

SOCIOLOGY 190.5
Fall, 2002

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GLOBALIZATION

PETER EVANS

CLASS MEETINGS: Thursday 10:00 - 12:00 -- 186 Barrows

OFFICE HOURS: Evans: Tuesday 2:00 -- 4:00, 410 Barrows

[sign up list is available with Judy Haier in rm. 410]

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INTRODUCTION:

Globalization is a buzz word. Everyone uses it. It is defined in so many different ways that it is hard to know what it means. Despite this, we must agree that the world now operates — socially, culturally, politically and economically — more as a single, integrated system and less as a collection of separate societies insulated from each other by national boundaries. This course will focus on two contradictory forms of globalization. First, we will look at the kind of globalization that has been most powerful in shaping recent changes. Its basic features are: a) the dismantling of the legal rules that allowed nation states to control the economic flows that crossed their borders; and, b) dramatic increases in cross-border financial flows. It might be called “neo-liberal corporate globalization.” Second, we will look at the expanding web of transnational movements and networks that has sought to redefine the process of globalization to emphasize the universalization of rights (human rights, women’s rights and workers’ rights) and the defense of transnationally shared interests (most prominently ecological sustainability). Those involved in this kind of globalization like to call it the “global justice movement.” It might also be called “counter-hegemonic globalization.”

PREREQUISITES:

There are no specific prerequisites to the course, but you must be a senior sociology major in order to take the course, so a general background in sociological theory and methods will be assumed.

WHAT KIND OF COURSE IS THIS?:

This course is a hybrid. It tries to combine an undergraduate research course framework in which student initiated research projects are the primary focus with a traditional seminar framework in which discussion and analysis of a body of existing research and writing is the focus. During the first seven weeks of the course we will read and discuss research and writing on various aspects of globalization. Then during the second half of the course you will focus on your own research project.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Despite the hybrid nature of the course doing the **reading** on time is still the foundation for. The reading has been kept light so that you won't be overwhelmed. The two main texts are mainly for reference purposes. During the last five there is no assigned reading so that you can work on your essays or papers.

Since this is a seminar, **participation** is essential. Participation means coming prepared to make an active contribution to the discussion (which means having done the readings), while carefully respecting the importance of spreading participation as evenly as possible among the members of the section. Participation will also include making a presentation to the class on your proposed paper (see written work below) and commenting on the presentations of other members of the class. **25%** of your total grade will be assigned on the basis of class participation, including your oral presentation.

Finally, you will be asked to do three kinds of **written work**:

(1) on the weeks that there are readings, you will be asked to distribute to everyone in the course by email a 100 - 150 word **suggestion for discussion** on the Monday evening prior to each Thursday's class meeting.

(2) About midway through the course you will be asked to write an **essay** of 1,200 -1,500 words (4-6 pp.). The essays will be responses to one of four topics that will be handed out on **September 26th**. Your essays should be based on the readings we have done during the first half of the course. They will be due on **October 10th**.

(3) Finally, at the end of the course , you will be asked to write a **paper** of approximately 4,000 words (15 pp.) You will need to come up with your own

topic for the paper. An abstract of about 2 pages describing your proposed topic will be due on **October 15th**. Your final paper will be due on the last day of class – **December 5th**. Sample paper topics will be handed out on September 19th to get you started thinking about your topics.

Everyone will be asked to present a preliminary oral version of their essay or paper to the class as a whole in the class meetings between October 31st and November 21st. This oral presentation of your ideas for your paper will give you a chance to organize your ideas for your paper and get feedback from the other students in the class.

The first essay will count **25%** of your final grade and the final paper will count **50%**.

READINGS:

The following **books** are available at the ASUC bookstore:

Held, David, Anthony McGrew, David Goldblatt and Jonathan Perraton. *Global Transformations: Politics, Economics and Culture*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1999.

McMichael, Philip. *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective*. [2nd Edition] Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 2000.

The additional readings you will need for the class will be made available on the WEB and when not available on the WEB distributed in class.

PLAN OF COURSE MEETINGS:

Aug. 29th: What the Course is About. (no assigned reading)

No Readings.

Sept. 5th: What is “Globalization”: A Simple Political Economy View

Readings: Held et. al., pp. 415-452. “Conclusion: The Shape of Contemporary Globalization”

Sept. 12th: Globalization as the imposition of a Neo-liberal Global Regime.

Readings: McMichael, pp. 149-187, Chpt 5: “Instituting the Globalization Project” and pp. 189-237 Chapt.6 “The Globalization Project” Structural Instabilities.”

Evans, Economic Governance Institutions in a Global Political Economy: Implications for Developing Countries.” at the High-Level Round Table at UNCTAD X (Tenth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) in Bangkok, Thailand, February, 2000.

[available on Evans WEBSITE at:

<http://sociology.berkeley.edu/faculty/evans/index.html#currentprojects>]

“The Eclipse of the State? Reflections on Stateness in an Era of Globalization,” *World Politics* 50 (October, 1997): 62-87. available on Evans WEBSITE

Sept. 19th: Activist Critiques of Globalization.

Readings: Oxfam, *Rigged Rules, Double Standards: Trade, Globalization and the Fight against Poverty* 2002 Report available at http://www.maketrade-fair.com/assets/english/Report_English.pdf
SKIM ONLY

International Forum on Globalization, “Alternatives To Economic Globalization: Summary of an Upcoming Report by the Alternatives Committee of the IFG” 2002 available at http://www.ifg.org/alt_eng.pdf

Sept 26th: Counter-hegemonic Globalization

Readings: “Fighting Marginalization with Transnational Networks: Counter-Hegemonic Globalization” *Contemporary Sociology* 29(1):230-241 (January, 2000). [Available on Evans WEBSITE]

Tarrow, Sidney, 2002, “The New Transnational Contention: Organizations, Coalitions, Mechanisms” [Paper Presented at APSA meetings] available at <http://apsaproceedings.cup.org>

NB: TOPICS FOR FIRST ESSAYS HANDED OUT TODAY

Oct. 3rd: ATTAC as a Case Study of Transnational Contention.

Readings: Marcos Ancelovici “Organizing against Globalization: The Case of ATTAC in France” *Politics and Society* September, 2002 [will be put on course WEBSITE]

see also: <http://attac.org/indexen/index.html>

Oct. 10th: NO CLASS !! – FIRST ESSAYS DUE IN RM. 410 BY 4PM –

Oct. 15th -16th – INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES ON TOPICS FOR PAPER
Oct. 17th: The Labor Movement as a Transnational Social Movement.

“Building Bridges Across a Double-Divide: Alliances between U.S. and Latin American Labor and NGOs.” [Available on Evans WEBSITE]

Barenberg, Mark and Peter Evans, 2002. “The FTAA's Impact on Democratic Governance” [Available on Evans WEBSITE]

PLUS: Special Presentation of “Trade Secrets: The Hidden Costs of The FTAA by Jeremy Blasi

Oct. 24th: The Global Environmental Movement.

Readings: Selections from *Environmental movements : local, national and global*. Chris Rootes, ed. Portland, Or. : Frank Cass, 1999.

Zürn, Michael. "The Rise of International Environmental Politics: A Review of the Current Research." *World Politics* 50.4 (1998): 617-649.

NB: PAPER PROPOSALS DUE TODAY

Oct. 31st: CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Nov. 7th: CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Nov. 14th: CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Nov. 21st: CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Nov. 28th: THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS

**Dec. 5th: PAPER DUE BY 10AM (BEGINNING OF CLASS) TODAY
REFLECTIONS ON THE COURSE**