

**GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY
SC 040**

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People, producers and states have made connections across the globe for many centuries, but over the course of the last fifty years, these connections have not only grown in quantity, but have changed in quality as well. Social life is increasingly not only linked but **organized** on a transnational scale. Important aspects of governance, finance, production, consumption, culture, and daily experience and identity operate across national boundaries. Even for people who never travel outside their own neighborhoods, what they are able or unable to do, what they think, and how they feel, are all increasingly affected by what is going on across the globe. This course will begin to sketch the contours of that emergent world – probing its causes and highly varied and unequal consequences across the globe and individual experiences.

Course Website: There is a Blackboard Vista site for this course. This site includes a link to online course reserves, a copy of the syllabus, and a site for posting thought pieces.

Readings: Readings for this course are available online. They may be accessed through the course Blackboard site or directly from the O’Neill library course reserves website. In addition, the two books listed below are on sale at the BC Bookstore. These will also be available on two hour reserve at O’Neill.

1. Eric Holt-Giménez and Raj Patel with Annie Shattuck, *Food Rebellions: Crisis and the Hunger for Justice* (Fahumu Books and Grassroots International, 2009).
2. Peggy Levitt, *The Transnational Villagers* (University of California Press, 2001).

Requirements:

1. Consistent attendance in class.
2. Active, serious and respectful participation in class and small group discussions.
3. Thorough reading of course materials, including note-taking and/or response writing to be referenced in class discussion.
4. On-time, thoughtful completion of all assignments.
5. Strict adherence to campus policies regarding plagiarism and intellectual integrity.

Assessments:

1. Class attendance and participation. **5% final grade**
2. 6 thought pieces. **20% final grade**
2. Midterm paper (5-6 pages). **25% final grade**
3. Final paper (6-7 pages). **30% final grade**
4. Final exam. **20% final grade**

Thought pieces: This class deals with complex ideas that require regular completion of the readings and regular lecture attendance. To help you actively process the readings and relate them to the world around you, you are required to write six 400-500 word thought-pieces over the course of the semester (see below for due dates and course website for specific prompts). These writings should respond to posted questions and deal explicitly with the readings they reference. They can be informal or unconventional in style, but **thoughtless, cursory or late pieces will not receive credit**. Thought-pieces should be posted on the Blackboard website in the Assignments section. These pieces will be graded on a 4-point scale and together will make up 20% of your final grade.

Class attendance is mandatory. Since I don't want to waste too much time taking attendance, I will not take roll every day. Instead, I will take attendance at random intervals during the semester. If you are not there for one of those classes, you will not be penalized, but after that, unexcused absences will impact your final grade.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to comply with the standards for academic honesty outlined by the University's *Academic Policies and Procedures* at <http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy.html#integrity>. Any plagiarism or cheating – including on thought pieces – will result **at a minimum** in an F on that piece of work and possibly in notification of the academic dean.

Course Schedule

Sept. 8:
Introduction

Section I. The emergence of modernity:

Sept 10:

Adam Smith, excerpts from *The Wealth of Nations* (“Introduction and Plan of the Work; Volume I: Chapter 1: “Of the Division of Labor” and Chapter 2: “Of the Principle Which Gives Occasion to the Division of Labor”).

E.P. Thompson, “Time, Work Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism,” *Past and Present* 38 (1967). **Read pp. 56-63, 70-79, 90-97.**

Sept. 15

Karl Marx, *Wage Labor and Capital* in R. Tucker (Ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader*, second edition (Norton, 1978).

Sept. 17:

Excerpts from Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* in R. Tucker (Ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader*, second edition (Norton, 1978). **Read pp. 473-491.**

Sept. 22:

Benedict Anderson, "Imagined Communities" in J. Hutchinson and A. Smith (eds.) *Nationalism* (Oxford, 1994).

Eric Hobsbawm, "The Nation as Invented Tradition," in J. Hutchinson and A. Smith (eds.) *Nationalism* (Oxford, 1994).

Howard Winant, "The Historical Sociology of Race" in *The World is a Ghetto* (Basic Books, 2001).

Sept. 24:

Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation" in H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills (eds.), *From Max Weber* (Oxford University Press, 1964). **Pp. 77-79.**

James C. Scott, "State Simplifications: Nature, Space and People" in I. Shapiro and R. Hardin (eds.), *Political Order* (NYU Press, 1996). **Read pp. 42-59.**

**** Post thought piece #1 by Sept. 23, 11 pm.**

Section II: Blurring boundaries and shifting scales:

Sept. 29

Manuel Castells, "Global Informational Capitalism" (310-334) in D. Held and A. McGrew (eds.) *The Global Transformations Reader, second edition* (Polity, 2000).

Jonathon Inda and Renato Rosaldo, "Tracking Global Flows" *The Anthropology of Globalization, second edition* (Blackwell, 2008). **Read pp. 1-12.**

Oct. 1:

Peter Evans, "Counter-Hegemonic Globalization: Transnational Social Movements in the Contemporary Global Political Economy" in T. Janoski, A. Hicks and M. Schwartz (eds.), *Handbook of Political Sociology* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Oct. 6:

Bob Sutcliffe, "The Unequalled and Unequal Twentieth Century" in D. Held and A. Kaya (eds.), *Global Inequality* (Polity 2007).

Thomas Pogge, "Why Inequality Matters" in D. Held and A. Kaya (eds.), *Global Inequality* (Polity 2007).

