

SOCIOLOGY 548 (CRN 23237)
Making Sense of Globalization:
Comparative and Interdisciplinary Perspectives
Fall, 2006

Room: 4102 BSB
 Time: Tuesdays 2-4:30pm
 Instructor: Xiangming Chen
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Introduction and Questions

Globalization has been arguably the academic, policy, and journalistic buzzword since the early 1990s. As the early 21st century rolls along, the literature on globalization has flourished into diverse and complex perspectives, formulations, and findings. This research seminar aims to make some sense of this literature, albeit in an inevitably selective way. We will begin by tackling a set of conceptual, theoretical, and analytical questions such as: 1) How to explicitly conceptualize globalization? 2) What are the competing scholarly perspectives on globalization across disciplines? 3) What are the empirical evidence and manifestations of globalization? 4) What are the main sources of and impediments to globalization? 5) To what extent is globalization a desirable process leading to generally positive outcomes and what are its downsides? The more specific topics and questions we will address included but are not limited to:

- The restructuring of the global, national, and local economies with a focus on commodity chains and business networks within and across regions and localities.
- The changing meaning and functions of international borders and more intensified transnational migration in the contexts of the EU, the Asia-Pacific transborder subregions, and the aftermath of 9-11.
- The increasing socio-spatial differentiation in and economic transformation of cities in a global context and communities and neighborhoods within them.
- The simultaneous co-existence of and tension between global cultural convergence and the persistence of national and local cultures with a comparative focus on new trends and practices in consumption.

Requirements and Grading

Your grade for the seminar will be based on three components/activities. The first is a pair of short essays of 4-5 pages, each of which will count 15% for a subtotal of 30% of your overall grade. The second and more demanding written requirement is a research/writing project of approximately 15-18 tightly argued and reasoned pages for 45% of your grade. I expect you to turn in a one-page statement of plans for the long paper after the mid-semester, to use the second short essay to help you develop the final research/writing project, and to update me on your progress toward completing the final project through the end of the semester. I will talk and work with you individually in developing your individual paper as the semester goes by. The third and final activity requires each of you to prepare for and lead the discussion on a piece of reading each week coupled with your additional participation and performance in discussions. This will

account for the remaining 25% of your total grade. **Your sustained and engaged discussion of the reading material is critical to the overall success of the seminar and your individual benefit from it.**

Readings

1. Thomas Friedman. *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006.
2. John Rapley. *Globalization and Inequality: Neoliberalism's Downward Spiral*. Lynne Rienner, 2004.
3. Saskia Sassen. *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages*. Princeton University Press, 2006.
4. Xiangming Chen. *As Borders Bend: Transnational Spaces on the Pacific Rim*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2005.

These four books can and must be purchased at Chicago Textbook Inc. on Taylor Street or on Amazon at discount prices. A set of journal articles and book chapters to be read and discussed (denoted by the stars) are available in a folder outside of my office in Suite 4150. I strongly encourage you to make copies of these articles for yourself as we go along. If you want to take an article to read it elsewhere, you must return it within two hours so that the next person can have access to it.

Seminar Schedules and Readings

Week 1: Introduction and General Issues

- 8/29 Introducing the seminar and syllabus.
Read Friedman, "How the World Became Flat?" (Chapters 1-4).

Week 2: Conceptualizing Globalization

- 9/5 Friedman, Chapters 5-9.
* Rosenau, "The Complexities and Contradictions of Globalization," *Current History* (November 1997), pp. 360-364.
* Robertson and Khondker, "Discourses of Globalization: Preliminary Considerations," *International Sociology* (March 1998), pp. 25-40.

Week 3: (Re)conceptualizing Globalization

- 9/12 #I will be out of the country and the class will be made up at a later time. Keep reading and writing down initial points for discussion upon my return.
Friedman, Chapters 10-13.
* Amartya Sen, "How to Judge Globalism?" *The American Prospect* (2002), pp. A2-A6.
* Philip McMichael, "Globalization: Myth and Realities," *Rural Sociology* 61 (1), 1996, pp. 25-55.
* Leslie Sklair, "Competing Conceptions of Globalization." *Journal of World-Systems Research* (Summer 1999), pp. 143-163.

Week 4: Competing Theoretical Approaches to Globalization

- 9/19 #I may be out of the country again and Professor Moshe Semyonov may come in and talk about his research on Filipino overseas migrant workers and anti-foreigner sentiment in Western Europe.
Rapley, Chapter 1

- * David Harvey, "Globalization in Question," *Rethinking MARXISM* 8 (4), Winter 1995, pp. 1-17.
- * Frederic Jameson, "Notes on Globalization as a Philosophical Note," in *The Cultures of Globalization*, edited by Fredric Jameson and Masao Miyoshi (1999).

Week 5: Some Processes and Dimensions of Globalization

9/26 Rapley, Chapters 2-4.
Sassen, Chapter 1.

Week 6: Globalization and the Changing State

- 10/3 Rapley, Chapter 5-Epilogue
Sassen, Chapters 2-3.
- * Susan Strange, "The Erosion of the State," *Current History* November 1997, pp. 365-369.
 - * Saskia Sassen, Chapter 1 "The State and the New Geography of Power," in *Losing Control? Sovereignty in an Age of Globalization*, Columbia University Press (1996).
 - * Stephen Krasner, "Globalization and Sovereignty," in *States and Sovereignty in the Global Economy*, edited by David Smith, Dorothy Solinger, and Steven Topik, Routledge (1999).

