Issues of Globalization
Block 1, Fall 2006

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Classroom: 208 Ketner Hall

Course description & goals:

This course will present an introductory examination of the concept of globalization. Within this concept, we will explore a wide variety of views in this important phenomenon that has dominated much of our lives in the 20th and 21st centuries. During the block, several themes will be presented and discussed: what is globalization and globalism? How do academics look at these issues? What are the advantages and disadvantages to globalism and globalization? How do governments interact with the private economic sphere, and how have governments promoted globalization? Why does some of the world seemingly benefit from the effects of globalization, while others do not?

Course texts:

  o NOTE: You should use the “Questions to Consider” below for guidance in reading the chapters from the Steger text. They will help you in discussing the ideas and concepts in class. Readings should be completed by the class date assigned.


Course assignments:

- Mid-term Exam: 30%
  o This exam will based on essay questions; further details will be discussed.

- Daily course reviews: 30% (5% per class)
  o These course reviews will be written at the end of each class (with lecture/discussion) and will summarize/review the material and ideas discussed in class (approximately the last 15-20 minutes of class will be set aside for this exercise). You may focus on one topic in detail that was presented in the course, or give a summary of the topics discussed and presented in class. You should focus your course review on how the ideas/concepts discussed in class help you to further understand the concept of globalization. You may use your class notes to develop this review, which will be no more than a page hand-written and should be organized in a coherent, essay format. No late papers will be accepted. If you know that you’ll be missing a class, it is your responsibility to
submit the course review prior to the end of that class—e-mails are acceptable.

- **Final Exam:** 40%
  - This cumulative exam will be based on essay questions; further details will be discussed. **Students who do not take the final exam will automatically fail the entire course.**

**Course Schedule:**

**Thursday, August 10:** Introductory Discussion on Globalization: A Battle of Ideas
Readings: Steger, Preface & Ch. 1
Begin reading De Soto

*Questions to Consider:*
Throughout the preface and chapter 1, how does Steger describe/define “globalism”? Is it different from “globalization”? What are the differences? Describe how Steger defines and discusses the concept of “ideology.” What is “neoliberalism”? How does neoliberalism fit into globalism? How do neoliberals and neoconservatives agree with one another in their philosophies?

**Monday, August 14:** Politics of Economies and Governments
Readings: Steger, Ch. 2

*Questions to Consider:*
Within Chapter 2, what are the various viewpoints, or conceptual frameworks, when it comes to debating and defining globalization? What are the advantages & disadvantages to each point of view?

**Thursday, August 17:** Global Politics of Economies and Governments: Agony of Reform
Readings: Steger, Ch. 3

*Questions to Consider:*
Define the six claims of globalism, as discussed by Steger. How does Steger evaluate the various claims of globalism?

**Monday, August 21:** Public Opinion, Poverty, and Consumerism in a Global Context: A “Wal-Mart” World?

**Thursday, August 24:** Consumerism and Globalization: A “Wal-Mart” World? (continued); Mid-term
Saturday,  
August 26:  Globalization and Terrorism: The 9-11 Aftermath

Monday,  
August 28:  Global Cultures and National Identities  
Readings: De Soto (all) for discussion

Thursday,  
Readings: Steger, Ch. 4

Questions to Consider:
Compare and contrast the anti-globalism/globalization arguments from the political left and right, as discussed by Steger.

Monday,  
Sept. 4:  NO CLASS—Labor Day

Thursday, 
Sept. 7:  Final Exam 
Readings: Have Steger, Ch. 5 (pages 137-146) and Ch. 6 (all) completed for the final exam.

Bibliography on Globalization:

For some further readings on this topic of globalization, you may want to consider the following books: