

Hofstra University
Department of Global Studies & Geography



Prof.: Dr. Jean-Paul Rodrigue
Office: Roosevelt 209H
Phone: 516 463-5765
E-mail: Jean-paul.Rodrigue@hofstra.edu

GS 1 – Introduction to Global Studies

Objectives

Globalization is a commonly used term to reflect the growing economic, social and cultural interrelations between regions of the world. This course analyses the diverse process of globalization through a variety of perspectives. Global studies are a broad field which is reflected in the interdisciplinary nature of the course.

The course is divided into two main parts. The first, considers the economic dimensions of globalization, paying particular attention to the debates about this process and the effect that globalization has on regions, nations, cities, communities and people. The second part of the course is more directly concerned with the political, social and cultural dimensions of globalization, particularly the debates about governance, global cities, the homogenization of culture and migration. The course then concludes about how globalization may unfold in the future.

Learning Goals

At the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and Understanding:

- Students will be familiarized with the political and economic processes of globalization, particularly as it relates to such concepts as capitalism, trade, and transportation and their impacts on economic, cultural, and social activities.
- Students will be introduced to demographic, social, and cultural attributes such as migration, cultural identity, and changing gender roles.
- Students will learn the relationships between the global, the regional, and the local, particularly how places are inserted in regional and global processes.
- Students will understand the concept of place and how it is connected to people's sense of belonging both to the physical environment, landscape, and culture.

Skills:

- Students will develop observational skills by analyzing relevant tables and figures.
- Students will gain the ability to critically discuss global issues from social scientific perspectives.

Requirements

GS1 is Social Science Division interdisciplinary distribution class. This means that as per the guidelines for core classes at Hofstra, the class requires additional reading and writing. Students entering this class should thus be aware that they are expected to do all the set readings and that the exams will include a written component. Poor written work will be penalized; any students who feel that their writing is not up to an acceptable standard should seek immediate help from the writing laboratory.

Responsibilities

Respective responsibilities are as follows:

- **The Professor's responsibilities.** Provide the most up to date and accurate information concerning the class topics. Create a challenging learning environment where the students are exposed to new concepts and ideas. Be available (virtually and physically) to answer questions and discuss issues. Provide a fair and transparent evaluation of the students' work.
- **The Student's responsibilities.** Class attendance is the basic student's responsibility. Participation in class discussions constitutes an important dimension of the learning process in a subject where issues, rather than the mere learning of factual material, are the focus. Students are encouraged (and expected) to verbalize their ideas and views on the issues to be discussed. Students are also responsible for reading the required material before going to class and handing the assignments at the expected deadline.

Evaluations

Several means will be utilized for evaluating students' performance in the course. Three examinations appear on the schedule of class activities. The examinations will emphasize written work and the extent the students understand the core concepts introduced. Class participation or its absence will also be assessed and factored in to the semester grade. In addition, each student will be responsible for developing two class projects.

You can accumulate in this class up to 225 points. Here is the breakdown of the point value of each item you will be evaluated on:

- Examination 1. 40 points.
- Examination 2. 40 points.
- Examination 3. 40 points.
- 2 class projects. 90 points (45 points each).
- Class attendance and participation. 15 points.

The 2 class projects, of about 6-8 pages each, are concerning the following:

- **Media review.** A review of selected current events related to globalization.
- **Research project.** An in depth analysis of a selected dimension of globalization.

Grades

To successfully complete this class, you need to accumulate 120 points:

(A) 200 points and above.	(C) Between 140 and 149 points.
(A-) Between 190 and 199 points.	(C-) Between 130 and 139 points.

(B+) Between 180 and 189 points.	(D+) Between 126 and 129 points.
(B) Between 170 and 179 points.	(D) Between 120 and 125 points.
(B-) Between 160 and 169 points.	(F) Below 120 points.
(C+) Between 150 and 159 points.	

Grades are non negotiable and the only way a grade will be revised is if an error was made in the evaluation process. An A is considered a reward for exceptional work, and as such will not be awarded lightly. Test material will be based on both the assigned readings and material covered during lectures. In order to gain a firm grasp of the issues discussed in class, it is imperative that students complete the required readings before class.

Penalties

Examination dates will not be changed and make-up exams will not be given except under the most compelling circumstances. A student who missed an exam is required to submit appropriate documentation before any special arrangement may be made. Without proper documentation, a student will receive a zero point for a “no-show” exam. No incomplete will be granted for this course.

Late assignments will be penalized as follows: 10% of the total points for the assignment will be deducted for each day the paper is handed in late (beginning immediately after 5 PM on due day). No assignment will be accepted 5 days after the due date. Failure to turn in assignments will adversely affect grades.

Academic Honesty

Integrity and honesty issues are taken very seriously in this class. Anyone caught cheating during an examination will be reported as an infraction to academic honesty to the provost in line with recognized university procedures. Plagiarism (see Hofstra Bulletin) in whatever form is considered a serious offence for disciplinary action. All handed material will be cross-verified on the Internet. Plagiarism will be assessed and penalties applied according to the following criteria:

- **Fraud.** Any assignment that has been written by somebody else (purchased or freely given) or recycled from another class is fraudulent. Fraud may also imply that almost all, if not the entire, contents of the assignment have been plagiarized and only a small part, such as the introduction and the conclusion, has been modified. A fraudulent assignment automatically implies a failing grade for the WHOLE CLASS and is reported to the Provost as a major infraction to academic honesty. No rewriting opportunities will be offered.
- **Substantial plagiarism.** A significant part of the assignment has been plagiarized with elements such as borrowed text without citations, rephrasing, inserted quotations and a failure to correctly acknowledge sources. An assignment with substantial plagiarism automatically receives a grade of zero and is reported to the Provost as a minor infraction to academic honesty. Rewriting may be permitted, at the professor’s discretion, if the student provides strong attenuating circumstances (such as admitting wrongdoing). A rewritten assignment cannot receive more than 75% of its full credit.
- **Incidental plagiarism.** A small part of the assignment has been plagiarized with omissions and some rephrasing for a few paragraphs. A penalty up to 50% can be applied and the student can rewrite the assignment at his/her request. A rewritten assignment will be given full credit.

If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, you should seek guidance from me before you hand in your assignment.

If for any reason you are having problems following lectures, cannot cope with the readings, or have any other problems with the course, please bring this matter to my attention before the end of the semester. I will be more than willing to help you out if you come to me with any course related problems.

Outline

Topic 1 – What is Globalization?

Setting the Context. Representations of the World. The Forces of Globalization.

Topic 2 – The Global Economy

Genesis of the Global Economy. International Trade and Transportation. Multinational Corporations.

Topic 3 – Countervailing Forces to Globalization

Economic and Spatial Inequalities. Economic Development and Underdevelopment. The “isms”.

First Examination

Topic 4 – International Institutions and Governance

Political Organizations. Political and Economic Integration.

Topic 5 – Migration

Demographic Issues. Major Migratory Flows.

Second Examination

Topic 6 – Global Cities

Urbanization. What are Global Cities? Slums and Technopoles.

Topic 7 – Global Culture

Diffusion. Homogenization. Consumerism.

Topic 8 – The Future of Globalization

How Globalization Changed the World? The Limits of Globalization.

Final Examination

Bibliography

Required Readings

Frank J. Lechner and John Boli (eds) (2004) *The Globalization Reader*. New York: Blackwell.