Gallatin School
New York University
First-Year Research Seminar:
Globalization and Its Paradoxes
FIRST-UG 754
Spring 2014
Monday, Wednesday 3:30:00 PM—4:45:00 PM
403 Silver

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1-2:15 and by Appointment
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Course Description

“I find that the world is changing much, much faster than I can even bitch about it.”

--Bill Maher

“Globalization is a paradox: It’s not just about changing relations between the ‘inside’ of the nation-state and the ‘outside’ of the international system. It cuts across received categories, creating myriad multilayered intersections, overlapping playing fields, and actors skilled at working across these boundaries. People are at once rooted and rootless, local producers and global consumers, threatened in their identities yet continually remaking those identities.”

--Phillip Cerney

Globalization is a process riddled with contradictions. Historically, it can be traced back to the time preceding Europe's discovery of the "New World," when Asia and the Arabic world were places of innovation and Europe an inchoate power. In our seminar, we'll study the many historical globalizations, but we will focus mainly on what's popularly known as "Globalization 3.0," which we are experiencing today in cultural, political, and economic contexts, both at the macro and the everyday level. The class examines the ways in which globalization affects people and places around the world, and the ways it is discussed in both academic and non-academic communities. Through seminar discussions and your own writing, you will consider important questions like: What are the competing definitions of globalization? What are the dominant agents of change? How have the processes of globalization transformed our world? What is new? What's traditional? What is hybrid? We will arrive at multiple responses to these questions by watching films, following blogs, mining visual texts, and discussing assigned readings. Apart from completing formal and informal writing assignments and a research paper, you will create a reflective multi-media text about your own status in the world as global citizens.

Reading

We will study how globalization manifests itself in a range of genres and disciplines: Theories and narratives of globalization, fiction, films, media, digital media, corporations, political
movements and ideologies, contemporary trends in local and global cultures. All of the reading assignments will be handed out and shorter readings will be posted on NYU Classes site. A separate handout on the readings will be posted online as well.

The films will be put on reserve at Bobst library, Avery Fisher Media Center.

**Writing Practices: Formal and Informal Writing and Workshops**

Much of the work in this course will focus on the practice of developing and writing a research paper. I will encourage you to explore topics of your own interest, and assignments will include informal writing, reaction papers, various essay forms, and multiple research strategies. While developing your own writing process, we will work on building an argument, referring to other texts, using secondary material effectively, mastering the mechanics of quoting, citing, and documenting sources, and understanding the practice of incorporating your voice into existing intellectual discussions.

In the first half of the semester, you will write **two essays** as part of our preliminary exploration of the various aspects of globalization. The informal writings are intended to facilitate the process of writing the final research paper. You are required to complete all writing assignments on time. For each project you will be expected to work out your own topic, to write drafts, and to work with other students on their papers. We will work on the drafts in class so it is just as important to be on time with your drafts as with your final projects.

**The informal writing** will be short writings done both in and outside of class and on the course site. These are intended to allow you to work out some of your thoughts to class readings and discussion, and to allow your classmates and me to see what you are thinking about. Although I will assign a grade to your informal writings, they should be a place for you to express your best thoughts with clarity and depth.

**The research essay** (8-10 pages): While you work on this essay, we will be spending several classes on the objectives and methods of academic research: finding scholarly writing on your topic, locating the central questions underlying various arguments, and formulating your own argument in relation to – as different from while not necessarily opposed to – those that we will be discussing. You will form small groups based on common research interests and together compile (and post online) an **annotated bibliography** of scholarly sources on a particular topic. Your group will then present your topic to the class by closely reading relevant **primary sources**, explaining illuminating **concepts**, and raising controversial **questions** discussed in the scholarship on your topic.

**Grading**

The course will be graded on the following basis:
Two essays (4-5 pages): 30% (15% each)
Final research essay (8-10 pages): 30%
Informal writing: 15%
Multimedia Project on the self and globalization: 15%
Participation/Attendance: 10%

Attendance

If, due to illness, emergency, or religious holiday, you cannot attend class, please be in touch with me directly as soon as possible so that you can be prepared for the next class. You will also need to get the notes for the day you missed from one of your classmates; once you have gotten the notes, I will be happy to meet with you and go over what you missed. Please be aware that more than two unexcused absences will affect your course grade.

A Note on Plagiarism

As a Gallatin student you belong to an interdisciplinary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School include plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework, and cheating. Please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html for a full description of the academic integrity policy.

Reading and Writing Schedule (Subject to changes)

Separate handouts will be given for essays, research papers and other miscellany

Week 1 (1/27 & 1/29)
Introduction
Globalization: Definitions and Historical Trajectories

Week 2 (2/3 & 2/5)
Is the world getting FLATTER?
Thomas Friedman’s The World is Flat (Hand out)
Response paper 1

Week 3 (2/10 & 2/12)
Globalization and its dimensions
Read: Thomas Friedman’s The World is Flat (continued)
Response paper 2
Week 4 (2/19) (2/17 Holiday, Presidents Day)

Is Globalization the new Empire?

Read: Antonio Negri and Michael Hardt’s *Empire* and *Multitude*

Response paper 3

Week 5 (2/24 & 2/26)

Hardt and Negri (cont’d)

Response paper 4

Week 6 (3/5 & 3/7)

Is Globalization=Westernization?

Reading (Handouts)

Response paper 5

Week 7 (3/10 & 3/12)

Politics of globalization: Arab Spring

Response paper 6

**Spring recess, 3/17 to 3/23**

Week 8 (3/24 & 3/26)

Globalization and Localization

Response paper 7

Week 9 (3/31 & 4/2)

Globalization and Its losses: Foxconned

Response paper 8

Week 10 (4/7 & 4/9)

Global Tourism, Global Commodities

Response paper 9

Week 11 (4/14 & 4/16)
Globalization, Art and Advertising

Response paper 10

Week 12 (4/21 & 4/23)

Are we global? Citizenship in a globalized world

Response paper 11

Week 13 (4/28 & 4/30)

TBA

Week 14 (5/5 & 5/7)

TBA

Week 15 (5/12) (Final day of Spring semester)

Week 16 (5/14-5/20 Exam week)