

**Harvard University**  
**Fall semester 2007**  
**Globalization and Global Justice**  
**Dr. Thomas Ponniah**

The aim of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to discuss diverse theories and practices of globalization and global justice. The course explores perspectives from different academic disciplines: economics, history, sociology, history, philosophy and geography, as well as the popular literature emerging from civil society. The course considers the theoretical and practical sources that underpin various contemporary debates on globalization, for example, free trade versus fair trade, democracy versus capitalism, technological revolution versus ecological risk, informationalism versus identity, the state versus civil society and national liberation versus cosmopolitanism. Ultimately the course will facilitate students developing their own vision of globalization and global justice.

**Course requirements:**

The readings are interesting, challenging and provocative. They will average 150 pages per week, and will form the basis of our debates. To facilitate high quality seminar discussion, we will utilize weekly reflections on readings, three short papers (1000 words), class presentations and weekly attendance.

**Course pedagogy:**

My teaching style emphasizes a student-centered participatory approach. I will come to class with a series of questions related to the readings to facilitate a substantial discussion. Occasionally I will open the class with a brief presentation that explains context and key terms. My ultimate goal is to enable each student to articulate their own interpretation of globalization and development. I will provide ample office hours to ensure that students receive regular feedback.

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Dr. Ponniah's office hours: (TBA)

**Required Texts**

Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents*

Manuel Castells, *The Power of Identity*

Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*

Muhammad Yunus, *Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty*

Govinda Parayil, *Kerala: the Development Experience: Reflections on Sustainability and Replicability*

Gianpaolo Baiocchi, *Militants and Citizens: The Politics of Participatory Democracy in Porto Alegre*

Steve Ellner and Miguel Tinker Salas, *Venezuela: Hugo Chavez and the Decline of an Exceptional Democracy*

Greg Wilpert, *Changing Venezuela: The History and Policies of the Chavez Government*

Gillian Brock and Darrel Moellendorf, *Current Debates in Global Justice*

### **Week 1. Introduction**

What is globalization? What causes global social change? What causes global social cohesion? What is global justice? How does globalization shape human experience? Has globalization increased or decreased global inequality? What should rich countries be doing to help poor countries? To what extent does free trade and global integration offer the greatest hope for the developing world?

Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents*, (pages ix-132)

Recommended: Martin Wolf, *Why Globalization Works*

### **Week 2. Economic Globalization**

Who lost Russia? Are trade laws unfair? Are their better roads to the market? What is the IMF's agenda? What is the way ahead?

Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents*, (pages 133-258)

Recommended: Jagdish Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*

### **Week 3. Technology and Globalization**

How has information technology shaped production, culture and social movements?

Manuel Castells, *The Power of Identity*

Recommended: Ulrich Beck, *World Risk Society*

### **Week 4. Identity Networks**

How has informational technology shaped social relations, media, culture, our conception of space, of time, and of ourselves?

Manuel Castells, *The Power of Identity*

### **Week 5. The Capabilities Approach**

What is the relationship between democracy, capability and freedom

Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*

Recommended: Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development*

**Week 6. Women, Population and Culture**

Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, Chapters 8-12 (pages 189-298)

What is the relationship between women's agency and social change? What is the relationship between culture and human rights?

**Week 9. Micro-credit and Grassroots Justice?**

What is the relationship between civil society, the state and the market in building local justice?

Muhammad Yunus, *Banker to the Poor*

**Week 10. State Justice in South Asia?**

What is the "Kerala miracle"? Is development in Kerala sustainable?

Govinda Parayil, *Kerala*

Recommended: *The Amartya Sen and Jean Dreze Omnibus*

**Week 11. Civic Justice in Brazil**

Why has Porto Alegre become so famous? What is participatory budgetting? Is it replicable? Does it offer us a new model for development?

Gianpaolo Baiocchi, *Militants and Citizens*

**Week 12. National Justice in Latin America?**

What is the Bolivarian process? Why has it aroused mixed responses from global social movements? Does it propose a new model for regional and international justice?

Greg Wilpert, *Changing Venezuela: The History and Policies of the Chavez Government*. (pages TBA)

Recommended: Francis Fukuyama, *The End of History and the Last Man*

**Week 11. The State and Civil Society**

What is the relationship between statism, civil society, redistribution and representation?

Greg Wilpert, *Changing Venezuela: The History and Policies of the Chavez Government*. (pages TBA)

Steve Ellner and Tinker Salas, *Venezuela: Hugo Chavez and the Decline of an Exceptional Democracy*

**Week 12. Philosophical Theories of Global Justice I**

What is cosmopolitanism? What is real world justice? What do we owe to the global poor?

Gillian Brock and Darrel Moellendorf, *Current Debates in Global Justice* (pages 1-80)

### **Week 13. Philosophical Theories of Global Justice II**

What do we owe the global poor? What are models of global community? Are preventative wars ever legitimate? Is global justice just for humans?

Gillian Brock and Darrel Moellendorf, *Current Debates in Global Justice* (pages 81-117, 151-170, 201-224, 247-268, 283-300)

Nancy Fraser, "Reframing Justice in a Globalizing World" (handout)

### **Week 14: The Global Justice Movements and the World Social Forum**

What are the global justice movements? Who are its constituents? What are its proposals? What is its relationship to the World Social Forum?

William F. Fisher and Thomas Ponniah, *Another World is Possible: popular alternatives to globalization at the World Social Forum*. (pages 354-357, 1-30, 41-50, 161-172, 187-201, 240-254, 279-295, 329-337, 346-353)

Boaventura de Sousa Santos, *The Rise of the Global Left: the World Social Forum and Beyond* (handout)

Recommended: Immanuel Wallerstein, *European Universalism*