

# **SOCIOLOGY 190.001**

## **Fall, 2003**

### **THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GLOBALIZATION**

**PETER EVANS**

**CLASS MEETINGS: Tuesday 6:00 - 8:00PM -- 402 Barrows**

**OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 2:00 -- 4:00 PM, 410 Barrows** [sign up 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. Since Sociology, has traditionally defined “society” as something that exists within a nation state, a world where social, economic, and cultural relations are defined by ties that transcend national borders is an intellectual challenge. Such a world is equally a challenge for those interested in practical solutions to social, political and economic problems.

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), social protection, and the defense of transnationally shared collective interests (most prominently governability and 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:**

This course is intended to provide a “capstone” seminar for seniors majoring in Sociology. Others (graduate students as well as undergraduates) are welcome provided there is space. (Enrollment is limited to 25.) There are no specific prerequisites, but a general background in sociological theory and methods will be assumed. In addition, you are likely to be more comfortable in the course if you have taken Sociology or other Social Science courses that deal with the history and politics of countries other than the United States.

### **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 two months of the course we will read and discuss the research and writing of social scientists (and some activists) who have worked on various aspects of globalization. Then during October and November you will do your own research and write a research paper developing your own views on some specific aspect of globalization.

### **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.

You will also 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 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Your essays should be based on the readings we have done during the first half of the course. They will be due on **October 7<sup>th</sup>**.

(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 21<sup>st</sup>**. I will have individual conferences with each of you about your paper topic on October 22<sup>nd</sup> or October 29<sup>th</sup>. Sample paper topics will be handed out on October 14<sup>th</sup> to get you started thinking about your topics.

Everyone will present preliminary oral versions of their essay or paper to the class as a whole in the class meetings between November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 25<sup>th</sup>. This oral presentation will give you a chance to organize your ideas for your paper and get feedback from the other students in the class.

Your final paper will be due on the last day of class – **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

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

## **READINGS:**

A general textbook on globalization is 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.

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

## **PLAN OF COURSE MEETINGS:**

**Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>: What the Course is About. (no assigned reading)**

A discussion introducing the course.

## **Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>: What is “Globalization”: Two Contrasting Views.**

Readings: John Meyer, “Globalization, National Culture, and the Future of the World Polity” 2003 Wei Lun Lecture [distributed in class available on my WEBSITE at <http://sociology.berkeley.edu/faculty/evans/index.html> (under fall courses 2003)]

Philip McMichael, “Globalization” (chapter for *Handbook of Political Sociology*, forthcoming 2004) [distributed in class available on my WEBSITE at <http://sociology.berkeley.edu/faculty/evans/index.html> (under fall courses 2003)]

## **Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>: “Neo-Liberal” Globalization in Historical Perspective**

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

Silver and Arrighi, “Polanyi's “Double Movement”: The *Belle Époques* of British and U.S. Hegemony Compared” (50pp) Ms. 2002. [Evans WEBSITE]

## **Sept 16<sup>th</sup>: The Political Economy of Globalization – States and Markets**

Readings: Held et. al., pp.189-282. Chpts 4 and 5: “Shifting Patterns of Global Finance” and “Corporate Power and Global Production Networks”

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

## **Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Transnational Migration and Transnational Communities:**

Readings: Held et. al., pp.283-326. Chapt 6: “People on the Move”

Levitt, Peggy. 2001b. “Transnational Migration: Taking Stock and Future Directions.” *Global Networks* 2001 1(3):195-216.

Portes, Alejandro. 2003. “Conclusion” *International Migration Review*, forthcoming.

**NB: TOPICS FOR FIRST ESSAYS HANDED OUT TODAY**

**Sept. 30th: Critiques of Globalization.**

Readings: reread McMichael (see September 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Soros, George. "The Capitalist Threat," *Atlantic Monthly*, 279:2, February, 1997.

Joseph Stiglitz, "Unfair Trade Laws and Other Mischief" and "Better Roads to the Market" from *Globalization and its Discontents* New York: W.W. Norton, 2002.

Dani Rodrik, "The Developing Countries' Hazardous Obsession with Global Integration" January 2001. An improved version of a paper previously titled "Can Integration into the Global Economy Substitute for a Development Strategy?". Published in *Foreign Policy* (March/April 2001) as "Trading in Illusions." [available at <http://ksghome.harvard.edu/~drodrik.academic.ksg/shortpieces.html> ]

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](http://www.ifg.org/alt_eng.pdf)

Evans, "Beyond 'Institutional Monocropping': Institutions, Capabilities, and Deliberative Development." (Forthcoming *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 2004) [Available Evans WEBSITE].

**Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>: Counter-hegemonic Globalization**

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

Sid Tarrow, *Rooted Cosmopolitans: Transnational Activists in a World of States* (draft Ms.)

**Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>: Transnational Women's Movements**

Readings: Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink, chpt. 5 pp. 165-198 in *Activists Beyond Borders: Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics*.

Millie Thayer “Feminists and Funding: Plays of Power in the Social Movement Market”

**Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> : The Labor Movement as a Transnational Social Movement.**

Readings: Anner, Mark and Peter Evans, 2002. “Building Bridges Across a Double-Divide: Alliances between U.S. and Latin American Labor and NGOs.” [Available on Evans WEBSITE]

Evans, “Labor as a Global Social Movement” unpublished Ms.

**PAPER PROPOSALS DUE TODAY!!**

**Wednesday – Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 4-6PM INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES ON PROPOSALS**

**Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>: The Global Environmental Movement.**

Readings: Keck and Sikkink, chpt. 4 “Environmental Advocacy Networks” pp. 121- 165.

Pulver, “NGO Narratives – constructing an Environmental Counter-Politics” Unpublished Ms. 2003.

**Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>: INDIVIDUAL CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

**Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>: INDIVIDUAL CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

**Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>: INDIVIDUAL CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

**Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>: INDIVIDUAL CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

**Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>: PAPERS DUE BY 6 PM (BEGINNING OF CLASS)**

**REFLECTIONS & EVALUATION ON THE COURSE.**