

# SOSC 2290: Understanding Globalization

Dong Zhang

Spring Semester, 2024

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Office Hours: Thursday 13:30–14:30

Class Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 15:00–16:20

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Course Website: accessed via canvas

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## Course Overview

We live in a deeply integrated and interdependent world. Globalization has boosted the growth of the world economy and raised living standards in many parts of the world. We are also facing great challenges and risks arising from globalization. What are the driving forces behind globalization, and to what extent does it shape the global economic and political order? This course is devoted to understanding the cross-border movement of goods, capital, production, and people from political and economic perspectives. It intends to expose students to the major debates on globalization and equip students analyze the causes and consequences of globalization.

## Enrolment Requirement

No prerequisite coursework is required.

## Course Objectives

- Understand the basic concepts and major theoretical debates concerning globalization;
- Recognize and critically evaluate conflicting perspectives;
- Discuss various critical global issues currently under debate.

## Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the aim is that students will have improved the ability to:

- Use key concepts and theoretical frameworks to enhance understanding of globalization;
- Apply critical thinking and analytical writing skills to examine global affairs;
- Assess the validity of existing arguments based on empirical evidence;
- Develop a logical argument or theory that can be evaluated using evidence.

## Teaching and Learning Activities

This course consists of lectures, classroom discussion, research, and writing.

## Assessment of Learning Outcomes

- **Participation (25%):** Students are required to submit ONE or TWO discussion questions regarding the weekly assigned reading via Canvas each week (usually due on Wednesday before the second lecture on a topic). To secure a good participation grade, students are encouraged to make thoughtful contributions to classroom discussion. Class attendance will not be recorded, but students are expected to participate in TEN randomly scheduled polls or quizzes throughout the course.
- **Group Presentation (20%):** In groups of three to four, students will present their analysis and discussion of a current news article, examining it through the lens of globalization. Each group is expected to select a recent news piece and apply social science theories and concepts to explore its broader implications from a global perspective.
- **Documentary Film Review (25%):** This assignment prompts you to: 1) Critically analyze the central themes and concepts related to globalization that are presented in the film, assessing to what extent the film effectively conveys its message about globalization; 2) Reflect on the insights and new perspectives you have gained from watching the film, and explain how they have shaped your understanding of globalization. The review should be approximately 6 to 8 pages (Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced). This assignment will be due on **Thursday, May 2, at noon**. ANY late submission will be penalized by one letter grade per day (i.e., an A becomes an A-).
- **Final Exam (30%):** The final exam will cover all the course materials in the semester (the lectures and required readings). Further details of expectations will be given in April. Note that no make-up exam will be granted with the exception of officially documented illness (in this case, a doctor's note stating you are ill do not suffice) or family crisis. All make-up exams consist of **long essay questions** and **an oral session**.

## Course Materials

There are no required books for this course. All readings will be made available in electronic form through the course website.

## Course Schedule and Reading List

### Introduction to the Course: Requirements, Objectives, and Scope

Thursday, February 1

There is no required reading for this lecture.

### Topic 1: History of Globalization

Tuesday, February 6 & Thursday, February 8 & Thursday, February 15

- Keohane, Robert and Joseph Nye, "Globalization: What's New What's Not? (And so What?)," *Foreign Policy* 118, (Spring) 2000: 104–118.

*Recommended:*

- Jeffrey Frieden, *Global Capitalism: Its Fall and Rise in the Twentieth Century* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2007).
- Kevin O'Rourke and Ronald Findla, *Power and Plenty: Trade, War, and the World Economy in the Second Millennium* (Princeton University Press, 2007).
- Jeffrey Sachs, *The Ages of Globalization: Geography, Technology, and Institutions* (Columbia University Press, 2020).

Tuesday, February 20 & Thursday, February 22

- Watching a documentary

### Topic 2: Multinational Corporations and Global Supply Chains

Tuesday, February 27 & Thursday, February 29

- Momoko Kawakami, "Competition and Collaboration among East Asian Firms in the Smartphone Supply Chains," in Etel Solingen, ed., *Geopolitics, Supply Chains, and International Relations in East Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2021): Chapter 5.

*Recommended:*

- Daniel W. Drezner, "The Outsourcing Bogeyman," *Foreign Affairs* 83, (May/June) 2004: 22–34.

- Shah M. Tarzi, "Third World Governments and Multinational Corporations: Dynamics of Host Bargaining Power," *International Relations* 10, (3) 1991: 237–249.
- Suzanne Berger, *How We Compete: What Companies Around the World Are Doing to Make It in Today's Global Economy* (Doubleday, 2005).

