

GRG 350K
Geographies of Globalization
Fall 2010

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am- 10.45am
Venue: GRG 316
Unique no: 37180

Instructor: Prof. Ipsita Chatterjee
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Office Hours: Tuesdays (3.30-4.30pm) and Wednesdays (2.30-4.00pm)
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Preamble: The world is not our oyster-- it is big and complex, yet it is possible to have a reasonable understanding of what is happening in the “Global Society.” What happened under colonialism? How do markets work? Why do economic crisis happen? What has made globalization possible? Who is responsible for events like conflicts and war? How do the ideologies of powerful individual, groups, think tanks determine global events? Why is there so much inequality and poverty in the world? What is happening to the mom and pop stores? When and why did we become such a consumerist society? Why did we go to Iraq? Answering these questions require a ‘bird eye view’, as well as ‘worm eye view’ of the world. This course will inform you, and conceptually equip you so that you can look beyond your ‘oyster’ and see the world through your ‘mind’s eye’ and not just through the ‘Fox’ news lens. This course will explore some of the BIG issues in the world today, like: globalization, colonization, Free market/free trade, war, violence, conflict, economic crisis, etc. In the first half, you will be familiarized with the big ideas that shook the world – Adam Smith’s “invisible hand,” Marx’s “mode of production,” Hegel’s “dialectics,” and more recently “Clash of Civilization,” “War on Terror,” “Network Society,” “Macdonaldization,” “Time-Space Compression.” In the latter half of the semester, we will apply these concepts/perspectives to critically evaluate the Why? Who? How? questions raised above. The lectures will be interspersed with documentaries, discussions and assignments to help you better internalize the class materials.

Objectives: To provide you with conceptual tools, which will enable you to not only understand, analyze, and explain international affairs, past and contemporary global events, economic cultural and political issues for academic purposes, but also to enable you to use these concepts in ‘real’ life so that you develop critical skills to comprehend, and articulate reality more comprehensively.

To encourage you to think critically; think critically means to delve really deep beneath appearances, superficiality, and manifestations to understand the mechanisms, the nuts and bolts, and the hidden power structures guiding events and phenomena.

To introduce you to the World of Geography, and demonstrate the use of spatial perspectives (like territory, resources, raw material) in understanding and explaining global and local events.

Outcomes: A student of this class upon having completed the course will be proficient in analyzing international economic and political policy decisions;

Students will be better capable of understanding why and how global and local cultures get reformulated with globalization, and how this can produce violent realities

Students will become familiar with the structure and role of national and international organizations that impact global societies;

Students will become familiar with the role played by U.S, G8 nations in structuring trade, capital, financial, war and conflict negotiations, and the impact of these on the Global South;

Students will develop analytical tools to analyze the geographical and non-geographical impetuses behind, and the outcomes of, contemporary international affairs.

Text and Readings: There is no required textbook for this class. All readings are to be found on BLACKBOARD - please go to <https://courses.utexas.edu/> which is the blackboard website. Once there, click on the course site “Geographies of Globalization GRG 350 K”. Then click on “course documents” on the left to access the readings arranged in folders.

Important dates:

Paper 1 due	9/16
Paper 2 due	9/30
Exam 1	10/7
Paper 3 due	10/28
Paper 4 due	11/18
Exam 2	12/2

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance in class lectures is mandatory. The class lecture is your most important source of information after your readings. Class lectures will simplify, condense, and clarify the contents of your readings. Lectures will expand upon the readings, and will also include material not contained in the readings. You will need to attend lectures and take careful notes in order to succeed in the class. We will take attendance once in a while, and this will account for 6 percent of your grades. Random attendance taken throughout the semester and class participation through answering questions, contributing to discussions will be noted down and can enable grade-boosting in case of border line situations (for example, few points below A or B). However, what constitutes a borderline grade, and to what extent it can be boosted depends on the discretion of the professor.

2. Class participation- We will initiate class discussions based on movies and reading materials in which your participation is expected and will be noted to be used later as a decider to ‘boost’ your grade in case you have a borderline grade.

3. Readings - You are required to come to class having read all the material that is listed for that day as under class schedule.

