POLI 4050 Fall 2011

Globalization & Politics

Thursday 6:10 – 9:00 pm, 228 Tureaud

Prof. Wonik Kim, wkim@lsu.edu
Office: Stubbs 229, Department of Political Science
OH: 2:00 – 3:00 pm on Tuesdays, or by appointment

The crux of the current capitalist system is the "trinity" of capital-nation-state. The elements of this system – capital (economic domain), nation (social and cultural domain), and the state (political domain) – are heterogeneous and contradictory by their origins and natures, but they got linked as a seemingly unified entity only recently through some historical flukes. As Parkinson argues, "perfection of planned layout is achieved only by institutions on the point of collapse," this system may be falling into ruin just as it becomes complete. Globalization is conceived as a process (or set of processes) which embodies a transformation of this trinity of capital-nation-state. As such, our central question throughout the course is: "If globalization is transformative and inexorable, what will be (should be) a new politico-economic social system?"

In searching for an answer, we need to understand this phenomenon in terms of political, economic, and social/cultural transformations. This upper-level undergraduate course has two main purposes: to equip students with a solid understanding of the origins, developments, and consequences of the so-called globalization, and to understand current debates on globalization.

READINGS

Each student is expected to read (before class) all the required readings for each session (see the reading assignments below). Required books are:

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

Polanyi, Karl. 2001[1944]. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Beacon Press. 2nd Edition.

Rodrik, Dani. 2011. *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy*. W. W. Norton & Company.

Cowen, Tyler. 2004. *Creative Destruction: How Globalization Is Changing the World's Cultures*. Princeton University Press.

There are additional readings from journal articles and book chapters. These readings are posted on Moodle. All students should have a LSU account for access to Moodle through the PAWS desktop.

REQUIREMENTS

Basically, classes will involve lectures and discussions of the reading materials assigned for each session. But, I will introduce and explain some issues and concepts that are not in the readings, so **attendance is crucial.** This means that a significant amount of material on the examinations will come from class lectures presenting information not discussed directly in the text and other readings. Participation from students is important and will count toward the final grade.

There will be class participation, midterm/final exams, and three reaction papers.

1) Attendance and participation (20%): Since class meets only once in a week, it is extremely important to come to class. It is virtually impossible for you to receive a satisfactory grade if you miss several classes. Attendance will be taken for each session. Students may earn credit for their attendance at each class session, while repeated and unexcused absence will cause deduction in student's total grade. In addition to attending class, students are highly encouraged to ask and answer questions, and to make appropriate comments on issues covered in class.

2) In-class midterm and final exams (25% each): The emphasis is on important concepts and competing explanations.

3) Three reaction papers (10% each, total 30%): You will write a reaction paper on Polanyi, Rodrik, and Cowen. You will write total three reaction papers in this course. A reaction paper is a short paper (no longer than two double-spaced pages), discussing some aspect of the reading(s). In the reaction paper you must briefly summarize the reading(s) and evaluate some central aspect of its discussion. Note: "evaluate" means that you must identify some central aspect of the author(s)' analysis, explain why you think this aspect is interesting/important, and present your evaluation of the author(s)' position (note that you must try to make an argument, simply asserting your agreement or disagreement will not be sufficient). The reaction papers are due in class on the date scheduled for discussion of the readings (or, put it in my mailbox before 6:00 pm on the due date if you have to miss a class). You should submit a hard copy. Since we will discuss the readings, late papers will not be accepted.

GRADING SCALE

A: 90~100; B: 80~89; C: 70~79; D: 50~69; F: 0~49

NOTICE: If you do not take any of the examinations, or if you do not submit any of the reaction papers, you will automatically receive an F. No "make-up" examinations will be given for any reason. No late reaction papers will be accepted for any reason.

IMPORTANT DATES

In-class midterm exam:	Thursday, October 06	6:10 – 9:00 pm
In-class final exam:	Thursday, December 08	8:00 – 10:00 pm
1st Reaction paper	Thursday, October 20	In class
2nd Reaction paper	Thursday, November 03	In class
3rd Reaction paper	Thursday, November 17	In class

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND SPECIFIC TOPICS

Week 1 (08/25) Introduction
Scope and roadmap of the course.

