Soc 335
Sociology of Globalization

Spring 2013

Dr. Rick Baldoz
Office Hours: Tu & Thu: 10:50-11:50 or by appt.
Office: King 324

Course Description:

This course examines the historical, social, and ideological processes associated with ‘Globalization’. A growing body of scholarship in the social sciences employs the term globalization to describe a variety of changing economic, political, and cultural processes that have occurred since the 1970s. We will explore a number of aspects of this phenomenon, such as the dynamics of a global political economy, transnational migration flows, and cultural transactions. 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

Gootenberg, Paul: *Andean Cocaine: The Making of a Global Drug*
Andreas, Peter: *Border Games: Policing the US-Mexico Divide*
Rodriguez, Robyn: *Migrants for Export: How the Philippine State Brokers Labor to the World*
Markowitz, Andrei: *Gaming the World: How Sports are Reshaping Global Politics and Culture*

Course Objectives and Requirements

1. Attendance is mandatory. Come prepared to discuss the assigned readings and offer constructive commentary 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 (250-300 words) to the weekly assigned readings on Thursday. The Thursday 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 20 percent of your final grade.
3. Students will write two papers (9-10 pages). The topics will be assigned by the instructor. The papers will make up 80 percent of your final grade.

Course Schedule

Week 1) Introduction
Feb 4: Basic Concepts and Themes

Week 2) From Empire to Neoliberalism
*R. Blackburn, “Emancipation and Empire: From Cromwell to Karl Rove” Daedalus 2005, ps 72-88

Week 3) Structuring the World Economy
Feb 18: L. Martell, chapters 7, 8, & 11

Week 4) Commodity Flows and Global Markets
*Easterbrook “Politics of the Plate: The Price of Tomatoes”

Week 5) The New Global Underclass
March 4: M. Davis, Planet of Slums, ps. 1-49

Week 6) Managing Borders in the Global Era
March 11: P. Andreas, Border Games, whole book
*L. Prichett, “Breaking the Gridlock on Global Labor Mobility”

Week 7) International Migration: Origins and Controversies
March 18: L. Martell, chapters 5 & 6
*D. Massey, “Why Does Immigration Occur?” in Handbook of International Migration

Week 8) People in Motion
April 1: R. Rodriguez, Migrants for Export, chapters 1-6

Week 9) Globalization and Culture
April 8: L. Martell, chapter 4

Week 10) Cultural Imperialism or Hybridization?
April 15: *T. Cowen, “The Fate of Culture” Wilson Quarterly, Autumn 2002, ps. 78-84
D. Weinstein, “The Globalization of Metal” in Metal Rules the Globe, ps. 34-62
Z. Magubane, “Globalization and Gangster Rap: Hip Hop in the Post Apartheid City” in The Vinyl Ain’t Final, ps. 208-229

Week 11) Sports in the World Arena
April 22: *A. Markowitz, Gaming the World, whole book

Week 12) Perspectives on Global Conflict
April 29: S. Huntington “Clash of Civilizations” Foreign Affairs, summer 1993,
*B. Barber, “Jihad vs. McWorld” Atlantic Magazine, 1992

Week 14) Global Futures
May 6: L. Martell, chapters, 12 & 13

Final Paper Due Date TBA
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).