4. Writing assignment (4 short papers, maximum 2 pages) – 4 short papers will be assigned during the semester. The topics of the short papers and the date on which they are due are noted in the class schedule below. You will be given one week to complete these. For the first paper, it is mandatory to seek editing help from the TA and/or the instructor during the office hours; the TA and the instructor will help edit your rough drafts, which you can revise for final submission. For all subsequent assignments you are encouraged to seek the instructor’s editing expertise before submission. You will do better if you meet us during office hours to show us your drafts before final submission. The assignments will be due at the beginning of the specified class day. We will collect the papers in the first 5 -10 minutes of the class, late assignments submitted after 10

minutes have elapsed will not be accepted (see more about deadline under “class policies”). If you anticipate that you cannot be present on the day an assignment is due either due to an official religious holiday, job interview, doctor’s appointment, you have the option of submitting it to the instructor ahead of time. The purpose of the assignment is to not simply regurgitate what has been taught, but provide concise summaries followed by your own perspectives and critical evaluations (specific details in the schedule below). A good answer is one, which can demonstrate that you have read your material, and that you have thought a good deal about the topic. Bibliography/work cited should be included (even if web sources are used you must cite them) and can exist outside the 2 page limit. References in the bibliographies should correspond to inside the text citation, for example, if you are using an idea from the author named Adam Smith, please incorporate (Smith, 2004) in the text, at the end of your last sentence paraphrasing that idea, where 2004 is the year of publication of the article or book written by Adam Smith. When you quote directly, the sentences must be quoted verbatim enclosed within quotation marks, and at the end of the quoted sentence, before you put the period mark you must also site the page numbers, for e.g. (Smith, 2000, pp75-76). These in-text citations should then be elaborated in the bibliography with the name of the article, publisher, etc., you can follow the APA or any other style manual. Wikipedia is not an acceptable reference for this class and should not be cited. While sharing reading materials, and discussing informally in groups are encouraged, copying each others assignments will not be accepted, and if discovered will result in loss of grades. Materials and ideas lifted without appropriate citation constitutes acts of plagiarism and if discovered could result in an “F” grade (See “academic integrity” under class policy below). **Assignments will have to be handed in hard copy; email attachments will not be accepted. Late assignments will not be accepted.**

Formatting assignments– The 2 page short papers should be in 11.5 to 12 point font size, with at least 0.5 inch margin on each side, and not less than 1.5 line spacing.

7. Examinations (total of 2, Exam 1=26 points, Exam 2= 20 points) – There will be two exams in the semester (Exam 1 and Exam 2, the dates are specified in the schedule). The examinations will be held within the class lecture time. The exams will include either essay type questions or a combination of multiple choice questions and essay type questions based on the class lectures, discussions, readings and films shown. There will be no cumulative exam. Students cannot re-take exams. Make up exams will only be allowed in case of an official written document of a death in the family, personal medical emergency or if you are part of a sports or academic team and will be out of town on that day. In that case, please the instructor and schedule a make-up within one week. If you anticipate a schedule conflict with any of the exam dates due to other personal reasons, **DO NOT TAKE THIS COURSE.**

8. Grading

4 short papers, 12 percent each - 48 percent

Exam 1 – 26 percent

Exam 2 – 20 percent

Attendance- 6 points

Total= 100 percent

We will add up the numbers you get for each of these, and assign a grade at the end. There are no fixed As, Bs or Cs. At the end of each assignment/exam however, I will tell you approximately what letter grade your numerical score corresponds with, so that you have an idea about your performance throughout the semester vis-à-vis your peers. Getting a high grade is not difficult at all. Grades cannot be replaced or raised through "extra credit."

Class Policies:

Contacting and Office hours – The best way to contact me is to meet me in my office hours, or email me. My email address is listed on the front page of this syllabus, and can also be found on the “Blackboard” course

management website. I will try to answer your emails as soon as possible. You are strongly encouraged to meet me to clarify concepts, seek editing help for assignments, clear doubts; I am interested in discussing and reviewing materials with you, so utilize the office hours to your advantage, I am here for you.

Cell Phone – Please switch off cell phones during the duration of the class.

Deadlines – The deadlines for the assignments must be strictly followed, an exception will only be made in case of an official, written document of a death in the family, personal medical emergency, or if your traveling because of academic reasons, or are part of the university sports team. Over sleeping, alarm failing to go-off, computer crashing and printer not working, car breaking down, leaving early for vacation are not acceptable excuses for late assignments.