First short essay due

Week 7: Globalization and Economic Activity

- 10/10 Sassen, Chapters 4-5.
- * Hirst, Paul, "The Global Economy: Myth or Reality?" in *The Ends of Globalization*, edited by Don Kalb et al (2000).
 - * Peter Dicken et al, "Chains and Networks, Territories and Scales: Towards a Relational Framework for Analyzing the Global Economy," *Global Networks* 1 (2), 2001, pp. 89-112.
 - * Gary Gereffi, "International Trade and Industrial Upgrading in the Apparel Commodity Chains." *Journal of International Economics* 48 (1999), pp. 37-70.
 - * Gary Gereffi, "The Global Economy: Organization, Governance, and Development," In *Handbook of Economic Sociology*, edited by Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg. Princeton University Press (2004).

Week 8: Globalization and Space

- 10/17 Sassen, Chapter 6-7.
Chen, Chapter 1.
- * John Agnew and Stuart Corbridge, Chapter 4 "The Territorial Trap," in *Mastering Space: Hegemony, Territory and International Political Economy*, Routledge.
 - * Anthony Orum and Xiangming Chen, "Place Change and Continuity: The City in Global and Comparative Context," in *The World of Cities* (2003).
 - * David Moberg, "Chicago: To Be or Not to Be a Global City," *World Policy Journal* XIV (1), Spring 1997, pp. 71-86.

Week 9: Globalization and Culture

- 10/24
- * Arjun Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy," *Public Culture* 2 (2), Spring 1990, pp. 1-24.
 - * Subramani, "The End of Free States: On Transnationalization of Culture," in *The Cultures of Globalization*.

- * Geeta Kapur, "Globalization and Culture: Navigating the Void," in *The Cultures of Globalization*.
- * Jiaming Sun and Xiangming Chen, "Fast Foods and Brand Clothes in Shanghai: How and Why Do Locals Consume Globally?" A chapter to be published in Xiangming Chen, ed. *Local Transformations in Global Cities*.

One-page plan for term paper due

Week 10: **Past Midterm Reflections**

10/31 **No readings and preparing the second short essay to help develop the term project.**

Week 11: **Globalization, Regionalization, and Localization**

11/7 Chen, Chapters 2-4.

- * Ash Amin and Nigel Thrift, Chap. 1 "Living in the Global," in *Globalization, Institutions and Regional Development*.
- * Susan Clarke and Gary Gaile, "Local Politics in a Global Era: Thinking Locally, Acting Globally," in *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* May 1997, pp. 28-43.
- * Peter Katzenstein, "Introduction: Asian Regionalism in Comparative Perspective," in *Network Power: Japan and Asia* (1997).
- * Xiangming Chen, "A Tales of Two Regions: Global Value Chains, Spatial Restructuring, Institutional Governance, and Local Industrial Upgrading in the Pearl River and Yangtze River Deltas, China." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* (forthcoming).

Second short essay due to facilitate the further development of the final project.

Week 12: **Globalization and Changing Borders**

11/14 Chen, Chapters 5-8.

- * Graham Fuller, "Redrawing the World's Borders," *World Policy Journal* XIV (1), Spring 1997, pp. 11-21.
- * Peter Andreas, "The Escalation of Border Policing," and "The Political Economy of Global Smuggling," in *Border Games* (2000).
- * Oscar Martinez, "The Dynamics of Border Interactions," in *Global Boundaries* (1994).

Week 13: **Globalization, Ethnicity, and Nationalism**

11/21

- * Airf Dirlik, "Asians on the Rim: Transnational Capital and Local Community in the Making of Contemporary Asian America," in *Across the Pacific*, edited by Evelyn Hu-DeHart (1999).
- * Mark Bessinger, "The Relentless Pursuit of the National State: Reflections on Soviet and Post-Soviet Experiences," in *Global Convulsions*, edited by Winston A Van Horne (1997).
- * Robin Alison Remington, "Ethnonationalism and the Disintegration of Yugoslavia," in *Global Convulsions*.
- * Claude Ake, "Political Ethnicity and State-Building in Nigeria," in *Global Convulsions*.

Week 14: **Globalization in Asia and Latin America: A Comparative Regional Focus**

11/28

- * Giovanni Arrighi, "Globalization and the Rise of East Asia," *International Sociology* 13

(1), 1998, pp. 59-77.

- * Gary Gereffi, "Commodity Chains and Regional Divisions of Labor in East Asia," *Journal of Asian Business* 12 (1), 1996, pp. 75-112.
- * Scott Frey, "The Transfer of Core-Based Hazardous Production Processes to the Export Processing Zones of the Periphery: The Maquiladora Centers of Northern Mexico." *Journal of World-Systems Research* (Summer 2003), pp. 337-354.
- * Michael Mortimore, "When Does Apparel Become a Peril? On the Nature of Industrialization in the Caribbean Region," in *Free Trade and Uneven Development*, edited by Gary Gereffi, David Spener, and Jennifer Blair (2002).

Week 15: Globalization: Past, Present, and Future

12/5
Sassen, Chapters 8-9.
Chen, Chapter 9.
Summary discussion.

Week 16: Finals Week

Term Paper due by Dec. 13.