

GLOBALIZATION

BSGC101

T3-4:15

1120 Susquehanna

Th sections

Fall 2011

v.3



Course Description

Is this the era of globalization? Is it something new? What caused it to happen? What are its effects? Is it a good thing?

This course explores globalization from an interdisciplinary perspective. The course has two parts. First we look at the big picture of globalization—its causes, significant effects, and debates over its value. Next we examine it through the lens of “global food”—the ways in which food is culturally, economically, politically and socially placed within a global context.

I expect all students to be willing and active participants in learning. We will meet once each week as a group in lecture, and then divide up into smaller discussion sections. BSGC101 is the first in a two-course sequence required for Global Communities students. It fulfills the Core Distributive Studies requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences.

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Fine Print

Course website at
www.elms.umd.edu

Required text:

Manfred Steger,
*Globalization: A Very
Short Introduction* 2nd ed
(Oxford University Press)

“The world is flat.” Thomas
Friedman

“This is all a bunch of
globaloney.” Pankaj
Ghemawat

How to Take this Course

How deep can you go? How far do you want to take this course?

Each of you arrives here with a different degree of interest and preparation. It is possible to do well in the course without being transformed by your newly acquired understanding of globalization—but it would be a shame.

This course operates on three levels (thanks to Tona Hangen for this idea).

Snack

You need the basics on globalization—key terms, major actors, and small morsels of knowledge.

There is nothing wrong with taking small bites, if this is your only course on globalization or you are totally new to it all.

“Snackers” tend to look at the readings and professor as mutually reinforcing, telling the same story, and are concerned with the WHAT of things.

Dine

You understand the basics and are ready to savor a more nourishing level of detail.

You have taken other courses or plan to major in something related to this topic. You know the diversity of perspectives on globalization.

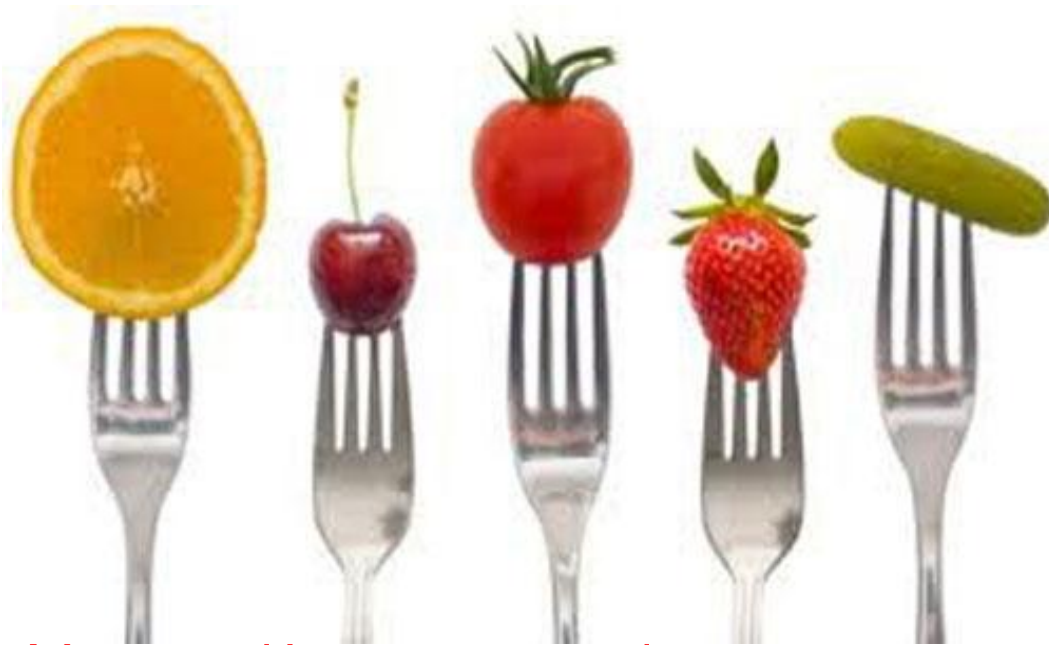
“Diners” notice contradictions and respectfully challenge assumptions through debate. They want to know the WHY and HOW of things.

Banquet

You want to have more than one dish, tasting each with a critical view informed by scholarship.

