

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION

ANTHROPOLOGY 202-01 □ MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2009 □ PROF. GLENN ALCALAY

OFFICE HOURS: 12:30-2:30 TUESDAY (AND BY APPT.)

OFFICE: 154 DICKSON □ EMAIL: ALCALAYG@MAIL.MONTCLAIR.EDU

"Anthropology is the most scientific of the humanities and the most humanistic of the sciences" – Anthropologist Eric Wolf [1923-1999]

Course Objectives

Globalization is a concept that has proliferated in both popular and scholarly arenas, describing the increasing intensity of flows of capital, labor, commodities, and ideologies across national borders. Electronic highways, the expansion of jet travel, satellite technology and trade liberalization have made transnational communication and **cultural**, political, and economic connections closer and faster than ever before. The goal of this course is to interpret these historical currents and movements through an anthropological and ethnographic lens, and to analyze some of the meanings and implications of these global processes for people's everyday lives.

While many other disciplines have analyzed **globalization** at the *macro* level, this course aims to introduce students in particular to **globalization** at the local level through the medium of ethnographic accounts of culture “on the ground” and through the indigenous voice directly.

The course will examine the **environmental** and **economic** impacts on Planet Earth and its inhabitants [both Western and non-Western] from globalization through an anthropological lens. For example, what will be the environmental impact of developing nations trying to make up for lost time, and cutting corners with respect to environmental protection? Specifically, how has global capitalistic development [aka globalization] affected Earth's ecosystem? Are short-term, bottom line, quarterly statements, and ROI [return on investment] compatible with long-term concerns about rapid [and human created] climate change? How related are globalization and global warming? Are there alternative economic models that afford a blend of individual liberties, protection of capital & property, respect for indigenous rights, and the development of a **sustainable** global economy?

We will examine workers (white, pink, and blue collar, miners, day laborers), consumers, migrants and tourists, as actors on the global stage. What have these global transformations of space and time meant for local identities (nationality, gender, class, race, sexuality) and enactments/meanings of culture? Through the reading of ethnographic accounts from several world areas and various theoretical works, we will explore the changing shape of local culture, and the gendered underpinnings of global processes as they are enacted across the “developed” and “underdeveloped” worlds.

Course Requirements

Attendance is mandatory. Class participation is **highly encouraged** and excessive absences will severely affect your final grade. Students are expected to come to class prepared. Virtually every day in the media, you will encounter articles and news stories related to themes of this course. We will devote a few minutes at the start of each class to share these current **globalization** events/ideas. You are encouraged to bring these to class and to briefly discuss their relevance. In addition to two **Exams**, there will be four **Response Papers** assigned from articles linked at BlackBoard.

Grading is based on the following:

Mid-Term Exam	30% of final grade
Final Exam	35%
4 Response Papers	25%
Class participation	10%

Required Texts & Readings

(1) The New World Reader: Thinking and Writing About the Global Community by Gilbert Muller [ed.], Second Edition [2008]. Houghton Mifflin Publishers, ISBN: 13-978-0-618-79653-3;

(2) The Anthropology of Globalization: A Reader by Jonathan Xavier and Renato Rosaldo [eds.], Second Edition [2008]. Blackwell Publishing, ISBN: 978-1-4051-3612-9;

(3) Various articles and video links relevant for the course will be posted on BlackBoard.

Topical Outline of the Course Content

- Some critical reading and thinking about globalization
- Globalization and multiculturalism in the United States
 - Emic-Etic: How does the world view the U.S.?
 - Shifts in global ideologies about sex, gender, class, race
 - The “Clash of Civilizations”
 - The “War on Terror” and Globalization
 - Global aid, disease, poverty and debt
 - The so-called “culture wars”
 - The Fate of the Earth: Can we preserve the future of the planet?
 - A critical analysis of “antisystemic movements” against globalization

[Reading assignments will be given out weekly in class and on BlackBoard]

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course students should be able to

- Effectively express themselves in written and oral form
- Demonstrate ability to think critically

- Locate, organize and use information from a variety of traditional and electronic sources
- Demonstrate ability to integrate knowledge in a coherent and meaningful manner
- Demonstrate an awareness of **Globalization** and its impact on indigenous as well as Western cultures

MSU Anthropology Program Outcomes

- Demonstrate understanding of a broad range of concepts in the field of Anthropology vis-à-vis **Globalization** and its myriad sociocultural consequences
- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical frameworks
- Be aware of issues related to race, ethnicity, class, and cultural traditions in relation to **Globalization** and its impact
- Demonstrate awareness of various cultural traditions and commitment to diversity and equity in societies around the globe
- Analyze information and data and demonstrate competence in the attendant skills

Working Bibliography

Lewellen, Ted. The Anthropology of Globalization (Bergin & Garvey), 2002.

Freeman, Carla. High Tech and High Heels in the Global Economy: Women, Work and Pink Collar Identities in the Caribbean (Duke U Press), 2000.

Mazzarella, William. Shoveling Smoke: Advertising and Globalization in Contemporary India. (Duke U Press), 2004.

Hirsch, Jennifer. A Courtship After Marriage: Sexuality and Love in Mexican Transnational Families. (U California Press), 2002.

Mills, Mary Beth. Thai Women in the Global Labor Force. (Rutgers U Press). 1999.

Chernoff, John. Hustling is not Stealing: Stories of an African Bar Girl. (U Chicago Press). 2001.

Malcolm Waters. Globalization (Routledge). 1995.

Evan Luard. The Globalization of Politics (Macmillan). 1990.

Susan Strange. Retreat of the State: The Diffusion of Power in the World Economy (Cambridge). 1996.

Hans-Peter Martin and Harald Schumann. The Global Trap: Globalization and the Assault on Prosperity and Democracy (Zed Books). 1997.

Brawley, Mark. The Politics of Globalization. (Broadview Press). 2002.

Ellwood, Wayne and John McMurty. The No-Nonsense Guide to Globalization. Verso. 2001.

“States and the World Economy.” Section 3.2 (pp. 83-98) in The Geography of the World Economy (4th Ed). Paul Knox, John Agnew, and Linda McCarthy.

“Commanding Heights: The Battle Between Government and the Marketplace that is Remaking the Modern World.” Daniel Yergin and Joseph Stanislaw.

“Debt Crisis and Globalization.” Robert K. Schaeffer. Chapter 5 (pp. 95-118) in Understanding Globalization. (Rowman and Littlefield). 2003.

“Economic Globalization and Political Backlash.” Joseph M. Grieco and G. John Ikenberry. Chapter 7 in State Power and World Markets: The International Political Economy. (W. W. Norton and Company). 2003.

Globalization/Anti-Globalization. David Held and Anthony McGrew. (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press). 2002.

Frank, Andre G. “The Development of Underdevelopment.” Pp. 3-20 in Frank, Andre G. Latin America: Underdevelopment or Revolution. (New York, NY: Modern Reader). 1969.

Keohane, Robert O. and Joseph S. Nye. “Realism and Complex Interdependence.” Pp. 20-32 in Power and Interdependence (Third Edition). (New York, NY: Longman). 2001

“The Desecularization of the World: A Global Overview.” Peter L. Berger. Pp. 1-18 in The Desecularization of the World: Resurgent Religion and World Politics. Edited by Peter L. Berger. (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co: Grand Rapids, MI). 1999.