

GLOBALIZATION AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS | AMST 309/509 | Spring 2009

Professor Alyosha Goldstein

Wednesday 4:00pm-6:30pm

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Course Description

This course explores the development and rhetoric of globalization, providing students with an introduction to key debates and controversies, and examines the grassroots alliances and transnational coalitions responding to neoliberal institutions and the ambitions of global capital. Questions that will be central to the course include: How have social movements addressed the conditions and consequences of globalization? What forms of organized resistance, reform, and rebellion have challenged the ascendance of the so-called free market? In what ways have indigenous peoples and local groups asserted autonomy and self-determination in response to global capital?

For almost a decade, since the explosive days in Seattle, when activists from throughout the world gathered to voice their dissent on the treaty-making process of the World Trade Organization, a broadly-based coalition against the new economic order has gained unprecedented visibility. From anti-sweatshop organizing to campaigns against environmental degradation, a multitude of issues have succeeded in galvanizing popular protest, challenging the prerogatives of transnational corporate control, and sought to establish terms for world-wide democratic governance. This course begins by establishing the historical context within which this grassroots uprising emerged and uses specific case studies to examine the dynamic contentions and consequences of the global reach of contemporary capitalism and resistance to neoliberal globalization. Our readings and discussions aim to situate and understand the cycles of capitalist expansion and contraction and social movement efforts to imagine and implement opposition to the depredations of the market in light of the current crisis of financialization.

In order to provide an expanded context for our discussion of course readings, each week includes screenings of film and/or news media selections related to themes addressed in the assigned reading. Films have been carefully selected for each session to enhance our discussion. Each work screened is not simply a “visual aid” for the topic under discussion, but will be treated as an additional document or “text” for analysis.

Required Book: (Available at UNM Bookstore)

- Nancy Grey Postero, *Now We Are Citizens: Indigenous Politics in Postmulticultural Bolivia* (Stanford University Press, 2007)

All other readings are available on eReserve: [<http://ereserves.unm.edu/courseindex.asp> (the password for the course is “lobo309”)]

Students are expected to bring the required readings to class on the day of discussion as noted below.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Student Participation (25% of final grade).

This course involves both thoughtful and engaged participation in class discussion. You are thus expected to complete all reading assignments before seminar each class. Your class participation grade will be assessed on the basis of your attendance, your in-class group and individual exercise participation, and thoughtful contributions to class discussions. *You are allowed up to three missed classes. Students who have four or more absences will receive a failing grade for the course.* If you anticipate problems with this attendance policy, speak with me *at the beginning of the semester.*

Written Reading Responses (25% of final grade)

Each week students will receive three questions to consider for the upcoming week's reading. Students are expected to write a paragraph (**100 to 300 words**) **in response to each question**. Written responses to the three questions must be *posted on the course's WebCT page by 10pm Tuesday* (the evening before class). The purpose of written reading responses is to assess student comprehension of the course readings and to help students prepare for class discussion, the mid-term, and the final exam. *Instructions for using WebCT are included on the last page of this syllabus.*

Midterm Exam (25% of final grade)

This exam will consist of short essay questions covering readings, class discussions, and films from the first half of the semester.

Final Exam (25% of final grade).

The final exam will consist of a short answer section, similar in format to the midterm exam, and a choice of essay questions based on readings, class discussions, and films from the second half of the semester.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

You are expected at all times to follow university policies concerning academic integrity. Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. "Academic dishonesty,...(includes, but is not limited to)... dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or work done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure of misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records." (*Pathfinder, Student Code of Conduct, 2.4*).

The American Studies Department supports this policy. If you're found guilty of academic dishonesty, you will receive an "F" for the class and be reported to the Dean of Students. If your work shows marked similarity to any other students work, you both will be failed. Take responsibility for your own work and do not leave it anywhere where it can be copied.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the office for Services for Students with disabilities. Appropriate accommodations may then be provided for you. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent full demonstration of academic ability should contact the professor personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and to facilitate your educational opportunities.

COURSE SCHEDULE

January 21

- [introduction]

January 28

- What is Globalization? (Economics, Politics, and Culture)

Reading:

- Michael Denning, "A Global Left?: Social Movements in the Age of Three Worlds," in *Culture in the Age of the Three Worlds* (Verso, 2004).
- June Nash, "Social Movements in Global Circuits," in *Practicing Ethnography in a Globalizing World* (AltaMira, 2007).
- Walden Bello, "The Capitalist Conjuncture: Over-accumulation, Financial Crises, and the Retreat from Globalisation," *Third World Quarterly* 27:8 (2006).

