

GEOG 1200: Global Societies
Spring 2016
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12.30-1.50
Venue: BLB 090

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Preamble: GEOG 1200, Global Societies is an introductory human geography course offered by the Department of Geography, University of North Texas at Denton. The purpose is to explore the geographical dimensions of important global processes that impacts different regions of the world. We are interested in understanding how these processes emerged, how they are transformed in the contemporary world, and how they interact with different communities, places, and nations producing a global society. This course satisfies the cross-cultural, diversity and Global Studies requirement of the University Core Curriculum. The global society is big and complex, yet it is possible to have a reasonable understanding of what is happening and why. Some of the major processes under study would include: the emergence of modernism and industrial society, early development of capitalism and its maturity, the rise of colonialism and imperialism, resistance to colonization and the post-colonial globalization, politics of free trade and neoliberalism, violence and conflict in a global world, and finally, the geopolitics of war and occupation. The overarching processes have had tremendous socio-economic and geographical impact on the world and we will use different theories like, Adam Smith's "invisible hand," Marx's "mode of production," Hegel's "dialectics," and more recently "Clash of Civilization," "War on Terror," "Network Society," "MacDonaldization," and "Time-Space Compression" to understand how they operate. In that context, the class takes an issue-based approach to global problems and processes.

Objectives: To provide you with conceptual tools, which will enable you to not only understand, analyze, and explain international affairs, past and contemporary global events, economic cultural and political issues for academic purposes, but also to enable you to use these concepts in 'real' life so that you develop critical skills to comprehend, and articulate reality more comprehensively.

To encourage you to think critically; think critically means to delve really deep beneath appearances, superficiality, and manifestations to understand the mechanisms, the nuts and bolts, and the hidden power structures guiding events and phenomena.

To introduce you to the World of Geography, and demonstrate the use of spatial perspectives (like territory, resources, raw material) in understanding and explaining global and local events.

Outcomes: A student of this class upon having completed the course will be proficient in analyzing international economic and political policy decisions.

Students will be capable of understanding why and how global and local cultures get reformulated with globalization, and how this can produce violent realities.

Students will become familiar with the structure and role of national and international organizations that impact global societies.

Students will become familiar with the role played by U.S, G8 nations in structuring trade, capital, financial, war and conflict negotiations, and the impact of these on the Global South;

Students will develop analytical tools to analyze the geographical and non-geographical impetuses behind, and the outcomes of, contemporary international affairs.

Text and Readings: There is no required textbook for this class. All readings are to be found on BLACKBOARD (learn.unt.edu) – go to the course website (GEOG 1200: Global Societies) and then click on “course contents” on the left to access the readings arranged by folders labeled by topic numbers that correspond to this syllabus (see topic numbers and topic titles under schedule on page 4).

Important dates:

Exam 1: 2/11

Exam 2: 3/10

Paper due: 4/12

Exam 3: 5/5

Course Requirements:

Attendance and participation- attendance in class lectures is mandatory. The class lecture is your most important source of information after your readings. Class lectures will simplify, condense, and clarify the contents of your readings. Lectures will expand upon the readings, and will also include material not contained in the readings. You will need to attend lectures and **take careful notes** in order to succeed in the class. We will take attendance frequently. We will initiate class discussions based on movies and reading materials in which your participation is expected and will be noted. A total of **5 points** can be accumulated for full to near full attendance.

Readings - You are required to come to class having read all the material that is listed for that topic under class schedule. You need not be done with all the readings on the first day a topic is being taught, however, you must be done with all the readings by the last day assigned for a particular.

Writing assignment- (1 paper, maximum 3 pages, 20 points) – 1 short paper will be assigned during the semester. The instructor will discuss the topic and lay out her expectations in class when she assigns the paper in class. The topic of the short paper is noted under the schedule below. You will have one week to work on it before it is due at the beginning of class on the assigned day. You are encouraged to seek the TAs and/or the instructor’s editing expertise before submission. You will do better if you meet us during office hours to show us your drafts before final submission. We will collect the paper in the **first 5 minutes** of the class, submission in class after the first 5 minutes have elapsed counts as late submission and 3 points will be deducted for it. No paper will be accepted after class. **Assignments will have to be handed in hard copy; email attachments will not be accepted.** If you anticipate that you cannot be present on the day an assignment is due either due to an official religious holiday, job interview, doctor’s appointment, you have the option of submitting it to the instructor ahead of time. The deadline for this assignment must be strictly followed, an exception will only be made in case of an official written document of a death in the family, personal medical emergency, or if your traveling because of academic reasons, or are part of the university sports team. Over-sleeping, alarm failing to go-off, computer crashing and printer not working, car breaking down, leaving for vacation are not acceptable excuses for late submission.

