

SELF PROGRAM 2019/2020

Globalization

Robert Sherratt

Course information

Number of credits: 6 credits

Contact hours: 30 hours

Hours taught per week: 2,5 hours

Teaching period: Spring 2020

Course description:

This class considers different aspects of globalization, examining its evolutions, parameters and limitations. Parameters include the concepts of economic, cultural and political globalization, but also various metaphors such as time-space compression and multidimensionality. The interconnectedness of post-modern economic globalization is studied in detail, as is the economic liberalism/protectionism dichotomy which colours the current rejection of globalization in some quarters and the efforts to limit its apparently inevitable advances. The rise of regionalization, in the form of Free Trade Agreements and Customs Unions, is examined. Of particular interest here is the European Union, where the institutional approach to globalization does not always square with that of the constituent parts. Various conclusions are drawn concerning this far-ranging, controversial and essential subject. Can it be said, for example, that nation states have lost sovereignty to the point of toothlessness in the face of the rapid ascension of global Multinationals and NGOs, or do they remain the fundamental working units of world economic and political governance?

Course breakdown:

- Week 1 : parameters of globalization : key ideas, definitions, approaches

Easily discernable areas: Financial-economic/ Cultural/Politics-Ideology/Environmental

Examples and quotes defining globalization : Unicity. Globality, Global unicity, Global imaginary, Connectivity

- Week 2: Perspectives on globalization :

1. Sociological : Roland Robertson
2. World systems : Immanuel Wallerstein
3. Modernity : Anthony Giddens

Spotlight on feudalism, the Enlightenment

-Week 3: A chronology of globalization

Human evolution – out of Africa –early human migrations

Prehistory – Neolithic revolution

Postmodern – Empires (Arab, Greek, Chinese)

Early modern period

Modern period – Industrial revolution

Contemporary/Postmodern period – deregulation and ICT revolution

-Week 4: Cultural globalization

Homogeneity/heterogeneity

Western ‘Global North’ as source

- Standardization

- McDonaldization/ McWorld

- Homogenization (media and entertainment)

Global Village (McLuhan)

Positives and negatives of cultural globalization

-Week 5 : Roland Robertson: Glocalization

Appadurai : 5 scapes and views on the nation state

Economic globalization (1)

Advertising (Cultural and financial : manufacturing, marketing, media mix)

- Capitalism as guiding logic
- Global mass media
- Link: mass media and advertising
- Homogenous global advertising
- Romanian post-1989
- Glocal advertising (co-creation)
- Local advertising (China, India)

-Week 6 :Economic globalization (2)

Evolution and spread of capitalism :

-Commercialization model : Max Weber

-Marxist theory

-Feudalism

-Mercantilism

-Video : The Darian Venture

-Economic liberalism

-Marxism and capitalism (20th century workers’ rights)

-Week 7 : Glocalisation of capitalism:

- Neo-liberalism

- Co-operative capitalism (Germany)
- French state capitalism
- Chinese state capitalism
- Crony capitalism
- The crises of capitalism

-Week 8 : Economic liberalism

- Liberalism in IR theory
- Locke, Bentham, J.S. Mill, Smith, Ricardo
- Laws of absolute and comparative advantage
- Benefits of free trade
- Post WW2 : New World Economic Order
- The World Trade Organisation
- Neoliberalism 'Big bang'
- Monetarism
- Consequences of liberalism and technological progress

-Week 9: Protectionism: limitation to globalization

- Mercantilism
- Realism in IR theory
- Colbertism
- protectionist practices
- Beggary thy neighbour
- Retaliatory measures
- Reasons for protectionism
- The Interwar Years
- US moves towards protectionism 1970's
- US trade policy
- Trump and protectionism

- Week 10 : Regional trade agreements

- RTA's in realist theory
- Preferential RTA's
- Free Trade Agreements: ASEAN, NAFTA (+Trump)
- Place of RTA's in WTO world order

-Week 11 : Politics + ideology and globalization

Apologists and detractors

Gains from economic liberalism (trickle down etc.)

Detractors : limitations to globalization

- Economic nationalism and populism (blaming globalization) Brexit, Trump, Front National
- Global Civil Society
- Structural adjustment
- The Washington Consensus
- Tax havens
- Zapatistas
- Seattle 1999
- Global wealth distribution. Ted Talk : Rise of the Super Rich. C. Freeland

Impact of globalization on Nation States

- Sovereignty
- Borders
- Governance
- TNC's power

- Week 12 : Globalization as Americanization ?
- Economic, Political, Cultural

The EU and globalization

- EU pro-globalization
- EU pro-immigration
- Populism in the EU

Globalization and the environment

- Lack of borders
- International environment agreements
- EU environment policy

Prerequisites:

An interest in current events essential and some understanding of basic economic theory and political science concepts useful

Course objectives:

To give students a rounded, overall view of the phenomenon of globalization and an insight into the questions and issues surrounding it in today's world

Assessment:

Individual oral presentation on chosen aspect of globalization : 30%
Participation : 10%
Final written examination : 60%

Attendance:

In order to participate, students must be present. Nevertheless, a maximum of 2 (two) unexcused absences will be allowed otherwise no mark will be given. An unexcused absence at a test (final test or continuous assessment) means no credits for the course.

Bibliography:

Recommended reading:

Steger M (2003) Globalization: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press.

Simon Sweeney (2005) Europe, the State and Globalisation. London: Pearson Longman

Yuval Noah Harari (2011) Sapiens. A Brief History of Humankind. Vintage/Penguin

Class readings :

‘Glocalization. Time-Space and Homogeneity-Heterogeneity’, pp. 25-44. Global Modernities. Roland Robertson.

‘Mapping the Global Condition’. pp.49-60. Globalization. Social Theory and Global Culture. Roland Robertson

World System Theory

Summary of Wallerstein on World System Theory

http://www.sociosite.net/sociologists/texts/wallerstein_summary.php

‘WHICH MODEL OF CAPITALISM?’ RICHARD BRONK, LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS OECD Observer No. 221/222, pp. 12-15. On-line.

‘The End of Capitalism has begun’. Paul Mason, The Guardian, 17 July 2017

John Gilpin (2000) The Challenge of Global Capitalism in the 21st Century. pp. 88-113

Regionalisation and Globalisation, conflicting or linked processes?

Europeanista. Posted on-line. April 29, 2012. European Political Thought.

‘World reacts with horror as Trump delights in Hobbesian trade wars’ Ambrose Evans-Pritchard The Daily Telegraph, 2 March 2019

‘The Silk Road: How the ancient route is becoming a pathway to the future’. Andrew MacLeod

The Independent, 26 October 2016