Screening:

- *The Fourth World War* (Rick Rowley, 2003)

February 4

Reading:

- Ellen Meiksins Wood, "Peasants and the Market Imperative: The Origins of Capitalism," in *Peasants and Globalization*, eds. A. Haroon Akram-Lodhi and Cristóbal Kay (Routledge, 2009)
- Jürgen Osterhammel and Niels P. Petersson, *Globalization: A Short History* (Princeton, 2005), p. 57-111.

Screening:

- *Burn!* (Gillo Pontecorvo, 1969)

February 11

Reading:

- David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (Oxford, 2005), p. 1-38.

Screening:

- *The Corporation* (Mark Achbar and Jennifer Abbott, 2004)

February 18

Reading:

- John Perkins, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* (Berrett-Koehler, 2004), p. xvi-33, 196-219.

Screening:

- *Life & Debt* (Stephanie Black, 2001)

February 25

Reading:

- Silvia López Estrada, “Border Women’s NGOs and Political Participation in Baja California,” in *Women and Change at the U.S.-Mexico Border: Mobility, Labor, and Activism*, eds. Doreen J. Mattingly and Ellen R. Hansen (University of Arizona Press, 2006).
- Scott Whiteford and Alfonso Cortez-Lara, “Good to the Last Drop: The Political Ecology of Water and Health on the Border,” in *Globalization, Water, & Health: Resource Management in Times of Scarcity*, eds. Linda Whiteford and Scott Whiteford (SAR Press, 2007)

Screening:

- *Maquilopolis: City of Factories* (Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre, 2006)

March 4

Reading:

- Anita Chan, “Organizing Wal-Mart in China,” *New Labor Forum* 16.2 (Spring 2007)
- Andrew Ross, “Outsourcing as a Way of Life? Knowledge Transfer in the Yangtze Delta,” in *Working in China: Ethnographies of Labor and Workplace Transformation*, ed. Ching Kwan Lee (Routledge, 2006)

Screening:

- *Is Wal-Mart Good for America?* (Frontline, 2005)
- **[Review for Midterm Exam]**

March 11

- **[Midterm Exam]**

March 18

- No class – [Spring Break]

March 25

Reading:

- Subcommandante Insurgente Marcos, *The Speed of Dreams: Selected Writings, 2001-2007* (City Lights, 2007), p. 13-30, 260-285, 302-316.

Screening:

- *A Place Called Chiapas* (Nettie Wild, 1998)

April 1

Reading:

- Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums* (Verso, 2006), 174-206.
- Harry E. Vanden, “Brazil’s Landless Hold Their Ground,” and
- Nicholas Watson, “Homeless Movement Builds Momentum,” in *Dispatches from Latin America: On the Frontlines Against Neoliberalism*, eds. Vijay Prashad and Teo Ballvé (South End Press, 2006).

Screening:

- *Favela Rising* (Jeff Zimbalist and Matt Mochary, 2005)

April 8

Reading:

- Nancy Grey Postero, *Now We Are Citizens: Indigenous Politics in Postmulticultural Bolivia* (Stanford University Press, 2007), p. 1-54.

Screening:

- *Cocalero* (Alejandro Landes, 2007)
- *Our Brand is Crisis* (Rachel Boynton, 2005)

April 15

Reading:

- Postero, *Now We Are Citizens*, p. 123-188.

Screening:

- *Homeland: Four Portraits of Native Action* (Katahdin Productions, 2005)

April 22

Reading:

- Postero, *Now We Are Citizens*, p. 189-232.
- Barbara Rose Johnston, “The Commodification of Water and the Human Dimensions of Manufactured Scarcity,” in *Globalization, Water, & Health*

Screening:

- *Thirst* (Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman, 2004)

April 29

Reading:

- Bill Fletcher, Jr., and Fernando Gapasin, *Solidarity Divided: The Crisis in Organized Labor and a New Path Toward Social Justice* (University of California Press, 2008), p. 165-215.
- Raúl Zibechi, “Worker-Run Factories: From Survival to Economic Solidarity,” in *Dispatches from Latin America: On the Frontlines Against Neoliberalism*, eds. Vijay Prashad and Teo Ballvé (South End Press, 2006)

Screening:

- *The Take* (Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein, 2005)

May 6

- **Graduate student research presentations**
- **[Review for Final]**

Exam week: **Final Exam** [Wednesday, May 13th, 5:30-7:30pm]

POSTING WEEKLY READING RESPONSES

WebCT Vista Instructions

<https://vista.unm.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>

Draft and save your weekly response using a word processing program. Then cut and paste into the message field of WebCT after doing the following:

- **Log on** in the upper right corner of the screen using your UNM Net ID and password.
- Under the Course listings select (click on) **AMST-309-001 (Fall 2007)**.
- In the column on the left of the screen with the heading "Course Tools" select **"Assignments."**
- Select **"Inbox."**
- Click on the assignment title (**usually the date of the upcoming class session**).
- Paste in your reading response in the text box under **"Submission."**
- Click on **"submit"** once you are finished.