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Faculty Syllabi

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Fall 2018

# POSC 433

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## POSC 433: SEMINAR—TOPICS IN GLOBALIZATION

Prof. Ed Fogarty  
Fall 2018

Class: Tuesdays 7–9:30pm, 415 Case/Geyer  
OH: Mon. & Tue. 4–5pm, Wed 11am–1pm, 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 claimed, “Globalization is responsible for a lot of bad international relations theory.” So it’s the job of critical thinkers (i.e., us) to determine what’s good, bad, and ugly in the literature on—and reality of—globalization.

This is a course about the *politics* of globalization—i.e., the political drivers and the political consequences of international economic integration. 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 technological change, free market dogma, climate change, economic inequality, populism, and global democracy, just to name a few. The central goal of the course is to develop our capacity to think critically about both globalization itself and the arguments of those who write about globalization.

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 11 books for this course, all available at the bookstore and on two-hour reserve at the library.

Richard Baldwin, *The Great Convergence*  
John Cassidy, *How Markets Fail*  
David Held, *Cosmopolitanism*  
John Judis, *The Populist Explosion*  
Stephen D. King, *Grave New World*  
Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything*  
Branko Milanovic, *Global Inequality*  
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. Reliable, high-quality sources of reporting on globalization include the BBC, NPR, *Economist*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *New York Times*—all of which you can access online. I will post news articles on Moodle each week, 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:

Short essays (x2): 30%

Seminar paper: 40%

Class participation: 30%

The two short essays (6-8 pages each) and seminar paper (20-25 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 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 30: Globalization: What? How? Why?

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

- Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, introduction, chapters 1, 2
- King, *Grave New World*, introduction

September 4: 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.*

- \*Silver, *The Signal and the Noise*, chapter 2
- \*Kahneman, *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, selection
- \*King, Keohane, & Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry*, pp. 3-36, 43-49, 75-77, 124-137

## GLOBALIZATION'S TECHNOLOGICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL DRIVERS

September 11: Technological change and globalization

*While it's essential to understand globalization and technological change as distinct phenomena, they are nevertheless closely linked. In what ways does technological change drive forward globalization in ways that are "inevitable"—i.e., essentially outside the realm of political choice? How are technological drivers reshaping countries' positions in the global economy?*

- Baldwin, *The Great Convergence*, introduction, chapters 1–7 (skim ch. 1-3, 6)
- King, *Grave New World*, chapter 9

September 18: Markets and globalization—theory, reality, and fantasy

*Most governments have broadly accepted 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. 49–56 only), 6, 9–11, 12 (pp. 163–165 only), 13–15, conclusion
- Recommended: Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, chapters 5, 6

## GLOBALIZATION'S NEGATIVE EXTERNALITIES

September 25: Globalization and the global commons

*Globalization's critics identify environmental degradation as a major market failure, claiming that self-interested economic activity creates a "tragedy of the commons," 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
- \*America's Pledge, "Phase 1 report," pp. 9-10, 50-60, 87-88 (skim the rest)

SEMINAR PAPER: PROPOSAL DUE FRIDAY, SEPT. 29 AT 5PM

October 2: Inequality in a global economy

*One of the most striking phenomena of the current era of globalization is rising economic inequality. To what extent is inequality rising simultaneously within and among countries? What role does globalization play in generating this inequality?*

- Milanovic, *Global Inequality*, introduction, chapters 1–4

October 9: fall break—no class

October 16 & 23: Inequality: How global capitalism produces it

*While the title of his book echoes Marx's Capital, Thomas 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?*

Oct. 16

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

SP: LITERATURE REVIEW OUTLINE DUE FRIDAY, OCT. 19 AT 5PM

Oct. 23

- Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, part 3 (chapters 7-12)

October 30: Global capitalism and sociocultural divergence in the United States

*Globalization has exacerbated socioeconomic inequality in the United States. Many commentators and social activists have highlighted the growing divides between the “winners” and “losers” of globalization—divides that are not only economic but social and cultural. Are we, as Charles Murray suggests, “coming apart”?*

- Murray, *Coming Apart*, prologue, chapters 1-14

SP: METHODOLOGY STATEMENT DUE FRIDAY, NOV. 3 AT 5PM

## **POPULISM V. GLOBALISM: THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY POLITICAL DIVIDE?**

November 6: The populist reaction to globalization and globalism

*The year 2016 featured two political earthquakes in the Western world: Brexit and the election of Donald Trump. What connects these events is not only that they involved the free exercise of democratic choice, but that they appear to reflect a popular repudiation of both international economic integration and the political-economic elites that have embraced it. Where did this populist reaction come from, and how enduring is it likely to be?*

- Judis, *The Populist Explosion*, all
- King, *Grave New World*, chapter 6
- Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, chapter 3

November 13: Cosmopolitanism and the formation of a global community?

*Globalization and technological change make it easier for geographically disparate people to connect, and perhaps to generate new common understandings about governing shared spaces. In other words, perhaps they could promote the emergence of a true “global community.” Is cosmopolitanism a viable response to populist particularism? Is the United States a model cosmopolitan society, and if so is it a successful model?*

- Held, *Cosmopolitanism*, introduction, chapters 1-3, 5, 6
- King, *Grave New World*, chapter 7

SP: EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS SAMPLE DUE FRIDAY, NOV. 16 AT 5PM

November 20: Thanksgiving break—no class

November 27: 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
- \*Koenig-Archibugi, “Is global democracy possible?”
- \*Zürn, “The politicization of world politics and its effects”
- Held, *Cosmopolitanism*, chapter 7

## CONCLUSIONS

December 4: 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

SP: FULL DRAFT DUE FRIDAY, DEC. 7 AT 5PM (PEER REVIEW)

December 11: Globalization and the future

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

- King, *Grave New World*, chapter 11
- Milanovic, *Global Inequality*, chapter 5
- Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, chapters 11, 12

SP: FINAL DRAFT DUE SUNDAY, DEC. 16 AT 5PM