You are aware of competing arguments, and how to gather and assess evidence. You seek alternative interpretations and sources.

“Banqueters” do not see the course’s structure or content as fixed or authoritative. They wonder about GAPS, new THEORIES, and EVIDENCE.



Course Requirements

The course involves reading, writing, and group activities. You will need to read assignments prior to class. Class sessions will not go over the readings directly, but the readings, lectures and discussions are complementary. Bring questions to class—there are no “dumb” questions, just curious minds!

Participation (15%)—Attendance alone is not enough. Medical absences require a signed note from you; prolonged illness or absence during a major grading event (exam, assignments due) requires documentation by a health care practitioner.

News Briefing (5%)—present one news item in discussion section

Writing assignments (30%)--details provided separately

Tracking Globalization—follow an issue/ country in the news--due Oct 13

Book Analysis—critically analyze a food-related book; suggestions provided separately--due Dec 8

Website evaluation (10%)—describe a website's purpose, audience, authority, and viewpoint; details and list of sites provided separately--due Sept 26

Group food project (10%)—groups investigate a country's food in terms of local and global connections; details provided separately --due Dec 1

ICONS simulation (10%)—groups represent roles in an online negotiation over Nigerian oil; details provided separately--Oct 20 and 27

Final exam (20%)—cumulative essay exam; December 21 1:30-3:30pm

Your Instructors:

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Part I: Globalization—The Big Picture

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Sept. 1	What do you know about globalization?		List/ describe five different ways you are globally connected
Sept. 6	What is it? Is it new? What are the major debates?	Steger, <i>Globalization</i> Chs.1-2 Policy Forum "Globalization and Culture: Tyler vs Barber" <i>Cato Policy Report</i> May/June 2003	
Sept. 8	Debating globalization and culture across societies		Start news briefings
Sept. 13	Where is it? Speed, distance, location and information compared	Shirky, "Political Power and Social Media" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Jan/Feb 2011 Fouberg, et al, <i>Human Geography</i> Ch.1	
Sept. 15	Geography of globalization in plural societies		
Sept 20	Is it all about economics? Trade, finance, development	Steger, <i>Globalization</i> Ch. 3 Stiglitz, "Fair Trade," <i>The National Interest</i> May/June 2008	
Sept. 22	Liberalization spurs globalization across societies		
Sept. 27	What about the financial crisis?	Weisberg, "What Caused the Economic Crisis?" <i>Slate</i> Jan 2010	
Sept. 29	Interdependence of developed and developing markets		Website Evaluation Due
Oct. 4	What about globalization of politics? What is global governance?	National Intelligence Council, "Global Governance 2025" Sept. 2010 Preface and Executive Summary Steger, Chs.4-6	
Oct. 6	States, international organizations, and non-state actors		
Oct. 11	How have people responded to globalization? How do individuals adapt?	Arnett "The Psychology of Globalization" <i>The American Psychologist</i> 2002 Starr/Adams, "Anti-Globalization," <i>New Political Science</i> 2003	
Oct. 13	Individual and collective responses in different places	Register for ICONS Nigeria simulation and read background material	Assign ICONS roles/ groups Tracking Globalization essay due
Oct. 18	What impact on nature? What are the human dimensions of global environmental change?	Conca/Dabelko "Introduction," <i>Green Planet Blues</i> 4 th ed. 2010 Najam et al, "Environment and Globalization: Five Propositions" IISD 2007	Guest speaker: Prof. Kellner, Geography Department
Oct. 20	ICONs Simulation Part I: Nigerian Oil Politics	Identify your interests, possible allies, make public statements	ICONs simulation begins

