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Faculty Syllabi

Fall 2015

POSC 433

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POSC 433: SEMINAR—TOPICS IN GLOBALIZATION

Prof. Ed Fogarty
Fall 2015

Class: Monday 7–9:30pm, 438 Case/Geyer
OH: M 11am-1pm, Tu 10-11am, 137 Persson

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Globalization is a prominent theme among commentators of politics and economics, and yet both its meaning and implications remain at best imprecise. As one scholar has argued, “Globalization is responsible for a lot of bad international relations theory,” and so it’s the job of critical thinkers (i.e., us) to determine what’s good, bad, and ugly in the literature on globalization—and in the phenomenon of globalization itself.

This is a course about the *politics* of globalization—i.e., the implications of market integration, and market failures, for political systems and relations both among and within states. It doesn’t focus on a single theme or perspective; rather, it engages a variety of topics and debates related to globalization in some way, including free market dogma, climate change, economic inequality, and global democracy, just to name a few.

Course format. The course is a seminar, meaning that the focus will be on reading, discussing, and writing about books. Most weeks, we’ll read and evaluate one book, with one or two shorter readings to provide an alternative perspective and a basis for debate.

Course requirements include attending and actively participating in class meetings, reading assigned materials, and completing all class assignments.

Readings. There are 10 books for this course, all available at the bookstore and on two-hour reserve at the library.

Jagdish Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*
Ian Buruma & Avishai Margalit, *Occidentalism*
John Cassidy, *How Markets Fail*
Ha-Joon Chang, *Bad Samaritans*
David Held, *Cosmopolitanism*
Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything*
Charles Murray, *Coming Apart*
Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*
Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*
Michael Sandel, *What Money Can’t Buy*

I expect you to keep up with current events in international political economy. Good mainstream publications include the *Economist*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, and *Washington Post*—all of which you can access online. I will post news articles on Moodle from time to time, and will expect you to have read them before class that week.

Grades will be based on three papers—two short essays and a seminar paper—and class participation. The breakdown:

Essays: 30%

Seminar paper: 40%

Class participation: 30%

The two short essays (6-8 pages each) and seminar paper (20-30 pages) will be tied to course themes. The short essays will analyze two assigned books of your choice. Your seminar paper will be a conceptual, theoretical, and empirical examination of a topic related to the main course themes. Details will follow later in the semester; for now just note the due dates below.

Effective participation involves first and foremost coming to class ready to discuss the readings. You will lead discussion with one or two other students twice over the course of the semester, producing a set of discussion questions around which that week's seminar will revolve.

Note: We have only 14 meetings over the course of the semester, which means that missing class without an iron-clad excuse may have a significant negative effect on your participation grade.

General policies

- Be here on time. Turn off your phone.
- No laptops in class except without explicit permission.
- I don't give extensions on papers or other assignments.
- I have a zero-tolerance policy toward academic dishonesty.

NB: It's YOUR responsibility to properly observe course rules and meet course requirements. If something comes up that hinders your ability to do so, contact me right away. The earlier you deal with things, the kinder I'll be.

* reading available on Moodle

INTRODUCTION

August 27: Globalization: What? How? Why?

We can't discuss globalization without first identifying what it means. This session will lay out the defining characteristics of globalization and related concepts used throughout the course.

- Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*, chapter 1
- Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, introduction, chapters 1, 2

August 31: How we think about globalization

This course aims to strengthen your critical-analytical skills. Starting from your responses to a survey, we will discuss tools to help us think about globalization critically and objectively.

- *James & Steger, "A genealogy of 'globalization': the career of a concept"
- *King, Keohane, & Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry*, pp. 3-36, 43-49, 75-77, 124-137
- *Silver, *The Signal and the Noise*, chapter 2
- *Fourcade et al., "The superiority of economists"

GLOBALIZATION'S FOUNDATIONS AND EXTERNALITIES

September 7: Markets and globalization—theory, reality, and fantasy

Political leaders have largely embraced globalization via two claims of neoclassical economics: that markets are self-governing, and that individuals' self-interested behavior can serve the common good. How accurate are these claims? How often do markets fail? What is or should be the role of the state or international institutions in correcting market failure?

- Cassidy, *How Markets Fail*, introduction (skim), chapters 2–3, 4 (pp. 53–56 only), 6, 9–11, 12 (pp. 163–165 only), 13–15, conclusion
- Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*, chapter 13
- Recommended: Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, chapters 3, 5, 6

September 14: Globalization and the global commons

Critics of globalization often emphasize one particular type of market failure—the negative impact of economic activity on the environment. Specifically, they suggest that self-interested economic activity creates a “tragedy of the commons,” perhaps most seriously in climate change. Is globalization to blame for this tragedy? Can it be part of the solution?

