

# SOSC1000F Globalization in Everyday Life

2021 Fall Semester

Tuesday and Thursday 16:30 – 17:50, Lecture Theater D (216)

**Instructor:** Professor Wanjing (Kelly) Chen ([wkchen@ust.hk](mailto:wkchen@ust.hk)), Academic Building 3350

**Office Hour:** Tuesday 13:00 to 14:00, or by appointment

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## Objectives

Since the turn of 1980, governments across the world have been pervasively influenced by neoliberal ideology in their policy makings. The trend brought about an institutional shift towards free market and deregulation, which altered the way by which global economy is organized and integrated. Its impacts are encompassing. Many of the conditions and challenges that implicate our mundane lives today are produced by processes encapsulated in neoliberal globalization. It for instance, holds the key to questions like why Gen Z might have to work for life without a prospect of pension-funded retirement, why the occurrence of contingent events like pandemic, climate disaster, and financial crisis become more frequent, and why we increasingly define and express ourselves by what we consume.

This course is designed for students who are interested to explore how they are both the product and perpetuator of the neoliberal global project on a personal level. It begins by introducing the causes and processes that gave rise to the hegemony of free market ideology over the past four decades, then unveils its complicated ramifications through the lens of trade, migration, technology, and environment. By addressing the uneven and polarizing outcomes of globalization through potent contemporary events across different world regions, the course also provides students with cross-cultural knowledge and prepare them to be a responsible global citizen.

## Course Requirements

	OR		
Attendance and Participation	20%	Attendance and Participation	20%
Mid-term Exam	40%	Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam	40%	Final Exam	20%
		Term Paper	40%

### *Attendance and Participation*

To promote a lively learning environment in the classroom, students are expected to attend all lectures and participate in in-class discussions and group activities. At the same time, be mindful

to maintain proper discipline and behave in a responsible manner in class. Attendance will be taken for every class. Missing lecture without legitimate reasons will cost 0.5-point deduction in the final grade each time.

### *Exams*

Students will be evaluated by two exams in this course. The mid-term exam covers materials from Module 1-2, and the final exam covers materials from Module 3-5. Exams will be comprised by multiple-choice questions only.

### *Term Paper*

Students will have the option to write a term paper (10-page, double space, Time New Roman font 12, excluding bibliography) either by themselves or in a collaborative group of two for this class. The paper needs to apply concepts and ideas from the course materials to analyze any chosen events, conditions, and aspects of globalization. Those who opt to take up the term paper assignment must make the decision and run their tentative topics with the instructor before the October 19<sup>th</sup>. The term paper is due on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### **Course Policies & Etiquette**

1. No Make-up exam will be granted. Only exception: officially documented surgical procedure or emergency room visit. (A visit to a doctor/Student Health Center because you feel sick is not enough.)
2. Cheating and plagiarism are strictly forbidden. You can find the university's regulations on cheating and plagiarism from the following website: <http://tl.ust.hk/integrity/student-1.html>.

### **Syllabus**

<b>Module 1 Introducing Globalization</b>	
Week 1 September 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Thu	1. Introduction to the Course
Week 2 September 7 <sup>th</sup> , Tue September 9 <sup>th</sup> , Thu	2. Defining Globalization Reading: <i>Globalization: A Very Short Introduction</i> Chapter I and II.
	3. The Neoliberal Turn I Reading: <i>Globalization: A Very Short Introduction</i> Chapter III.
Week 3 September 14 <sup>th</sup> , Tue September 16 <sup>th</sup> , Thu	4. The Neoliberal Turn II Reading: <i>Neoliberalism: A Very Short Introduction</i> Chapter I.
	5. The Structural Adjustment Program Viewing: <i>Life and Debt</i>
<b>Module 2 Free Trade Dilemma</b>	