"Tell me what you eat, and I'll tell you who you are."
Brillat-Savarin

Oct. 25	How did food become globalized? What are	Belasco, "How much depends on dinner?" <i>Food Chains</i> 2009 Ch 2	
Part II: Globalization of Food			
		Coclanis, "Back to the Future," <i>SARS Review</i> 1 2003	
Oct. 27	ICONS Simulation Part II: Nigerian Oil Politics	Present and consider proposals, vote, discuss the results	ICONS simulation ends Assign groups and countries for food investigation
Nov. 1	Who wants free trade in agriculture—and who doesn't? How have developing countries blocked developed ones on agriculture?	Grant/ Boys, "On the Road to Doha," <i>Foreign Policy</i> April 2011 Hoda/ Gulati, "WTO Negotiations..." IFPRI Issue Brief 48 June 2008 (optional) ODI, "WTO Doha Round Impasse-Africa," Briefing Paper Sept 2008	
Nov. 3	Developing countries and agricultural trade		
Nov. 8	Globalization: a nutrition revolution? How is population related to access to food? Why is obesity and malnutrition a problem everywhere?	Hawkes, "Uneven Dietary Development," <i>Globalization and Health</i> 2,4 2006 Pinstrup-Andersen, "Globalization and Human Nutrition," <i>African Journal of Food, Agriculture and Nutrition</i> 1,1 2001 Cohen, "Seven Billion," <i>New York Times</i> 2011 (under Information on ELMS)	Guest Speaker: Sangeetha Madhavan, Dept of African-American Studies
Nov. 10	Debating diets: who has responsibility to act?		
Nov. 15	Can we feed the world? How did African countries fall behind? What are trends in population, food prices, and other key factors?	Godfray, et al, "The Challenge of Feeding Nine Billion," <i>Science</i> Feb 2010 Thurow, "The Fertile Continent-Africa" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 2010 Altieri/Toledo, "The agroecological revolution in Latin America" <i>Journal of Peasant Studies</i> July 2011	
Nov. 17	Comparing food systems and agricultural practices		
Nov. 22	Why does famine persist? What is the global response to famine? Are there local solutions?	Dugger, "Ending Famine..." <i>The New York Times</i> Dec 2, 2007 Kenny, "Famine is a Crime," <i>Foreign Policy</i> July 2011 Oakland, "The Status of International Food Aid Negotiations" 2008	
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving break		Eat Well!
Nov. 29	How does globalization affect food culture and practices?	Carroll, "Sushi: Globalization through Food Culture," <i>Journal of East Asian Cultural Interaction</i> v.2 Ritzer, "The McDonaldization Thesis," <i>International Sociology</i> 1996 Mann, "How the Potato Saved the World," <i>Smithsonian</i> 2011 (skim this one)	
Dec 1	Comparing Cuisines		Group Project Due

"Food is our Common Ground, a Universal Experience." James Beard

Dec. 6	What are the links between biodiversity, biotechnology and globalization? How do we evaluate science in social settings?	Esquinas-Alcazar, "Protecting Crop Genetic Diversity," <i>Nature Reviews: Genetics</i> v.6 December 2005 Pickrell, "Introduction: GM Organisms," <i>New Scientist</i> 2006 Ramjoue, "A Review of Regulatory Issues Raised by Genetically Modified Organisms in Agriculture," <i>CAB Reviews</i> 2008	
Dec. 8	The GMO debate		
Dec. 13	What does it mean to talk of just food and the ethics of agriculture?	Hughes, "Conceptualizing Just Food..." <i>Humboldt Journal of Social Relations</i> 2010 Paarlberg, "The Ethics of Modern Agriculture," <i>Soc</i> 2009	Final Exam Review Sheet Book Analysis Due

FINAL EXAM Dec 21 10:30-12:30 in 1120 Susquehanna



Fine Print!

Doing your own Work:

All assignments must be your own work, and when you use ideas and information that someone else put together, you must cite it properly using standard citation formats (Chicago, MLA). I hold you all to high standards of integrity—so don't try to pass off something from the Internet or a friend as your own. It's just not right, and I'll be very disappointed if you try it. Cases of plagiarism or cheating will be referred to the Student Honor Council immediately: <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu>

Tech Use in the Classroom:

Go ahead and use it for notes or to look up something related to the class... but please don't be playing around—texting, checking Facebook, etc. It's distracting to everyone—including me. And please turn off anything that might ring, sing, or otherwise make a noise.

Need Help?

Please let me know immediately if you have any disabilities that I can accommodate. Need help with something? Check out:

McKeldin Library—Reference librarians want to help you! Ask! And check out the website.

Learning Assistance Center—Advice on study skills, 1-credit courses to help you succeed—they have a lot to offer so take advantage!

The Counseling Center—If you are struggling to adjust to college life, or are dealing with personal problems that appear overwhelming, don't hesitate—the Counseling Center staff can help you.

"We cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results."

Herman Melville