The purpose of the assignment is to provide concise summaries followed by your own perspectives and critical evaluations (specific details in the schedule below). A good answer is one, which can demonstrate that you have read your material, and that you have thought a good deal about the topic. Bibliography/work cited should be included (even if web sources are used you must cite them) and can exist outside the 2-page limit. References in the bibliographies should correspond to inside the text citation, for example, if you are using an idea from the author named Adam Smith, please incorporate (Smith, 2004) in the text, at the end of your last sentence paraphrasing that idea, where 2004 is the year of publication of the article or book written by Adam Smith. When you quote directly, the sentences must be quoted verbatim enclosed within quotation marks, and at the end of the quoted sentence, before you put the period mark you must also site the page numbers, for e.g. (Smith, 2000, pp75-76). These in-text citations should then be elaborated in the bibliography with the name of the article, publisher, etc., you can follow the APA or any other style manual. Wikipedia is not an acceptable reference for this class and should not be cited. While sharing reading materials, and discussing informally in groups are encouraged, copying each others assignments will not be accepted, and if discovered will result

in loss of grades. Materials and ideas lifted without appropriate citation constitutes acts of plagiarism and if discovered could result in an “F” grade (See “academic integrity” under class policy below).

Formatting assignments-The 3-page paper should be in 11.5 to 12 point font size: Times New Roman, with at least 0.5 inch margin on each side, and not less than 1.5 line spacing.

Examinations- (total of 3, Exam 1=25 points, Exam 2= 25 points, Exam 3=25 points) – There will be three exams in the semester (Exam 1 and Exam 2, the dates are specified in the schedule). The examinations will be held within the class lecture time. The exams will include either short answer questions, or multiple-choice questions, or any combination of these. Exams will be based on the class lectures, readings and films shown. There will be no cumulative exam. Students cannot re-take exams. An exam review will be conducted in class before the exam day. There is no extra-credit policy. **Please note that exam 3 is on the last day of classes, there will be no final exam in the finals week.**

Make up exam policy- Make-up exams will only be allowed in case of an official written document of a death in the family, personal medical emergency, religious holiday, or if you are part of a sports or academic team representing the university and will be out of town on that day for an university event. In that case, please contact the TA and schedule a make-up within one week of the original exam-day on a date and time that is convenient for your TA. Make-up exams may be significantly different and harder than the original exams.

If you anticipate a schedule conflict with any of the exam dates due to personal reasons beyond religious holidays, sickness/death, university representation, DO NOT TAKE THIS COURSE.

Grade-

The course grade will be based on the following components: Three exams, one paper,

Exam 1, Exam 2 and Exam 3 = 25 points each (total: 75 points)

One 2 page paper = 20 points

Attendance = 5 points

Total= 100 points

Bargaining for higher grades and requesting that you be bumped up if in the borderline is not acceptable, the instructor will under all circumstances follow the following grading scale strictly:

A	85 to 100 points
B	75 to <85 points
C	65 to <75 points
D	55 to <65 points
F	< 55 points

Contacting and Office hours – You should first contact your TA for any problem that you may have either by visiting him/her during his/her office hours or over email or by appointment. If the TA cannot solve your problem, feel free to contact me. The best way to contact me is to meet me in my office hours, or email me. My email address is listed on the front page of this syllabus, and can also be found on the “Blackboard” course management website. I will try to answer your emails as soon as possible. Emails should not be used to ask the instructor for elaborate explanation of concepts or find out what you missed when you were absent—you should use the office hours for those purposes. You are strongly encouraged to meet me to clarify concepts, seek editing help for assignments, clear doubts; I am interested in discussing and reviewing materials with you, so utilize the office hours to your advantage, I am here for you. The office hours will begin from the second week of classes and will continue until the last week of classes.

Cell Phone-Please switch off cell phones during the duration of the class.

Academic integrity-Academic dishonesty includes cheating during exams, copying assignments from each other, or using materials from other published sources and claiming them as your own without appropriate citation (plagiarism). Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and if discovered will result in loss of grade, or even an “F”.

Disability Accommodation-

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a

private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Schedule: Spring 2016

All readings are available on blackboard

1/19

Introduction to the course

1/21

Topic 1: The Modern World-modernity and the industrial global society

Readings:

- **Russel, B.** Rise of Modern Philosophy (**pages 170-175**) in *Wisdom of the West*. Doubleday Company Inc, New York.
- **Russel, B.** Enlightenment and Romanticism (**pages 230-235**) in *Wisdom of the West*. Doubleday Company Inc, New York.

1/26

Topic 2: Emergence of industrial capitalism-Max Weber

Readings:

- **Weber, M.** 1992. Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism, excerpts from *The Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Routledge, New York.
- **Peet, R.** 1997. Cultural Production of Economic Forms. In Lee R and Wills J (eds.) *Geographies of Economics*, Arnold, London, pp. 37-46 (**Start from page 40 sub-heading: “Protestant Ethic” till the end**)
- **Peet, R.** 2000. Culture, Imaginary and Rationality in regional economic development. *Environment and Planning A*, vol. 32, pp1215-1234 (**start from page 1222 “Weberian Rationality” till the end**).

