

ANT 341: Globalization
Spring 2012, Mondays 1:30 — 4:20 pm, Chambers B22

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Office Hours: M, W, F 9:00 – 10:00 am
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This course examines recent theories of globalization from an anthropological perspective, with an emphasis on the transnational political, economic, and cultural structures that are transforming local societies throughout the world. Topics include transnational religions, popular culture, and global capitalism. Special attention is devoted to debates regarding power and cultural imperialism, popular culture, the impact of science and technology transfer, and diaspora ethnicity.

The anthropological perspective is largely a “bottom-up,” comparative examination of particular social processes, and is presented in the form of ethnographic monographs and articles that describe everyday life in detail. The main question that we will be addressing throughout the seminar is the impact of transnational processes. Is globalization homogenizing different cultures to the extent that we can talk about a global society? Or is globalization resulting in local interpretations of transnational processes, resulting in fragmented yet interconnected global societies?

To accommodate the extensive list of readings, this seminar will include group work and case studies, generated by seminar participants. While we will read a wide variety of theoretical models of globalization, the main goal of this seminar will be the application of different theories of globalization to contemporary issues that we face every day. All of this is geared towards the writing of a research paper, based on topics selected by seminar participants. As a result, the seminar will also address issues in the research process, including research design.

Course Readings

Lechner, Frank and John Boli 2011. *The Globalization Reader*, 4th Edition. Boston: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 978-0470655634.
Inda, Jonathan X. and Renato Rosaldo 2007. *The Anthropology of Globalization*, 2nd Edition. Boston: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 978-1405136129

Additional articles will be available on Moodle. Other ethnographies and articles will be selected by seminar participants.

Course Requirements

Seminar Participation: (25%)

This course is a seminar – I will **not lecture** at all on the material, and will participate as any other member. Readings will be quite extensive, with an average of **80 pages per week**.

Students are expected to attend all classes, do the readings prior to class, and **discuss the implications of the issues** in the classroom. Student participation is crucial to the success of this seminar, and is a key part of the learning process in this class.

Discussion Board: (10%)

Each week, students will write a post towards an idea prompted by the reading; you should feel free to write whatever you feel is relevant. They are due Sunday at midnight each week; you will be post them yourself on the course website. Prior to our meeting on Monday, I also expect you to have reviewed what your peers have written. **LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

Group Project: Case Studies: (10%)

Groups will generate 2 case studies that apply previously read theory to a contemporary issue that can be found in popular media (i.e., newspapers, television, radio, internet). The group will be responsible for providing readings/links to the wider seminar in a timely manner (at least one week prior to discussion) through Moodle. Seminar participants will be expected to have reviewed this material, and be active in discussion that is led by the group. A more extensive description of the generation of case studies will be available in a handout to be distributed in class. I will make the selection of group members.

Group Project: Leading of Discussion. (10%)

Groups will also be responsible for leading discussion of theoretical readings. At the minimum, each group should be prepared to: 1) overview the general theoretical framework discussed by each author; 2) identify key concepts/terms integral to the theoretical framework; 3) situate the theoretical framework in relation to other approaches that we have read; 4) critique the assumptions and limitations of the theoretical framework; and 5) suggest possible areas where the theoretical framework can be applied.

Individual Research Project: (45% total):

This is divided into four different parts that will be due at different times throughout the semester; I will distribute individual handouts for each of these assignments.

- **Proposal (5%)**. No more than one page (prose), this assignment will contain your research question, methodology, and a tentative bibliography.
- **Literature Review (10%)**. Students will compile a selected bibliography on their research topic and write a 5-7 page paper reviewing the literature on their chosen topic. Students must first get approval on their topic from the instructor.
- **Research Presentation (10%)**. Students will present their findings to the class in a 10 minute format, followed by a brief question and answer period. Submission of a script or presentation is mandatory and part of the evaluation.
- **Research Paper (20%)**. The capstone to this seminar will be the semester-long research paper (no more than 20 pages), based on a topic that students will select after consultation with me. This essay must include outside research, either library or fieldwork-based.

While we will work together on the group project, other papers for this seminar must be your own individual work. All work is subject to the Davidson College Honor Code as stated in the

student handbook. If there are individual accommodations for special needs, please let me know and authorize the Dean of Students to contact me so that we can work something out.

Class Schedule (subject to modification)

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| 23 January | Introduction to the Seminar |
| 30 January | Wider Frameworks on Globalization Reading: Lechner and Boli, Part I, II |
| 6 February | Experiencing Globalization Reading: Lechner and Boli, Part III; Inda and Rosaldo, Overture (minus Appadurai) |
| 13 February | Economic Globalization Reading: Lechner and Boli, Part IV Assignment: Proposals Due Group 1 Case Study |
| 20 February | More on Economic Globalization Reading: Inda and Rosaldo, Part I Group 2 Case Study |
| 27 February | Political Globalization Reading: Lechner and Boli, Part V (Ohmae, Strange, Garrett) Lechner and Boli, Part VI (Berkovitch, Boli and Thomas, Mathews) Group 3 Case Study |
| 5-9 March | Spring Break. Have a good vacation. |
| 12 March | Religion and Globalization Reading: Lechner and Boli, Part VIII Group 4 Case Study |
| 19 March | Popular Culture and Globalization Reading: Lechner and Boli, Part VII Group 1 Case Study Assignment: Literature Review Due |
| 26 March | More on Popular Culture and Globalization Reading: Inda and Rosaldo, Part III Inda and Rosaldo, Part IV (Larkin, Juris) Group 2 Case Study |
| 2 April | Environmental Issues and Globalization Reading: Lechner and Boli, Part IX Group 3 Case Study |
| 9 April | Easter Break |
| 16 April | Resisting Globalization Reading: Lechner and Boli, Part X Group 4 Case Study |
| 23 April | Globalized People Reading: Inda and Rosaldo, Part II |

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| 30 April | Research Presentations |
| 7 May | Research Presentations |
| | Assignment: Research Papers Due |