Week 2 (09/01) What Is Globalization?
Trinity of capital-nation-state. Conceptualization. Periodization. Trends and patterns of globalization. Ideology and ideas. Varieties of capitalism. Hyperglobalist vs. skeptical vs. transformationalist theses. State autonomy and state sovereignty. Analytical framework.

Held et al., Introduction

Week 3 (09/08) Modern-Nation State System and Its Transformations
Westphalian model. Power of "imagination" and nationalism. Liberal representative political system. "Global governance." "New medievalism." Transnationalism, deterritorialism, and regionalism. Globalization of the war system. New security regime?

Held et al., Chapter 1 – 2

Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." In *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Reuschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 169-191.

Anderson, Benedict. 1983. *Imagined Communities*. New York: Verso, pp. 1-9.

Week 4 (09/15) Global Markets: Trade Openness and Financial Globalization
"Miracle" of the market. Static and dynamic comparative advantage. Primitive accumulation. World trade regime. Exchange rate regime. Gold standard. Bretton Woods compromise. FDI. GATT and WTO. IMF and the World Bank. Euro. Convergence or divergence? Neoliberalism. Washington Consensus. Deindustrialization. Human history "revealed" by technology? (fn. 4, Ch. 15, in *Das Kapital*, Vol. 1)

Held et al., Chapter 3 – 4

Ruggie, John. 1982. "International Regimes, Transactions, and Changes: Embedded Liberalism in the Post-War Economic Order. *International Organization* 36(2): 379-415.

Week 5 (09/22) Capital as Power, Societal Forces, and Cultural Shift
MNCs and global production networks. VOC. Footloose capital. Signaling and disciplining. Sectoral comparison. Business-government relationship. Structural dependence of the state on capital. Global migration. Skills. Human capital accumulation. Transnational social movements. Global civil society. Cultural globalization. Glocalization and grobalization. McDonaldization. Globalization of "nothing"?

Held et al., Chapter 5 – 7

Moises, Arce, and Wonik Kim. 2011. "Globalization and Extra-Parliamentary Politics in an Era of Democracy." *European Political Science Review* 3(2): 253-278.

Ritzer, George. 2003. "Rethinking Globalization: Glocalization/Grobalization and Something/Nothing." *Sociological Theory* 21(3): 193-209.

Week 6 (09/29) Global Inequality and Global Environmental Flows
Three concepts of inequality. Does globalization increase inequality? Empirics of inequality. Capital as power revisited. Democratic incapacity? Market failure and government failure. Global warming. Ozone depletion. Collective action problem?

Held et al., Chapter 8 and Conclusion

Rasler, Karen, and William Thompson. 1009. "Globalization and North-South Inequality, 1870-200." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 50(5-6): 425-451.

Hacker, Jacob, and Paul Pierson. 2010. "Winner-Take-All Politics: Public Policy, Political Organization, and the Precipitous Rise of Top Incomes in the United States." *Politics & Society* 38(2): 152-204.

Week 6 (10/06) Midterm Exam, 6:10 – 9:00 pm

Week 7 (10/13) Fall Holiday, No Class

Week 8-9 (10/20 – 10/27) Polanyian Market-Society Dynamics
Self-regulating market and self-preserving society. Modes of integration. Embeddedness. Moral economy. Fictitiousness. Shifting place of the economy in human society. *Haute finance*. Double movement. Disruptive strains. Liberal dilemma.

Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*

Week 10-11 (11/03 – 11/10) Political Trilemma of the World Economy
Transaction costs. Social insurance. Efficiency thesis vs. compensation thesis. Free market fundamentalism. Importance of social capabilities. Democratic politics. "Trilemma." Global Bretton Woods model.

Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*

Week 12 (11/17) Globalization as Cultural Destruction?
Cultural homogenization and heterogenization. Cross-cultural trade. The Minerva model. Least-common-denominator effects. National culture and nationalism. Globalization of "something"?

Cowen, *Creative Destruction*

Week 13 (11/24) Thanksgiving Holiday, No Class

Week 14 (12/01) Conclusion
Capital, social force, and political power; and, the transformation of the trinity revisited. "One world." Blueprints: desirability, feasibility, transformability, and sustainability. Blueprints and actual conditions.

Recommended reading: Singer, Peter. 2004. *One World: The Ethics of Globalization*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Week 15 (12/08) Final Exam, 8:00 – 10:00 pm