Globalization: Promises and Discontents
IDSEM-UG1518
Gallatin School of Individualized Study
New York University
Spring 2016

COURSE INFORMATION
Professor Ritty Lukose, Office 715 Broadway (or 1 Washington Place), room 610;
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Course Schedule: Thursdays, 2:00-4:45pm, GCASL, Room 379.

Office Hours: My regular office hours are Tuesdays, 10:30-12:15, 2:00-3:45;
Thursdays 9:00-10:00. Please sign up for appointment slots at the following link, using google calendar: http://goo.gl/Efb5Yi

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In popular and scholarly discourse, the term "globalization" is widely used to put a name to the shape of the contemporary world. In the realms of advertising, a variety of media, policymaking, politics, academia, and everyday talk, "globalization" references the sense that we now live in a deeply and ever-increasingly interconnected, mobile, and speeded-up world that is unprecedented, fueled by technological innovations and geopolitical and economic transformations. Drawing on perspectives from history, anthropology, cultural and literary studies, geography, political economy, and sociology, this course will explore theories, discourses, and experiences of globalization.

Running through the course are three central concerns: 1) exploring claims about the "new-ness" of globalization from historical perspectives, 2) examining how a variety of social and cultural worlds mediate globalization and 3) analyzing a contested politics of globalization in which the opportunities for social mobility and transformation are pitted against renewed intensifications of exploitation and vulnerability along long-standing vectors of difference and inequality. While "globalization" is often touted as a "flattening" of the world, this course moves beyond such clichés to understand the intersection between large-scale transformations in political economy and culture and multiple cultural and social worlds situated unevenly on the world's map.
REQUIRED TEXTS

*Sweetness and Power* by Sidney Mintz  
*A Brief History of Neoliberalism* by David Harvey  
*Desiring China: Experiments in Neoliberalism, Sexuality and Public Culture* by Lisa Rofel  
*Brick Lane* by Monica Ali

All books are available through the Strand Bookstore, Basement level, under the course name and number. All other reading materials will be available through NYU Classes website which everyone MUST be able to use.

Also, this syllabus is a work in progress. There might be occasions during the course of the semester when readings might change and/or additional materials added and assignments shifted as well. While I don’t anticipate this happening very frequently (and of course, I will give you notice), I would like the course to be open to our evolving conversation.

COURSE PROCEDURES AND ASSIGNMENTS

This is a seminar course. Therefore, punctuality, regular attendance and participation are important for this class to work well. Arrival in a timely way and regular attendance is a requirement. If, due to illness or other emergency, you must miss class, please let me know via email.

**Three 3-5 page discussion papers** (typed, double spaced, 12 point) will be due (see course schedule). These are short, analytical papers for which you will be given prompts. If you get a B- or less, you have the opportunity to re-write your paper within two weeks of when the paper was due.

**A final paper, 8-10 pages in length** (again, typed, double-spaced, 12 point) will be due at the end of the course. This paper is an opportunity for you to explore and elaborate on a theme or issue in the class that is of particular interest to you. There are two parts to this assignment.

In preparation for the final paper, write and submit a paragraph that explains what you are attempting to explore in your final paper (what issue? What problem?) and identify 3 key academic sources that you will use in researching and writing your final paper. Name at least three academic sources and provide
full bibliographic information (using whichever system of citation you choose: Modern Languages Association (MLA) or University of Chicago Style).

The final paper: This paper resembles the shorter discussion essays you will have turned in throughout the semester and might even build on one of them, but it must **incorporate at least 5 outside sources** that are taken from academic sources to provide additional background, evidence and support. This paper must relate to some theme or set of issues we have discussed during the semester, but should also extend beyond them to explore issues in more depth and/or breadth.

No laptops, ipads, phones are allowed in class.

Breakdown of grade: 30% participation, 40% shorter discussion papers, 30% final paper.

Plagiarism is an increasingly important and difficult issue in college teaching that I take very seriously. If you have any questions about plagiarism, there are many guides about plagiarism and how to avoid it (see for example: [http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/engineering/ee/plagiarize.html](http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/engineering/ee/plagiarize.html)).
COURSE SCHEDULE

January 28 – Introduction

Debating Globalization

February 4  Is Globalization Good or Bad?

Read: Thomas Friedman, “It’s a Flat World, After All”


Dollar, David and Aart Kraay. “Growth is Good for the Poor.”

Oxfam. “Growth with Equity is Good for the Poor.”

Joseph Stiglitz, “Globalisms Discontents”

World Social Forum, “Porto Alegre Call For Mobilization”

Vandana Shiva, “Ecological Balance in an Era of Globalization”

Subcommandante Marcos, “Tomorrow Begins Today”

In class viewing: Commanding Heights: The Age of Reform (selections)

February 11

Read: J. Mickelthwait and A. Wooldridge, “The Hidden Promise: Liberty Renewed”

Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History”

Benjamin Barber, “Jihad vs. McWorld”

Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?”

Amartya Sen, “How to Judge Globalism”
**Historicizing Globalization**

**February 18**
Read: Janet Abu-Lughod, “Discontinuities and Persistence: One World System or a Succession of Systems?”

Amitav Ghosh, “Mangalore” from *In an Antique Land*

Immanuel Wallerstein, “The Modern World-System”

Anthony Giddens, “The Globalizing of Modernity”

Start *Sweetness and Power*

**February 25**
Sydney Mintz, *Sweetness and Power* (entire book)

**October 6**  **First Short Paper Due by 5pm**

**The Political Economy of Globalization**

**March 3**
David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*

In class viewing: *Commanding Heights: The Battle of Ideas* (selections)

**March 10**  
Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics* (selections)

Julie Guthman and Melanie DuPuis, “Embodying Neoliberalism: Economy, Culture and the Politics of Fat”

March 17


October 27

Second Short Paper Due by 5pm
Citizenship and Globalization

March 24  
Martha Nussbaum, “Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism” and various respondents

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, “Righting Wrongs”

March 31  

Lamia Karim, “De-Mystifying Micro-credit”


Globalization and Culture

April 7  
Arjun Appadurai, “Disjunction and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy” and “The Production of Locality”

Thomas Bestor, “How Sushi Went Global”

James Ferguson, “Of Mimicry and Membership: Africans and the New World Society”

April 14  
Stuart Hall, “The Question of Cultural Identity”

Monica Ali, Brick Lane

Due: Paragraph and bibliography about final paper

November 24  
Third Short Paper Due by 5pm

April 21  
NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK
Difference and Inequality in a New World Order

April 28    Lisa Rofel, *Desiring China* (first half)

May 5      Lisa Rofel, *Desiring China* (second half)

Final Paper due December 16(tues) by 5pm.