Academic integrity – Academic dishonesty includes cheating during exams, copying assignments from each other, or using materials from other published sources and claiming them as your own without appropriate citation (plagiarism). Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and if discovered will result in loss of grade, or even an “F”. For further information please consult Student Judicial Services statements and links on scholastic dishonesty, available at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php

Students with Disabilities – UT Austin encourages qualified students with disabilities to participate fully in its programs and activities. If you have a documented disability, you will be asked to present documentation from the Services of Students with Disability (SSD), housed in the office of the Dean of students, located on the fourth floor of the Student Services Building (phone: 512- 471-6259). You can visit the website of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at: <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>
If you anticipate the need for any special accommodation for this course, or have questions regarding physical access please communicate to the instructor within the first week of class, and we will put in every effort to make your learning process smoother.

I reserve the right to make reasonable and responsible changes in the syllabus based on our progress, and any special requirement that may arise as the semester progresses. You will be notified about these changes well in advance. As such, the schedule is tentative, some topics may take longer/shorter than slotted in the schedule below.

Class schedule, readings and assignments
Schedule: Fall 2010

All readings are available on blackboard

8/26

Introduction to the course

8/31

Topic 1: The Modern World - Understanding modernity

Readings:

- **Russel, B.** Rise of Modern Philosophy (pages 170-175) in *Wisdom of the West*. Doubleday Company Inc, New York.
- **Russel, B.** Enlightenment and Romanticism (pages 230-235) in *Wisdom of the West*. Doubleday Company Inc, New York.

9/2

Topic 2: How modern thinkers understood the capitalist world? -- Max Weber

Readings:

- **Weber, M.** 1992. *Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism*, excerpts from *The Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Routledge, New York.
- **Peet, R.** 1997. Cultural Production of Economic Forms. In Lee R and Wills J (eds.) *Geographies of Economics*, Arnold, London, pp. 37-46.
- **Peet, R.** 2000. Culture, Imaginary and Rationality in regional economic development. *Environment and Planning A*, vol. 32, pp1215-1234 (**start from page 1222 “Weberian Rationality” till the end**).

9/7, 9/9

Topic 3: How modern thinkers understood the capitalist world? – Adam Smith and David Ricardo

Readings:

- **Peet, R. and Hartwick, E.** 1999. Classical Economics (**pages 23-29**) in *Theories of Development*, Guilford press, New York.
- **Peet, R.** 2007. Deconstructing Free Trade from Epistemic communities to ideological communities in struggle. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* NS32, pp576-80.
- **Smith, A.** excerpts from *Wealth on Nations*

Paper 1 assigned, due on 9/16: Briefly explain how Weber understood religion to be a mode of regulation that produced modern capitalism (1st page). Provide 2 criticisms of Weber’s theory and explain why according to you the protestant ethic in capitalist society has been replaced by a consumerist ethic (2nd page) (Total 2 pages, 12 points, see further instructions under writing assignments and formatting in the section above).

9/14, 9/16

Topic 4: How modern thinkers understood the capitalist world? – Hegel and Marx

Readings:

- **Russel, B.** *Wisdom of the West*, read entry on Hegel (**pages 246-249**). Doubleday Company Inc, New York.
- **Russel, B.** *Wisdom of the West*, read entry on Marx (**pages 270-273**). Doubleday Company Inc, New York.
- **Marx, K.** *The Communist Manifesto*, **Chapter 1**, available at: <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ch01.htm>
- **Wolf, E.** 1982. Modes of Production (**Chapter 3, pages 73-100**) in *European People without History*. University of California Press, London

Paper 1 due on 9/16

9/21, 9/23

Topic 5: Modernity in conflict- Imperialism, Dependency, World system

Readings:

- **Peet, R. and Hartwick, E.** 1999. Marxist and Neo Marxist theories of development (**pages 91-102**) in *Theories of Development*, Guilford press, London.
- **Peet, R. and Hartwick, E.** 1999. Imperialism, dependency and world system theory (**pages 104-114**) in *Theories of Development*, Guilford press, London.

Paper 2 assigned, due on 9/30: Briefly explain Adam Smith and David Ricardo's arguments on free trade and comparative advantage as the 'new' economic regime for the modern world, also explain why they were considered radicals or liberals of that time (1st page) Do you think free trade/market regime can promote equal opportunities for all? Provide at least 2 reasons for your position (2nd page) (Total 2 pages, 12 points, see further instructions under writing assignments and formatting in the section above).

