

Globalization, Technology & Justice

Course Syllabus

Arizona State University
Spring 2006 (JUS 591 / 691)
Line Numbers: 51013, 81113
Tuesdays 5:40-8:30 | CPCOM 237

Instructor

Dr. Torin Monahan
Office: Wilson 314
Phone: 480-965-4522
Email: torin.monahan@asu.edu
Office Hours: T 4:30-5:30pm & by appt.

Course Description

This graduate seminar will serve as an advanced introduction to contemporary social science theories of globalization. Drawing upon the fields of anthropology, sociology, geography, and cultural studies, it will investigate modern developments in international relations, institutional compositions, cultural constructions, and urban planning. The orientation for seminar discussions and projects will be a focus on opportunities for justice within emergent (or pre-existing) global regimes and technological systems.

Guiding questions include

- Are nation states and national borders losing their importance?
- How are institutions changing and to what effect?
- What are some cultural responses to globalization?
- What role do information and communications technologies (ICTs) play in development?

Course Objectives

There are two primary objectives for this seminar. First, you will gain familiarity with the social science literature on globalization, including ongoing debates within the field. Second, you will work to articulate connections between your research and changes in the global political economy.

Grading

Participation	30%
3 Short “Critical Reaction” Essays	30%
Final Project	40%

Course Expectations

Attendance: This class will be conducted as a seminar with a focus on in-class discussion. Because of this format, you are expected to attend all classes for the full scheduled time. Excessive tardiness will be counted as an absence. Provided you hand in all due materials on time, you can miss 1 class throughout the semester without penalty. Please let me know in advance if you are planning on missing a class.

Reading: **Complete all readings (and other assignments) prior to the class meeting for which they are scheduled.** There are ten required books for the course, but I will also be distributing photocopied readings to you in class. See the course outline below for details.

Participation: Through communication ideas are formed, revised, borrowed, and developed. It is through argument, description, explanation, and improvisation – within a community – that individual learning flourishes. This course requires full participation (including active listening, facilitating, note-taking, and question-asking) to create an environment of open and shared learning.

We will have weekly common readings around which we will focus our discussion. Each class meeting will begin with some contextual background provided by me and then proceed to a brief summary of the arguments made in the reading (presented by one or more seminar participants). Next, we will generate an in-depth critique of the arguments and then pursue questions sparked by the reading or discussion – as guided by the overarching course goals. Each student should prepare for these steps in advance of the seminar meeting.

Writing: There will be three brief “critical reaction” essays (5-7 pages) that explore arguments made in the texts and one final project (20-25 pages) that connects your research interests to changes in the global political economy. The brief essays focus on critical analysis of the reading for two or more weeks, aiming at comparison and integration across texts, leading to the development of a clear normative position on your part. The three essays are due no later than the following dates: (1) February 7; (2) March 7; (3) April 18. You are encouraged to submit them earlier if you’d like. You should meet with me early on in the semester to discuss ideas for your final project paper. I recommend that you approach this paper as an article that you are preparing for publication, and you will present a conference version of your paper on the last day of class. Get an early start and maintain steady progress throughout the term in order to avoid the end-of-the-semester rush. **No late writing assignments will be accepted.**

Academic Honesty

In order to avoid plagiarism, your papers must provide full citations for all references: direct quotes, summaries, or ideas. While you are encouraged to develop your thinking with your peers, you cannot use their material without citing it. Work from other courses will not be accepted in this course. Allowing your writing to be copied by another student is also considered cheating. Please review the Student Code of Conduct for complete guidelines on academic honesty. Note: Any instance of plagiarism or cheating can be grounds for failure of the entire course or expulsion from the university.

Gender-Fair Language

Language structures thought and action. Biases in language can (and do) naturalize inequities. Imprecise language also signifies un-interrogated values and sloppy thinking. For all of these reasons, the use of gender-fair language is expected in this course. For example, do not use words like “mankind” or “men” when referring to people in general; alternate between “she” and “he” instead of always using “he”, or construct sentences in the plural instead of the singular so you can use “they” or “them” and avoid the problem altogether.

ESL/LD Students

Course requirements can be adjusted to serve the needs and capabilities of ESL and LD students. Please speak with me during the first two weeks of class to make arrangements. Students may be advised to attend additional sessions during my office hours so they can draw comparable value from the course.

