Soc 335
Sociology of Globalization

Dr. Rick Baldoz
Office Hours: Wed 11:00-12:30
Office: King 324

Course Description:

This course examines the historical, theoretical and ideological processes associated with ‘Globalization’. A growing number of scholars in the social sciences and humanities have invoked the term to describe a variety of changing economic, political, and cultural processes that have been transformed since the 1970s. We will explore a number of aspects of globalization, such as the dynamics of a global political economy, transnational migration flows, and the emergence of new social movements. In short, the main purpose and objective of this course is to explore and critically evaluate the dynamics and effects of contemporary globalization and its varying impacts across, between, and within societies.

Course Readings

Parrenas, Rhacel: Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration and Domestic Work
Menjivar, Cecilia: Fragmented Ties: Salvadoran Immigrant Networks in America
Koeppe, Dan: Banana: The Fate of the Fruit that Changed the World
Davis, Mike: Planet of Slums
Bhagwati, Jagdish: In Defense of Globalization
Condry, Ian: Hip Hop Japan: Rap and the Paths of Cultural Globalization

Course Objectives and Requirements

1. Attendance is mandatory. Come prepared to discuss the assigned readings and offer constructive/critical comments on the course materials.
2. Debate and discussion will be an integral component of the class. All students are required to bring a short one-page response essay to the weekly assigned readings on Friday. The Friday sessions will be discussion driven and all students will be evaluated on your ability to analyze and dissect the issues raised in the course materials. You must turn in a hard copy of your response essay and be present in class to receive full credit. This requirement will make up 25 percent of your final grade.
3. Students will write 3 short papers (7-8 pages). The topics will be assigned by the instructor. The papers will make up 75 percent of your final grade.

Course Schedule

Week 1) Introduction
Sept 6: Basic Concepts and Points of Departure

Week 2) Globalization Debates

Week 3) The Origins of the Global System
Sept 20: Dan Koeppe, Banana: the Fate of the Fruit that Changed the World, whole book
Week 4) The Case for Globalization  

Week 5) The Dark Side of Globalization  

Week 6) Global Migration: Origins and Controversies  
Samuel Huntington, “The Hispanic Challenge” in Foreign Policy*

Week 7) Transnational Networks  

Week 8) Gendered Transitions  
Nov 1: Kevin Bales, “Because She Looks like a Child” in *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy*  
Hung Thai, “Clashing Dreams: Highly Educated Overseas Brides and Low-Wage U.S. Husbands” in *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy*

Week 9) Labor Flows in the World Economy  
Nov 8: R. Parrenas, *Servants of Globalization*, chapters 1-6

Week 10) The Consequences of Cultural Globalization  

Week 11) Cultural Diffusion  

Week 12) Clash of Civilization?  
Nov 29: S. Huntington “Clash of Civilizations” *Foreign Affairs*, summer 1993  
C. Kurzman, “Bin Laden and Other Thoroughly Modern Muslims” *Contexts Reader* ps. 303-312

Week 13) Global Futures  
R. Blackburn, “Emancipation and Empire: From Cromwell to Karl Rove” *Daedalus*, spring 2005 ps. 72-96

Week 14) Wrap Up and Review  
Dec 6: Short week

Week 15) Final Paper Due

The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus and add supplementary readings at any time.

**Honor Code:** This course will follow the policies described in the Oberlin College Honor Code and Honor System. For details see: [http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html).