<p>Week 4 September 21<sup>st</sup>, Tue September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thu</p>	<p>6. Fordism/ Post-Fordism Reading: <i>Chapter III Commodities in Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions and Uneven Integration.</i> Viewing: <i>Is Walmart Good for America?</i></p>
	<p>7. Planet Apparels I Reading: <i>'Fabricating Fashion': The Clothing Industries in Global Shift (6<sup>th</sup> Edition).</i> Viewing: <i>The True Cost</i></p>
<p>Week 5 September 28<sup>th</sup>, Tue September 30<sup>th</sup>, Thu</p>	<p>8. Planet Apparels II Listening: Tanzania's Secondhand Trade War</p>
	<p>9. Rare Earth Frontier and the Global Division of Toxic Labor Reading: <i>"Welcomes to the Hometown of Rare Earths"</i> in <i>Rare Earth Frontier.</i></p>
<p>Week 6 October 5<sup>th</sup>, Tue October 7<sup>th</sup>, Thu</p>	<p>10. Political Responses to Free Trade: Brexit vs. Belt and Road Initiative I Reading: <i>Brexit Explained: How it Happened and What Comes Next.</i> Viewing: China's Trillion Dollar Plan to Dominate Global Trade</p>
	<p>11. Political Responses to Free Trade: Brexit vs. Belt and Road Initiative II (Include In-Class Review for Mid-term Exam)</p>
<p>Week 7 October 12<sup>th</sup>, Tue *No Class on October 14<sup>th</sup> for the Chung Yeung Festival.</p>	<p>12. Mid-term Exam</p>
<p><b>Module 3 Uneven Mobility</b></p>	
<p>Week 8 October 19<sup>th</sup>, Tue October 21<sup>st</sup>, Thu</p>	<p>13. Mobility Economy Reading: <i>The Gyroscope-like Economy: Hypermobility, Structural Imbalance and Pandemic Governance in China.</i></p>
	<p>14. Flexible Citizenship Reading: <i>Fengshui and the Limits to Cultural Accumulation in Flexible Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality.</i></p>
<p>Week 9 October 26<sup>th</sup>, Tue October 28<sup>th</sup>, Thu</p>	<p>15. Refugee Crisis Reading: <i>The enforcement archipelago: Detention, haunting, and asylum on islands.</i></p>
	<p>16. Nationalizing Mobility Reading: <i>Harnessing the sending state: Pragmatic improvisations and negotiated memberships of the Chinese diaspora in Laos.</i></p>
<p><b>Module 4 The Dire and Desire of Technology</b></p>	

Week 10 November 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Tue November 4 <sup>th</sup> , Thu	17. Our Digital Globe Reading: <i>Technological Change: 'Gales of Creative Destruction' in Global Shift (6<sup>th</sup> Edition)</i> . Viewing: <i>The Social Dilemma</i>
	18. Mobile Games and Cultural Translation (Guest Lecture by Dr. Yizhou (Joe) Xu) Playing: Genshin Impact
Week 11 November 9 <sup>th</sup> , Tue November 11 <sup>th</sup> , Thu	19. Datafication of Everyday Life Reading: <i>Big Other: Surveillance Capitalism and the Prospects of An Information Civilization</i> . Viewing: <i>You are Just Disposable</i>
	20. Automation's Last Mile and Ghost Labor Viewing: <i>The Horror of Being a Facebook Moderator</i>
<b>Module 5 Global Challenges</b>	
Week 12 November 16 <sup>th</sup> , Tue November 18 <sup>th</sup> , Thu	21. Slow Violence and Climate Change Reading: <i>9.1 Interdependent Ecologies of Global Chang in Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions and Uneven Integration</i> .
	22. The Political Economy of Virus and Pandemic Playing: Plague Inc.
Week 13 November 23 <sup>rd</sup> , Tue November 25 <sup>th</sup> , Thu	23. Youth Un/Under-employment Reading: <i>College Entrepreneurs in India: The Fortune at the Bottom of a Pyramid Scheme</i>
	24. Becoming a Responsible Global Citizen (Include In-Class Review for Final Exam)
Week 14 November 30 <sup>th</sup> , Tue	25. Final Exam