Required Texts

Agamben, Giorgio. 2005. *State of Exception*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Bauman, Zygmunt. 1998. *Globalization: The Human Consequences*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Fortun, Kim. 2001. *Advocacy after Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Graham, Stephen, and Simon Marvin. 2001. *Splintering Urbanism: Networked Infrastructures, Technological Mobilities and the Urban Condition*. New York: Routledge.

Harvey, David. 1990. *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.

Monahan, Torin. 2005. *Globalization, Technological Change, and Public Education*. New York: Routledge.

Ong, Aihwa, and Stephen J. Collier. 2005. *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Powers, Richard. 2000. *Plowing the Dark*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

Virilio, Paul. 2005. *Negative Horizon: An Essay in Dromoscopy*. Translated by M. Degener. New York: Continuum.

Course Outline

Week 1 (1/17): Introduction

Week 2 (1/24): Mutations in Capital

- David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity*.

Week 3 (1/31): Political Economies and Life Chances

- Zygmunt Bauman, *Globalization*

Week 4 (2/7): Electronic Infrastructures and Urban Development

- Stephen Graham & Simon Marvin, *Splintering Urbanism*.
- First critical reaction essay due.

Week 5 (2/14): Neoliberalisms

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1998. The Essence of Neoliberalism. *Le Monde Diplomatique* December. Available from <http://mondediplo.com/1998/12/08bourdieu>.
- Comaroff, Jean, and John L. Comaroff. 2000. Millennial Capitalism: First Thoughts on a Second Coming. *Public Culture* 12 (2):291-343.
- Kingfisher, Catherine. 2001. Producing Disunity: The Constraints and Incitements of Welfare Work. In *The New Poverty Studies: The Ethnography of Power, Politics, and Impoverished People in the United States*, edited by J. Goode and J. Maskovsky. New York: NYU Press, 236-272.

Week 6 (2/21): Flows and Resistances

- Appadurai, Arjun. 1990. Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy. *Public Culture* 2 (2):1-24.
- Barndt, Deborah. 1997. Zooming Out/Zooming In: Visualizing Globalization. *Visual Sociology* 12 (2):5-32.
- Ferguson, James. 2002. Global Disconnect. In *The Anthropology of Globalization: A Reader*, edited by J. X. Inda and R. Rosaldo. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

- Juris, Jeffrey S. 2005. The New Digital Media and Activist Networking within Anti–Corporate Globalization Movements. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 597 (1):189-208.

Week 7 (2/28): Technoscientific Cultures

[The readings for this week come from the *Global Assemblages* reader.]

- Collier & Ong, “Global Assemblages, Anthropological Problems.”
- Scheper-Hughes, “The Last Commodity.”
- Franklin, “Stem Cells R Us.”
- Strathern, “Robust Knowledge and Fragile Futures.”
- Holmes & Marcus, “Cultures of Expertise and the Management of Globalization.”

Week 8 (3/7): Ethnography and Postmodern Ethics

- Kim Fortun, *Advocacy After Bhopal*.
- Second critical reaction essay due.

Week 9 (3/14): Spring Break

- SPRING BREAK: No class.

Week 10 (3/21): Institutional Change

- Torin Monahan, *Globalization, Technological Change, and Public Education*

Week 11 (3/28): Spaces of Historical Iteration

- Giorgio Agamben, *State of Exception*.
- Diken, Bülent, and Carsten Bagge Laustsen. 2002. Zones of Indistinction. *Space & Culture* 5 (3):290-307.

Week 12 (4/4): Literary Imaginaries I

- Richard Powers, *Plowing the Dark*. (pp.1-197)

Week 13 (4/11): Literary Imaginaries II

- Richard Powers, *Plowing the Dark*. (pp.197-415)

Week 14 (4/18): Anxious Theory

- Paul Virilio, *Negative Horizon*.
- Third critical reaction essay due.

Week 15 (4/25): Cultural Politics and Citizenship

[The readings for this week come from the *Global Assemblages* reader.]

- Rose and Novas, “Biological Citizenship.”
- Bowker, “Time, Money, and Biodiversity.”
- Rabinow, “Midst Anthropology’s Problems.”
- Caldeira & Holston, “State and Urban Space in Brazil.”
- Dunn, “Standards and Person-Making in East Central Europe.”

Week 16 (5/2): Final Project Presentations

- Final Papers Due