Explore <http://www.gapminder.org/>.

**** Post thought piece #2 by Oct. 5, 11 pm.**

Section III: New forms of governance:

Oct. 8:

Susan Strange, "The Declining Authority of States" in D. Held and A. McGrew (eds.) *The Global Transformations Reader, second edition* (Polity, 2000).

Saskia Sassen, "The State and Globalization," *interventions* 5:2 (2003).

Oct. 13:

Joseph Stiglitz, "The Promise of Global Institutions" and "Broken Promises" in *Globalization and its Discontents* (Norton, 2003).

MIDTERM PAPERS DUE OCTOBER 14, 1 PM IN MCGUINN 409.

Section IV: Global governance and food:

Oct. 15:

Understanding the WTO:

Chapter 1: The Basics and Chapter 2: The Agreements (especially Sections 1-4)

http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/utw_chap1_e.pdf and

http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/utw_chap2_e.pdf.

Lori Wallach and Patrick Woodall/Public Citizen, "The WTO on Agriculture: Food as a Commodity, Not a Right" in *Whose Trade Organization* (New Press, 2004).

Oct 20:

Eric Holt-Giménez and Raj Patel with Annie Shattuck, *Food Rebellions: Crisis and the Hunger for Justice* (Fahumu Books and Grassroots International, 2009). **Pages TBA.**

Oct 22:

Eric Holt-Giménez and Raj Patel with Annie Shattuck, *Food Rebellions: Crisis and the Hunger for Justice* (Fahumu Books and Grassroots International, 2009). **Pages TBA.**

Marie-Christine Renard and Victor Pérez-Grovas, "Fair Trade Coffee in Mexico" in L. T. Reynolds et al (eds) *Fair Trade: The Challenges of Transforming Globalization* (Routledge, 2007).

**** Post thought piece #3 by Oct. 21, 11 pm.**

Section V: Transnational production:

Oct.27:

Naomi Klein, "The Discarded Factory" in *No Logo* (Picador, 2000).

Guy Standing, "Global Feminization through Flexible Labor," *World Development* 17:7 (1989).

Oct. 29:

Leslie Salzinger, "From Gender as Object to Gender as Verb: Rethinking how Global Restructuring Happens." *Critical Sociology* 30:1 (April 2004).

Teresa Gowan, "Excavating 'Globalization' from Street Level: Homeless Men Recycle their Pasts" in M. Burawoy et al (eds.), *Global Ethnography* (University of California Press, 2000).

Section VI: Transnational reproduction:

Nov. 3:

Saskia Sassen, "Global Cities and Survival Circuits" in B. Ehrenreich and A. Hochschild (eds.), *Global Woman* (Henry Holt and Co., 2002).

Arlie Hochschild, "Global Care Chains and Emotional Surplus Value" in W. Hutton and A. Giddens (eds.), *Global Capitalism* (New York Press, 2000).

Nov. 5:

"I'm Here, but I'm There: The Meanings of Latina Transnational Motherhood" by Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo and Ernestine Avila, *Gender and Society* 11:5 (1997).

**** Post thought piece #4 by Nov. 4, 11 pm.**

Section VII: Transnational subjects:

Nov. 10:

John Lie, "Diasporic Nationalism," *Cultural Studies <-> Critical Methodologies* 1:3.

Linda Basch, Nina Glick Schiller, and Christina Szanton Blanc, "Transnational Projects: A New Perspective" and "Theoretical Premises" in S. Khagram and P. Levitt (eds.), *The Transnational Studies Reader* (Routledge, 2008).

Nov. 12:

Peggy Levitt, *The Transnational Villagers* (University of California, 2001). **Pp. 31-69.**

Nov. 17:

Peggy Levitt, *The Transnational Villagers* (University of California, 2001). **Pp. 73-124.**

Nov. 19:

Peggy Levitt, *The Transnational Villagers* (University of California, 2001). **Pp. 127-216.**

**** Post thought piece #5 by Nov. 18, 11 pm.**

Section VIII: Transnational cultures:

Nov. 24:

Jonathon Inda and Renato Rosaldo, "Tracking Global Flows" in *The Anthropology of Globalization, second edition* (Blackwell, 2008). **Read pp. 12-36.**

George Ritzer and Todd Stillman, "Assessing McDonaldization, Americanization and Globalization" in U. Beck et al (eds.) *Global America? The Cultural Consequences of Americanization* (Liverpool University Press, 2003).

Dec. 1:

Robin D.G. Kelley, "Foreward" in D. Basu and S. Lemelle (eds.) *The Vinyl Ain't Final* (Pluto Press, 2006).

Andy Bennett, "Hip Hop am Main, Rappin on the Tyne: Hip Hop Culture as a Local Construct in Two European Cities," in M. Forman and M.A. Neal (eds.) *That's The Joint: The Hip-Hop Studies Reader* (Routledge, 2004).

Dec. 3:

Zine Magubane, "Globalization and Gangster Rap: Hip Hop in the Post-ASectionheid City" in D. Basu and S. Lemelle (eds.) *The Vinyl Ain't Final* (Pluto Press, 2006).

**** Post thought piece #6 by Dec. 2, 11 pm.**

Dec. 8:

Concluding discussion and review.

Dec. 10:

IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM

FINAL PAPER DUE TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 1 PM, IN MCGUINN 409.