- Klein, *This Changes Everything*, introduction, chapters 1-5
- Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*, chapter 11

September 21 & 28: Inequality: How global capitalism produces it

*Thomas Piketty, a French economist, created a sensation in 2014 with his *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. While the title echoes Marx's *Capital*, Piketty is not predicting capitalism's collapse or advocating revolution; he clearly and exhaustively explains why capitalism produces socioeconomic inequality. How extensively does Piketty's work undermine the intellectual and moral foundations of “neoliberal” globalization?*

Sept. 21

- Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, introduction, parts 1 & 2 (chapters 1-6)

Sept. 28

- Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, part 3 (chapters 7-12)
- Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*, chapter 10

October 5: Global capitalism and inequality in the United States

One implication of globalization has been an increase in socioeconomic inequality in the United States. Many commentators and social activists have highlighted the growing divides between “Wall Street and Main Street,” or between “the 1% and the 99%.” Moving beyond the bumper sticker slogans, what does inequality actually look like in the United States? Are we, as Charles Murray suggests, “coming apart”?

- Murray, *Coming Apart*, prologue, chapters 1-14
- *Hytrek, “From Ford to Gates”

SEMINAR PAPER PROPOSAL DUE FRIDAY, OCT. 9 AT 5PM (EMAIL)

October 12: fall break—no class

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR GLOBALIZATION'S EXTERNALITIES

October 19: Technological solutions to global problems?

Technological change of various types is a key driver of globalization. Can the emergence of new technologies—especially information and communications technologies—solve problems presented by globalization's externalities? Or is the disruptive capacity of technological change simply going to make things worse?

- Klein, *This Changes Everything*, chapters 7-8
- *Brynjolfsson & McAfee, "Will humans go the way of horses?"
- *Wolf, "Same as it ever was"
- *Mason, "The end of capitalism has begun"
- *news articles on Moodle

October 26: Cosmopolitanism and the formation of a global community?

Globalization and technological change make it easier for people from disparate groups to connect, and perhaps to generate new common understandings about how to address globalization's externalities. In other words, perhaps they could promote the emergence of a true "global community." This week we consider whether a new cosmopolitan ethic could supersede "particularist" loyalties and conflicts and thus pave the way to global collective action.

- Held, *Cosmopolitanism*, introduction, chapters 1-3, 5-6
- *Barber, "Jihad v. McWorld"

November 2: Globalization, global governance, and...world government?

Globalization implies an increase in scale, from national to global, of both economic activity and the externalities thereof. Are existing international institutions up to the task of effective global governance? Does globalization imply the need for a world government? What are the implications for democracy of increases in authority for global institutions?

- Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, chapters 4, 9, 10
- *Weiss, "What ever happened to the idea of world government?"
- *Koenig-Archibugi, "Is global democracy possible?"
- Piketty, *Capitalism in the Twenty-First Century*, chapter 15
- Held, *Cosmopolitanism*, chapter 7

SEMINAR PAPER OUTLINE (PT. 1) DUE FRIDAY, NOV. 6 AT 5PM (EMAIL)

GLOBALIZATION AND ITS CRITICS

November 9: The critique of neoliberal development

The free-market prescriptions we tend to associate with globalization—free trade, privatization, deregulation, etc.—are generally associated with the West and the international financial institutions (the IMF and World Bank). How appropriate are these prescriptions for developing countries? Have Western countries always followed their own advice?

- Chang, *Bad Samaritans*, chapters 1-5, 7
- Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*, chapter 18
- Recommended: Rodrik, chapters 7 & 8

November 16: The critique of Western modernity

Globalization as we know it is primarily modern and Western in origin, and thus not culturally neutral. Not everyone responds positively to the influx of modern and Western ideas. Where do anti-Western ideologies come from, and how do their proponents view the West?

- Buruma and Margalit, *Occidentalism*, all
- *Citrin, “Globalization and Western political culture”

SEMINAR PAPER OUTLINE (PT. 2) DUE FRIDAY, NOV. 20 AT 5PM (EMAIL)

November 23: Thanksgiving break—no class

November 30: The ethics critique of markets

We inhabit a world in which social relations are increasingly mediated by markets. This raises significant philosophical questions: Are market rules consistent with longstanding moral and ethical norms? What is the proper balance between an efficient society and a moral community?

- Sandel, *What Money Can't Buy*, all
- *Milton Friedman, YouTube clips

SEMINAR PAPER DRAFT DUE FRIDAY, DEC. 4 AT 5PM (EMAIL)

CONCLUSIONS

December 7: Globalization and the future

What does the future hold for globalization and the world order that produced it—and for us?

- Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, conclusion
- Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*, chapter 19

SEMINAR PAPER DUE FRIDAY, DEC. 11 (HARD COPY AT MY OFFICE OR MAILBOX)