

Harvard University
Spring semester 2007
Theories of Globalization and Development
Dr. Thomas Ponniah

The aim of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to discuss diverse theories of globalization and development. The course explores perspectives from different academic disciplines: economics, political science, sociology, anthropology, history, and geography, as well as the popular literature emerging from civil society. The course considers the theoretical sources that underpin various contemporary debates on globalization, for example, free trade versus fair trade, democracy versus capitalism, technological revolution versus ecological risk, consumerism versus fundamentalism, US hegemony versus Europe and Asia, and anti- globalization versus global justice. Ultimately the course will facilitate students developing their own vision of globalization and development.

Course requirements:

The readings are interesting, challenging and provocative. They will average 100-150 pages per week, and will form the basis of our debates. To facilitate high quality seminar discussion, we will utilize regular short reflections on readings, one longer paper (2000-2500 words) and weekly attendance.

Course pedagogy:

My teaching style emphasizes a student-centered participatory approach. Rather than lecture, 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 opportunities to clarify ideas and receive feedback.

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Required Texts

Jagdish Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*,
 Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents*
 Manuel Castells, *The Rise of the Network Society*
 Benjamin Barber, *Jihad vs. McWorld*
 Niall Ferguson, *Colossus: The Rise and Fall of the American Empire*
 Andre Gunder Frank, *Re-Orient*
 Immanuel Wallerstein, *World Systems Analysis*
 Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*

Week 1. Introduction and Economics:

What is globalization? What causes global social change? What causes global social cohesion? How does globalization shape human experience? How can globalization be defended? What is its relationship to poverty, child labor, women, democracy, culture, and labor.

Jagdish Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*, ch. 1-10 (pages 3-134).

Recommended: Martin Wolf, *Why Globalization Works*

Week 2. Economics of Globalization

How can globalization be made to work better? What forms of governance are needed? How do we cope with its downsides? How can it be made socially beneficial? How do we manage the transition?

Jagdish Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*, ch. 11-19 (pages 135-266).

Recommended: Jeffrey Sachs, *The End of Poverty*

Week 3. Critique of Economic Globalization

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, and to what extent is greater foreign aid required? What are the arguments for and against debt relief?

Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents*, Preface, ch. 1-4, 9 (pages ix-132, 214-239)

Recommended: Branko Milanovic, *Worlds Apart*

Week 4. Technology and Globalization

How has information technology shaped production? What is the New Economy?

Manuel Castells, *The Rise of the Network Society*, ch. 1,2 (pages 1-162)

Recommended: Ulrich Beck, *World Risk Society*

Week 5. Information Technology and Social Relations

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

Manuel Castells, *The Rise of the Network Society*, ch. 5, 6, 7 (pages 355-510)

Week 6. Consumerism versus Fundamentalism?

Does the rise of religious-based conflict represent a backlash against globalization? Does it signal a clash of civilizations likely to generate persisting world conflict? What is the connection between globalization and religious fundamentalism? Are they linked?

Benjamin Barber, *Jihad vs. McWorld*, Introduction (pages 3-22) and ch.15-19 (pages.219-300)

Recommended: Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the World Order*

Week 7. The Rise of the U.S. Empire?

What is the nature of U.S. hegemony? How did it arise? What are its limits?

Niall Ferguson, *Colossus: The Rise and Fall of the American Empire*, Introduction, Part I (pages vii to 168).

Recommended: Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*

Week 8. The Fall of the U.S. Empire?

Is U.S. hegemony on the wane? What are the European and Asian challenges to its power?

Niall Ferguson, *Colossus: The Rise and Fall of the American Empire*, Part II, Conclusion (pages 169-302).

Recommended: Daniel Levy, Max Pensky, John Torpey (editors), *Old Europe, New Europe, Core Europe: Transatlantic Relations After the Iraq War*

Week 9. The Asian Future of Globalization?

Does globalization mark the rise or return of Asia as a world power? Are China and India the key agents of the 21st century?

Andre Gunder Frank, *Re-Orient*. ch. 6, 7 (pages 258-360)

Week 10. World Systems Analysis

What is the world system? How have historical processes shaped the present? How do we explain the rise of the states system? What is the contemporary geoculture? How is the modern world system in crisis?

Immanuel Wallerstein, *World Systems Analysis: An Introduction* (Duke University Press, Durham and London 2004. ISBN 0-8223-3442-9)

Pages ix-90

Week 11. Alternatives to Development, Modernity and Globalization

What is development? What is its relationship to modernity? Does globalization simply re-enact the modernist project? Are we entering a post-developmental age?

Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*, ch. 1-3 (pages 3-101) , 6 (212-226).

Week 12. Review

Albert O. Hirschman, "Rival Interpretations of Market Society: Civilizing, Destructive, or Feeble?" in Journal of Economic Literature. Vol. XX (December 1982), pp. 1463-1484 (on reserve)

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