

PSC 344: The Politics of Globalization
Fall 2008; MWF 10:00-10:50
Graham 204

Instructor: Greg Knehans
Office: 224 Graham Building
Office Hours: MTWR 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m, and by appointment at Tate Street Coffee
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This course looks at the contemporary phenomenon of globalization and its impact on politics at the international, national, and sub-national levels. It situates globalization within the broader context of emerging international civil society with its economic, cultural, social, and political components. The course also assesses the “backlash” to globalization, as well as the rise of transnationalism and global public policy-making.

PREREQUISITE: Any international relations course or permission of the instructor. This is an upper level elective within the political science major. PSC 344 is intended for students at the junior/senior level with an interest in international and comparative politics. The course is designed for students with some background in general political science courses and introductory international relations.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the successful conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- describe and discuss the globalization phenomenon;
- analyze how globalization affects politics at the international, national, and sub-national levels;
- critique negative and positive political responses to globalization;
- identify and interpret current scholarly literature on the politics of globalization;
- understand competing globalization political theories; and
- use basic research methods in the field of political globalization studies.

Required Texts

Thomas Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*
Manfred Steger, *Globalism: Market Ideology Meets Terrorism*
Rosa Gomez Dierks, *Introduction to Globalization*
Frank J. Lechner and John Boli, *The Globalization Reader*

Assignments

There will be three tests during the term. The first two tests will be given on **September 26** and **October 27** respectively. The final test will be partially comprehensive, and will be given on the date assigned for the semester final exam in this course. There will also be a two-part research project required in the course. Your project will assess the impact of a particular aspect of globalization on a specific nation-state and the lessons that can be learned from the case-study you have undertaken. The submission of a clearly written thesis statement, an annotated bibliography of your preliminary research, and a one-page description of your research so far will be due in class on **October 22**, and will count for 10% of your grade. The final paper must be submitted no later than **December 1**, and will be worth 25%. Each of the first two tests will be worth 20% and the final test will be worth 25%.

PSC 344 Course Outline
(remember that Friedman is now optional)

- I. Origins and History** Aug 25 - Sept 5
A. Post-Cold War Transformations
B. Information Revolution
Readings: Dierks, Part I and Chapter 12; Lechner & Boli #'s 2-5; Friedman, "Opening Scene," and Chapters 1-4.
- II. Contemporary International Capitalism** Sept 8 – Sept 24
A. Bretton Woods
B. Multinational Corporations
C. Prosperity and Inequality
Readings: Dierks, Part II; also Chapters 8, 11, and 13; Steger, Chapters 1-2; Lechner & Boli #'s 6, 11, 13 18-21; Friedman, Chapters 5-7, 12.
- III. Third Wave of Democracy** Sept 28 – Oct. 8
A. America Ascendant
B. Communism's Collapse
C. Development and Democracy
Readings: Dierks, Chapter 17; Lechner & Boli # 1, 14, 15 & 23; Friedman, Chapters 8-11.
- IV. Backlash** Oct 10 – 17
A. Ethnic, Nativist and Religious Rejection
B. Transnational Activists
Readings: Dierks, Chapter 15; Steger Chapters 3-6; Lechner & Boli #'s 41-44, 46-47, 53, 55 & 56; Friedman, Chapters 14-15.
- V. A Radical Critique** Oct 20 - 24
A. The Colonizer's Model of the World
B. Globalization as 21st Century Imperialism
Readings: Ray Lotta, "Imperialist Globalization," "Shifts and Faultlines."
- VI. Governments and Globalization** Oct 29 - Nov 12
A. New Definitions of Sovereignty
B. Public Power vs. Private Power
Readings: Dierks, Chapter 7; Lechner & Boli #'s 8, 9, 25, 26 & 28.
- VII. Emergence of International Civil Society** Nov 14 – 19
A. Transformation of IGOs
B. The Age of the NGO
Readings: Dierks, Chapters 9-10; Lechner & Boli #'s 32-35, & 54.
- VIII. Transnationalism and International Public Policy-Making** Nov 21 - 26
A. Environmental Politics
B. Human Rights
C. Women's Rights
Readings: Lechner & Boli #'s 30, 31, 49-52, & 57.
- IX. Global Identity Politics** Dec 1 - 8
A. Personal Empowerment
B. New Definitions of Democracy
Readings: Dierks, Chapters 14, 16; Lechner & Boli #'s 24, 58-60; Friedman, Chapters 17-19.

Some General Notes and Guidelines

Tests and other assignments: Except in the cases of a bona fide medical emergency or the sudden death or grave illness of an immediate relative with confirming documentation, I do not approve make-up tests or accept assignments late. If you have a commitment scheduled for the day of a test or assignment, you should contact me well before the date so that we can consider the possibility of taking the test or submitting the assignment early. Given the percentage each test and assignment counts in this class, it should be expected that you will fail the course if you do not take a test or turn in a required paper. It is absolutely critical that you complete all of the work in the course.

Class Participation: When you don't read in advance, don't engage with the ideas expressed by the writers, the instructor, and the other students, or when you attend class only sporadically, both your learning and your classmates' learning is greatly inhibited. Additionally, class becomes really boring. So you are expected to show up, to pay attention, and to prepare the readings in advance of the class period for which they are assigned. I strongly encourage you to take notes as you read and bring them to class for reference during discussions. I take attendance and note participation daily. Obviously, if you aren't here, you can't participate. That said, just showing up and staying awake isn't participation. Participation includes paying attention, asking questions, contributing to class discussion in a way that demonstrates that you have completed the reading, responding politely to your classmates' questions, etc. Uninformed discussion will hurt, not help, your grade.

Honor Code: I expect all students in this course to abide by both the letter and spirit of the university's academic integrity policy. Violations of the university honor code will be prosecuted. The full text of the Academic Integrity Policy can be viewed at: <http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Policy/HonorPolicy.html>. Specifically pertinent to this course is the following infraction: "Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise." Do NOT engage in plagiarism. If caught, you will fail (receive a zero for the assignment). If you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please see me immediately.

PLEASE NOTE: While it is very easy to plagiarize off of the internet and other sources, it is just as easy to find where you plagiarized from. Typically, if I suspect plagiarism, it takes me less than a minute to find the source.