What does technological change have to do with globalization? In what ways is access to technology uneven across social groups—and what is the role of policy makers in making access more equitable? Has technology been a “force for good” or a new source of risk for individuals and governments?

- Jan. 25** Cossons, “Globalization in the Making”
Friedman, “It’s a Flat World, After All”
- Jan. 27** NYT, “As Robots Grow Smarter, American Workers Struggle to Keep Up”
- Jan. 29** Khondker, “Role of the New Media in the Arab Spring”
- Feb. 1/3** **In-class film:** “Web: Connecting is Just the Beginning”
- Feb. 8** **“In the news” assignment:** Select/bring to class, attached to your critical response, an article/news story of your choosing on the topic of globalization and technology.

Weeks 5-7: Political Economy of Globalization

What are some of the key features of modern-day global economic integration? How do global markets, national sovereignty, and democracy interact? How has globalization affected labor and patterns of work? How might we assess the “winners and losers” of economic globalization?

<u>February 10</u>	Rodrik, <i>The Globalization Paradox</i> , Chapter 1
<u>February 12</u>	Rodrik, <i>The Globalization Paradox</i> , Chapter 2
<u>February 15</u>	Rodrik, <i>The Globalization Paradox</i> , Chapter 4
<u>February 17</u>	Rodrik, <i>The Globalization Paradox</i> , Chapters 7 & 8
<u>February 19</u>	Rodrik, <i>The Globalization Paradox</i> , Chapter 9
<u>February 22</u>	Rodrik, <i>The Globalization Paradox</i> , Chapters 10-11
<u>February 24</u>	Sassen, “Global Cities and Survival Circuits,” in <i>Global Woman</i>
<u>February 26</u>	Parreñas, “The Care Crisis in the Philippines: Children and Transnational Families in the New Global Economy,” in <i>Global Woman</i>
<u>February 29</u>	Midterm exam

Weeks 8-9: Illicit Globalization

What illicit activity and flows of people, merchandise, and money has globalization facilitated? What challenges does the “illicit” side of globalization pose for governments and nongovernmental actors? How is illicit trade fundamentally about “economic conflict”?

<u>March 2</u>	Naim, <i>Illicit</i> , Chapters 1-2
<u>March 4</u>	Naim, <i>Illicit</i> , Chapter 4
<u>March 7</u>	Naim, <i>Illicit</i> , Chapter 6
<u>March 9</u>	Naim, <i>Illicit</i> , Chapter 9
<u>March 11</u>	Naim, <i>Illicit</i> , Chapters 11-12
<u>March 12-20</u>	No Class – Spring Break

Weeks 10-11: Globalization and the Environment

How does globalization affect the environment, and vice versa? How might globalization be part of the solution to environmental crises?

- March 21** Najam et al. “Environment & Globalization: Five Propositions,” pp. 1-9
- March 23** Najam et al. “Environment & Globalization: Five Propositions,” pp. 10-28
- March 25** Najam et al. “Environment & Globalization: Five Propositions,” pp. 29-35
- March 28** Naim, *Illicit*, Chapter 8
- March 30** **“In the news” assignment:** Select/bring to class, attached to your critical response, an article/news story of your choosing on the topic of globalization and the environment.
- Apr 1** **No class – Professor at conference**

PART III: Global Networks and Activism

How has globalization influenced organizing, social movements and activism—both within and across nation-states? How do “local” actors and movements interact with “global” ones—and what tensions and challenges arise at this intersection?

Week 12: Global Civil Society

- April 4** Bob, “Merchants of Morality”
- April 6** Naim, Chapter 10, “Citizens vs. Criminals”
- April 8** Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, Chapter 1 thru pg. 29

Weeks 13-14: Transnational Activism

- April 11** Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, new section pg. 29 thru Chap. 2
- April 13** Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, Chapter 3
- April 15** Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, Chapter 4
- April 18** Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, Chapter 5

April 20 Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, Chapter 6

April 22 Thayer, *Making Transnational Feminism*, Chapter 7

Week 15: The Future of Globalization

How can governments and nongovernmental actors address some of the illicit activity facilitated by globalization? What reforms to global markets and institutions may help globalization produce more equitable social and economic outcomes within and across nation-states?

April 25 Naim, *Illicit*, Chapter 13
Stiglitz, “The Overselling of Globalization” (pg. 247-end)

April 27 Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, Chapter 12

April 29 **Course conclusion**

FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 6, 10:45-1:15 pm