

PSC 344 - Politics of Globalization



PSC 344.1 - Politics of Globalization
Graham 209
TR 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm
blackboard.uncg.edu

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TR 1:45 pm - 3:30 pm
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Course Description

What is globalization? You have probably heard the term before but have you ever stopped to think about the politics behind such a phenomena? This course is designed to look at the forces shaping globalization and the role they play in shaping politics at the international, national, and even sub-national levels. To do this, the course is divided into two main sections. In the first section we will look at the history of globalization since the nineteenth century and explain the forces that have shaped these global efforts using conventional international relations theory. The second section will consider the utility of the these conventional explanations as we strive to evaluate the good and the bad in globalization. During this section we will consider such topics as the environment, global inequality, human rights, imperialism, global inequality, human rights, imperialism, nationalism, radical Islamism and others.

Course Requirements

Exams & Quizzes (60%)

There will be two in-class exams and four online reading quizzes throughout the semester. Each exam is worth 25 percent of your final grade and will cover the lectures and readings from the preceding section of the course. These exams are not necessarily cumulative; however, the final exam will include an essay that asks you to reflect on what you have learned throughout the semester. There will also be four quizzes total, two per section, covering the assigned readings. The quizzes will be administered through Blackboard. The average grade of all four quizzes will count towards 10 percent of your final grade. The in-class exams will be on October 6 and December 10. The online quizzes will be posted on September 8, September 22, October 27, and November 10. Each quiz will be made available beginning at 5:00pm on that date and will remain available for 48 hours.

Paper (20%)

During the second section of the course you will submit a paper that evaluates some aspect of globalization. The paper will require you to both research an issue and apply the course materials to get a sense of whether. Specific directions regarding the paper will be posted at the beginning of October. The paper will count towards 20 percent of your final grade and is due at the start of class on November 24.

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Participation (20%)

Although this is a lecture course, I will attempt to include discussions of current events in the class, and I would encourage all of you to follow international news so you are able to participate in these discussions. Outside of the classroom, students may participate by utilizing my office hours or setting up appointments to ask questions about the material or review assignments. Additionally, beginning in September, I will set up times for small, informal meetings with groups of students to talk about international politics, current events, etc. Please keep in mind that frequent participation does not necessarily mean a better grade if that participation proves counterproductive, disruptive, and so forth.

Other Guidelines & Information

The information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, its requirements, its policies, and the schedule. However, this information is subject to change as the semester progresses and, therefore, you may not claim any rights based solely on the syllabus. Official announcements are always made in class and on Blackboard and may supersede the information contained here if they are announced after the date specified in the syllabus. In the absence of more recent announcements, however, the following guidelines are not negotiable and will be strictly adhered to during this semester:

Attendance: Attendance will be taken 10 times over the course of the semester and will form the basis for your overall participation grade, up to 80 percent. Please keep in mind that attendance does not equal participation. If you wish to receive a participation grade above an 80, you will need to actually participate in class, see me during office hours, or sign up for one of the small group meetings that I will set up later in semester.

Grades: Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale: A 93 and higher; A- 90-92.99; B+ 87-89.99; B 83-86.99; B- 80-82.99; C+ 77-79.99; C 73-76.99; C- 70-72.99; D+ 67-69.99; D 63-66.99; D- 60-62.99; F 59.99 and below. Please keep in mind that I generally do not round up; however, I will take a look at your overall performance in the course your grade is close to the line between two grades.

Late Work: Due dates for all assignments are listed on the course schedule and will be announced in class and on Blackboard. Late work will be accepted with a 5 percent penalty per day for up to 7 days, after which you will receive a 0 on the assignment. You must contact me before an assignment is due if you are aware of any potential conflicts that will affect your ability to complete an assignment on time so that we may discuss alternatives.

Readings: All of the readings listed on the course schedule are viewed as required readings unless otherwise noted. It is expected that you will have completed these assigned readings prior to your participation in the forums, writing your papers, or completing the exams. I reserve the right to change readings, but I will also tell you in advance whenever this happens.

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Student Conduct Code: The Academic Integrity Policy of UNCG is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating violations of this policy seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at academicintegrity.uncg.edu.

Submitting Your Paper: Although I would prefer to receive a hard copy of your at the start of class on the day it is due, you have the option to submit your paper via email in .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .wps file formats. Your email message must be received prior to the start of class on the day the paper is due. If I cannot open the file, I will contact you for a replacement; however, if the deadline has passed I will also consider your paper late. Please note that you will not receive any written feedback if you submit just the electronic copy.

Technology in the Classroom: Modern technology is a wonderful thing; my cell phone is a “smart phone,” and I am a huge fan of all “Web 2.0” has to offer such as having a Facebook account and using Twitter. However, I also believe these services have no place in the classroom during our class time. Please turn off your cell phones and only use laptops to take notes while in class, otherwise your participation grade could be severely affected.

Required Textbook

Sobel, Andrew C. 2006. *Political Economy and Global Affairs*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
(a.k.a. Sobel)

Additional reading assignments listed on the course schedule will be posted as PDF files on Blackboard. The list of assigned readings is subject to change as the semester progresses. However, I will inform you of any additions or changes in advance.

Course Schedule

Introduction

25 August	Introduction to the Politics of Globalization <i>Readings:</i> Sobel 1
27 - 1 September	The International System <i>Readings:</i> Sobel 2, 3

Explaining Globalization

3 - 15	A Brief History of Globalization <i>Readings:</i> Sobel 7 - 11
	Quiz 1 - Posted September 8 - 10

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17 - 1 October Explaining the History of Globalization
Readings: Sobel 4 - 6, 12 - 15

Quiz 2 - *Posted September 22 - 24*

6 **Exam 1:** Explaining Globalization

Evaluating Globalization

8 - 24 November Challenges to Globalization*
Readings: TBD

** The direction of this section of the course will be determined by you during the first weeks of class. Possible topics will likely include: the environment, global inequality, human rights, imperialism, nationalism, radical Islamism and so on. A complete schedule for this section will be posted on September 15.*

13 October *Fall Break*

Quiz 3 - *Posted October 27 - 29*

Quiz 4 - *Posted November 10 - 12*

Paper - *Due at Beginning of Class, November 24*

26 November *Thanksgiving Break*

1 - 3 December The Future of Globalization
Readings: TBD

10 **Exam 2:** Evaluating Globalization