9/28 and 9/30

Topic 6: Managed capitalism and mass consumption – Keynesianism and Fordism

Readings:

- **Peet, R. et al.** 2003. Chapter 1 in *Unholy Trinity: the IMF, World Bank and WTO* (**pages 204-205**) Zed Books, London.
- **Peet, R. and Hartwick, E.** 1999. Fordism in *Theories of Development* (**pages 115-118**) in *Theories of Development*, Guilford press, New York.

Paper 2 due on 9/30

10/5

EXAMINATION 1 REVIEW

10/7

EXAMINATION 1 (26 points)

10/12, 10/14, 10/19, 10/21

Topic 7: Wal-Mart's, World Bank, and Free trade -- Neoliberalism and post-Fordism

Readings:

- **Peet, R. et al.** 2003 Washington-Wall street Alliance in *Unholy Trinity: the IMF, World Bank and WTO* (**pages 204-205**) Zed Books, London.
- **Peet, R. et al** 2004. Bretton Woods, IMF, WB. In Forsyth, T (eds.) *Encyclopedia of International Development*, Routledge, UK.
- **Harvey, D.** 1989 Theorizing the Transition, (**pages 173-188**). In *The Conditions of Postmodernity*, Blackwell, Cambridge, MA.
- **Chatterjee, I.** Notes on Fordism and Post Fordist flexible accumulation

Paper 3 assigned, due on 10/28: Briefly explain the role of World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization in imposing neoliberal free market policy? (1st page) Explain with examples, some of the negative implications of neoliberal policy? (2nd page) (Hint: Draw from the documentary *Life and Debt*) (Total 2 pages, 12 points see further instructions under writing assignments and formatting in the section above).

10/26, 10/28

Topic 8: The google world – postmodernity and globalization

Readings:

- **Castells, M.** 2001. The Network Society. In: Held, D McGrew A (eds.) *The Global Transformations Reader*. Polity Press, Cambridge, pp. 76–81.
- **Harvey, D.** 2001. Time-space compression and the postmodern condition. In Held D and McGrew A (eds.) *The Global Transformations Reader* Polity Press, Cambridge pp. 82–91.
- **Kearny, M.** 1995. The Local and the Global: The Anthropology of Globalization and Transnationalism. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, vol. 24, pp574-565

Paper 3 due on 10/28

11/2

Topic 9: Globalization and conflict

Readings:

- **Huntington, S. P.** 2000. The clash of civilizations? In O’Meara P, Mehlinger H D and Krain M (eds.) *Globalization and the Challenges of a New Century* Indiana University, Bloomington, pp 3–23.
- **Barber, B.** 1992. Jihad Vs Mc World, *Atlantic Monthly*, March, pp. 53-65

11/4, 11/9, 11/11

Topic 10: War on Terror and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict

Readings:

- **Benin, J and Hajjar, L.** *Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Middle Research and Information Project, available at [www. MERIP.org](http://www.MERIP.org)
- **Gregory, D.,** 2004. Palestine and the “War on Terror”. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 24, 183–195.
- Anonymous, Imperial Hubris

Paper 4 assigned, due on 11/18: Define globalization in your own words providing examples if necessary, and then explain Castells’ concept of ‘spaces of flows’ and ‘spaces of places’, and Harvey’s concept of ‘time-space compression’? Illustrate why a compressed world is not necessarily an equal or homogenous world? (Total 2 pages, 12 points, see further instructions under writing assignments and formatting in the section above).

11/16, 11/18

Topic 11: US hegemony and Iraq war

Readings:

- Iraq war time line
- **Smith, N.** 2005. The endgame of globalization. *Political Geography*, vol. 25, pp1-14.
- **Ali, T.** 2003. Re-colonizing Iraq, *New Left Review* 21, May-June, pp 5-19.

- **Peet, R.** 2007 Neoconservatism (**pages 186-189**). In *The Geography of Power*, Zed Books, London, New York.
- **Harvey, D.** 2005. The 'new' imperialism: On spatio-temporal fixes and accumulation by dispossession, excerpts from *New Imperialism*, Oxford University press, Oxford.

Paper 4 due on 11/18

11/23 and 11/25: Thanks giving-No class

11/30

EXAMINATION 2 REVIEW

12/2

EXAMINATION 2 (20 points)