### **Topic 3: International Trade**

*Tuesday, March 5 & Thursday, March 7*

- Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox: Why Global Markets, States, and Democracy Can't Co-exist* (Oxford University Press, 2012).
  - Chapter 3

*Recommended:*

- Kimberly Clausing, *Open: The Progressive Case For Free Trade, Immigration and Global Capital* (Harvard University Press, 2019).
  - Chapter 4
- Robert Lighthizer, "How to Make Trade Work for Workers," *Foreign Affairs*, (July / August) 2020.
- Chad P. Bown, "There is Little Dignity in Trump's Trade Policy," *Foreign Affairs*, (July 9) 2020.

### **Topic 4: International Migration**

*Tuesday, March 12 & Thursday, March 14*

- Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, *Cultural Backlash: Trump, Brexit, and Authoritarian Populism* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).
  - Chapter 6

*Recommended:*

- Timothy J. Hatton and Jeffrey G. Williamson, *Global Migration and the World Economy: Two Centuries of Policy and Performance* (The MIT Press, 2005).
- Margaret E. Peters, *Trading Barriers: Immigration, and the Remaking of Globalization* (Princeton University Press, 2017).
- Kimberly Clausing, *Open: The Progressive Case for Free Trade, Immigration and Global Capital* (Harvard University Press, 2019).

- Chapter 8

## **Topic 5: International Development**

### **Part I: Prosperity and Poverty**

*Tuesday, March 19 & Thursday, March 21 & Tuesday, March 26*

- Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (Crown Publishing Group, 2012).
  - Read pages 46–87

*Recommended:*

- William Easterly, *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics* (The MIT Press, 2002).
- Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* (W.W. Norton & Co., 1997).
- Douglass North, *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance* (Cambridge University Press, 1990).

**\*\*\*\*\* Mid-Term Break: March 28– April 5 \*\*\*\*\***

### **Part II Globalization and Economic Inequality**

*Tuesday, April 9 & Thursday, April 11*

- Francois Bourguignon, *The Globalization of Inequality* (Princeton University Press 2015).
  - Chapter 3

*Recommended:*

- Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* (Harvard University Press, 2014).
- Branko Milanovic, *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization* (Harvard University Press, 2016).
- Olivier Blanchard and Dani Rodrik, eds, *Combating Inequality: Rethinking Government's Role* (The MIT Press, 2021).

**Topic 6: Globalization and Peace**

Tuesday, April 16 & Thursday, April 18

- Erik Gartzke and Yonatan Lupu, "Trading on Preconceptions: Why World War I Was Not a Failure of Economic Interdependence," *International Security* 36, (4) 2012: 115–150.

*Recommended:*

- Erik Gartzke, "The Capitalist Peace," *American Journal of Political Science* 51, (1) 2007: 166–91.
- Dale Copeland, *Economic Interdependence and War* (Princeton University Press, 2014).
- Stephen G. Brooks, "Economic Actors' Lobbying Influence on the Prospects for War and Peace," *International Organization* 66, (4) 2013: 863–88.

**Topic 7: Globalization and Democracy**

Tuesday, April 23 & Thursday, April 25

- J. Lawrence Broz, Jeffrey Frieden, and Stephen Weymouth, "Populism in Place: The Economic Geography of the Globalization Backlash," *International Organization* 75, (S2) 2021: 464–494.

*Recommended:*

- Sheri Berman, "The Causes of Populism in the West," *Annual Review of Political Science* 24, 2021: 71–88.
- Italo Colantone and Piero Stanig, "The Surge of Economic Nationalism in Western Europe," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 33, (4) 2019: 128–151.
- Dani Rodrik, "Why Does Globalization Fuel Populism? Economics, Culture, and the Rise of Right-Wing Populism," *Annual Review of Economics* 13, 2021: 133–170.

**Topic 8: Globalization and the Coronavirus Pandemic**

Tuesday, April 30 & Thursday, May 2

- David Stasavage, "Democracy, Autocracy, and Emergency Threats: Lessons for COVID-19 From the Last Thousand Years," *International Organization* 74, (S1) 2020: E1–E17.

*Recommended:*

- Kathleen R. McNamara and Abraham L. Newman, "The Big Reveal: COVID-19 and Globalization's Great Transformations," *International Organization* 74, (S1) 2020: E59–E77.

- Tana Johnson, “Ordinary Patterns in an Extraordinary Crisis: How International Relations Makes Sense of the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *International Organization* 74, (S1) 2020: E148–E168.
- Francis Fukuyama, “The Pandemic and Political Order,” *Foreign Affairs* 99, (July/August) 2020: 26–32.

**In-Class Debate**

*Tuesday, May 7*

Topic: TBD

**Review Session**

*Thursday, May 9*