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GLOBALIZATION: EMPIRICAL AND THEORETICAL ELEMENTS

Transnational processes such as economic globalization and cross-border migrations confront the social sciences with a series of theoretical and methodological challenges. This course examines these challenges through a focus on both macro level cross-border flows and micro processes which might take place at a global or at a sub-national level. Thus we go beyond the types of international economic analyses that characterize much globalization research and we ask what it means to study globalization at multiple scales of analysis, down to the most detailed approaches requiring fieldwork. To this end, the course will examine how different processes of globalization a) are actually constituted at different scales and in a range of institutional settings; b) transform key aspects of major institutions, such as sovereignty and citizenship, and major processes, such as urbanization, immigration, and digitization; and c) are in turn shaped by these institutions and processes. Particular attention will go to analyzing the challenges for theorization and empirical specification.

REQUIRED READINGS

Each course section lists required readings. Because these are all fields in formation, I will also hand out lists of additional suggested readings during the course. Depending on a student's interests, I will recommend particular items from these suggested readings. Students should check with me.

The following books (all paperbacks; make sure to get the proper edition) will be read more or less in their entirety, so I strongly recommend students buy them

Ferguson, Y. and B. Jones, editors. Political Space: Frontiers of Change and Governance in a Globalizing World. SUNY: 2004.

Sassen, Saskia. Cities in a World Economy. Pine Forge/Sage: 2006. (3rd edition)

Edited: Deciphering the Global: Its Scales, Spaces and Subjects. Routledge: 2007.

Castles S. and M.J. Miller. The Age of Migration. Guilford: 2003. (3rd edition)

Articles posted on the class' website (log in to Courseworks at www.courseworks.columbia.edu)

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

You are asked to come to class well-prepared to discuss the required readings for that session

A mid-term essay style exam (40%)

A choice of either a final project/paper, or an exam that will cover the second half of the course (40%)

Participation in seminar sessions (20%)

I. Introduction.

Review of the three main domains the course will focus on in order to specify key features of globalization: a) cities, b) immigration, and c) the state. A fourth subject, digitization, will be discussed throughout the course

Introduction of some of the theoretical and methodological issues we confront when studying cities, immigration, and the state in the context of globalization.

II. THE STATE AND THE NEW GEOGRAPHY OF POWER.

The de-centering of sovereign power

The unbundling of national territory

Political and economic territoriality in a global and digital age.

Required Readings

Ferguson and Jones, Introduction

Castles and Miller, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2

Sassen, 2006 Chapter 1

In Deciphering:

Datz, Global-National Interactions: Toward a Theory of Sovereign Debt Restructuring Outcomes

III. EMERGENT CONCEPTIONS OF CITIZENSHIP.

Required Readings:

Ong, A “Cultural Citizenship as Subject Making: Immigrants Negotiate Racial and Cultural Boundaries in the US.” (on class website)

Dawson, M. “Globalization, the Racial Divide, and a New Citizenship.” (on class website)

In Deciphering, chapter by: Kamal Sadiq “When States Prefer Non-Citizens Over Citizens: Conflict Over Illegal Immigration into Malaysia”

Castles and Miller Chapter 5

III . STRATEGIC SPACES IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Spatial and organizational features of the global economy

The impact of digitization and telecommunications generally on the spatial organization of economic activities

Two separate bodies of scholarship and scholarly discourse: economic globalization and urbanism

Conceptual and methodological strategies for elaborating their articulation

Global cities as sites for the production of strategic inputs needed in the management, coordination, and servicing of the global operations of firms and markets.

Required Readings:

Sassen 2006, Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5

Amin, Ash and Thrift, N. 1992. "Neo-Marshallian nodes in global networks." International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 16 (4): 571-87. (on class website)

Ferguson and Jones Chapters 5, 6, 10

In Deciphering: Chapters by Lloyd, Postindustrial Bohemia: Culture, Neighborhood, and the Global Economy

Harvey, The Sub-national Constitution of Global Markets

Suggested: David Harvey, Spaces of Global Capitalism (one Chapter on class website).

IV. MIGRATION PROCESSES.

The production of migrations.