1/28, 2/2

Topic 3: Capitalism and global society–Adam Smith and David Ricardo

Readings:

- **Peet, R. and Hartwick, E.** 1999. Classical Economics (**pages 23-29**) in *Theories of Development*, Guilford press, New York.
- **Peet, R.** 2007. Deconstructing Free Trade from Epistemic communities to ideological communities in struggle. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* NS32, pp576-80.
- **Smith, A.** excerpts from *Wealth on Nations*

2/4

Topic 4: Critique of global society under capitalism–Hegel and Marx

Readings:

- **Russel, B.** *Wisdom of the West*, read entry on Hegel (**pages 246-249**). Doubleday Company Inc, New York.
- **Russel, B.** *Wisdom of the West*, read entry on Marx (**pages 270-273**). Doubleday Company Inc, New York.
- **Marx, K.** *The Communist Manifesto*, **Chapter 1**, available at: <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ch01.htm>

- **Wolf, E.** 1982. Modes of Production (**Chapter 3, pages 73-100**) in *European People without History*. University of California Press, London

2/9 Review for Exam 1

2/11 Examination 1

2/16

Topic 4: Critique of global society under capitalism–Hegel and Marx (continued..)

2/18, 2/23

Topic 5: Colonization, Imperialism, Dependency, and the World system

Readings:

- **Peet, R. and Hartwick, E.** 1999. Marxist and Neo Marxist theories of development (**pages 105-113**) in *Theories of Development*, Guilford press, London.

2/25, 3/1, 3/3

Topic 6: Managed capitalism and a mass consuming global society– Keynesianism and Fordism

Readings:

- **Peet, R. et al.** 2003. Chapter 1 in *Unholy Trinity: the IMF, World Bank and WTO* (**pages 204-205**) Zed Books, London.

Peet, R. and Hartwick, E. 1999. Fordism in *Theories of Development* (**pages 115-118**) in *Theories of Development*, Guilford press, New York.

3/8 Review for Exam 2

3/10 Examination 2

3/15 and 3/17 Spring Break: No classes

3/22, 3/24, 4/5

Topic 7: Wal-Martization of global society-Neoliberalism and post-Fordism

Readings:

- **Peet, R. et al.** 2003 Washington-Wall street Alliance in *Unholy Trinity: the IMF, World Bank and WTO* (**pages 204-205**) Zed Books, London.
- **Peet, R. et al** 2004. Bretton Woods, IMF, WB. In Forsyth, T (eds.) *Encyclopedia of International Development*, Routledge, UK.
- **Harvey, D.** 1989 Theorizing the Transition, (**pages 173-188**). In *The Conditions of Postmodernity*, Blackwell, Cambridge, MA.
- **Chatterjee, I.** Notes on Fordism and Post Fordist flexible accumulation

3/29 and 3/31- Geography conference, no classes

April 5: 3 Page paper assigned, due on April 12

Topic: Describe in details the main tenets of Fordism to explain how mass production and mass consumption became the American way of life. What is hegemony and how is Fordism a form of hegemonic control?

4/7, 4/12, 4/14

Topic 8: Globalization

Readings:

- **Castells, M.** 2001. The Network Society. In: Held, D McGrew A (eds.) *The Global Transformations Reader*. Polity Press, Cambridge, pp. 76–81.

- **Harvey, D.** 2001. Time-space compression and the postmodern condition. In Held D and McGrew A (eds.) *The Global Transformations Reader* Polity Press, Cambridge pp. 82–91.
- **Appadurai, A.** 1990. Disjuncture and difference in the global cultural economy. *Theory, Culture, Society*, vol.7, 295-310.
- **Ritzer, G. Malone, E.** (2000) Globalization Theory: Lessons from the exportation of McDonaldization and the new means of consumption. *American Studies* 41 2/3, Summer-Fall, 97-118

4/12: 3-page paper due at the beginning of class.

4/19

Topic 9: Global society and conflict

Readings:

- **Huntington, S. P.** 2000. The clash of civilizations? In O’Meara P, Mehlinger H D and Krain M (eds.) *Globalization and the Challenges of a New Century* Indiana University, Bloomington, pp 3–23.
- **Barber, B.** 1992. Jihad Vs Mc World, *Atlantic Monthly*, March, pp. 53-65

4/21

Topic 10: War on Terror and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict

Readings:

- **Benin, J and Hajjar, L.** *Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Middle Research and Information Project, available at [www. MERIP.org](http://www.MERIP.org)
- **Gregory, D.,** 2004. Palestine and the “War on Terror”. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 24, 183–195.

4/26, 4/28

Topic 10 continued

5/3 Review for Exam 3

5/5 Examination 3