- conditions that activate poverty/unemployment as push factors
- empirical regularities

The production of a racialized subject.

The politics of membership.

Required Readings:

In Castles and Miller, Chapters 3, 4, 11.

In Deciphering: Chapters by Farrer, From Corporate Employees to Business Owners: Chinese Immigrant Transnational Entrepreneurship in Japan

Kaplan, The Transnational Human Rights Movement and States of Emergency in Israel/Palestine

Sassen 2006, Chapter 7

Basch et al. Nations Unbound, Chapters 1 and 2 (on class website)

Hamilton and Chinchilla "Central American Migration: A Framework for Analysis." (on class website)

"Towards postnational and denationalized citizenship" (on class website)

V. TWO SEMINAR SESSIONS

This will give students a chance to catch up with the readings, discuss them in class, and begin to prepare for the mid-term exam

VI. Midterm Exam.

Take-home exam: You have the week of Oct 16. Return by end of that week.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO COME TO CLASS THAT WEEK.

VII. INEQUALITY IN A GLOBAL WORLD

- New or accentuated forms of inequality in the earnings capacities of households
- New or accentuated forms of inequality in the profit-making capacities of firms
- New or accentuated forms of spatial inequality
- Inequality at different scales: urban, metropolitan, national, global

We will work with mostly online materials, all to be posted on class website.

In Deciphering:

Buechler, Municipal Politics in a Global Context

Johnson, Deregulation, Rights and Emergent Political Practices: Community Policing and State Transformation in Mexico

Chapter in D. Harvey

VIII. THE BORDER IN A GLOBAL WORLD.

Global Networks/Transnational Urban Systems.

The neutralization of borders in the new economic regime for trade and investment.

Is a border-control policy regarding people flows viable?

The re-positioning of citizenship/Global Civil Society

Required Readings:

Ferguson and Jones Chapters 7, 11, 12

Castles and Miller Chapters 6, 7

In Deciphering: Chapters by

Bartelett, Renegotiating the Political: Protest Politics and the Darfur Crisis

Peterson, Translocal Civilities: Modern Dance and Multiculturalism in Los Angeles

Hindman, Outsourcing Difference: How Culture is Disciplined by Elite Global Capital

D'Andrea, Neo-Nomadism: A Theory of Post-Identitarian Mobility in the Global Age

Tennant, Locating Transnational Activists: Solidarity with and Beyond Proximity

Cornelius, Wayne. 2005. "Controlling 'unwanted' immigration: Lessons from the United States 1993-2004." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 31(4), 775-794. (on class website)

VIII. THE RISE OF ELECTRONIC NETWORKS AND DOMAINS.

Social and economic impacts

How do we study electronic domains

Detecting the diversity of cultures of use

The impact of electronics and globalization on the constitution of space in the city and on social conditions generally

- The virtualization of a growing number and type of economic activities
- Impact on the urban built environment for the economy
- Commercial density on the street and in cyberspace
- Changes in the legibility of economic power
- The impact of electronics on contemporary forms of gendering in the city
- The possibility of new forms of gendering in digital space
- The impact of digitalization on public space
- Do these developments contain different options/capacities for sociability, power, resistance, etc.

Required Readings:

Several readings online from the "techie" lit

Sassen 2006: Chapters 6 and 8

Castles and Miller Chapter 8

Sassen: "Towards a sociology of information technology" or "Electronic Markets and Activist Networks: The Weight of Social Logics in Digital Formations."

IX . DOUBLE DISCUSSION SESSION

Review of the readings of second half of class.

X. GLOBALIZATION: WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Castles and Miller Chapter 12

Ferguson and Jones Chapters 9, 1, 2

In Deciphering Chapters by, Hill, World Heritage, Cultural Property and the Politics of Scale in Late Socialist Cuba

Nashashibi, Ghetto Cosmopolitanism: Making Theory at the Margins

Busse, Becoming Global? Evangelism and Transnational Practices in Russian Society

FINAL EXAM OR FINAL PROJECT. DUE DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED BY THE UNIVERSITY. The exam will follow the same format as the mid-term.