



GEOGRAPHIES OF GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

WHAT is globalization, and why does it seem to be making our world worse even as it makes it better? What is development, and why does it cause so many political and social conflicts? This course explores the globalization of economies, natures and cultures in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Special attention will be paid to the successes and failures of development, the globalization of food, the changing roles of cities, the rise of China, time-space compression, the global assembly line, free markets and the nation-state, global finance and its meltdowns, illegal economies, and resistance.

GEOG 342, Winter 2016, 4 cr
2:00-3:20pm Tues/Thurs
100 Willamette (WIL)

Instructor: Dylan Brady
email: dbrady@uoregon.edu

SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Grading breakdown:

Three assignments	45 %
Attendance/quizzes	10 %
Midterm	20 %
Final	25 %

Three assignments:

- 5% **Documentary Critique.** A short critique of the documentary watched week 4. Your critique should analyze how one or more processes studied so far in this class (commodification, globalization, marketization, development, etc.) are portrayed in the film, and how it challenges and deepens our understanding of that process. 500-600 words, ~2 pages, double spaced.
- 20% **Commodification Paper.** on BB before the beginning of class, and bring a paper copy to class. Research and write a short analysis of an important early moment (in most cases, early 20th century or prior) in the global commodification of one commodity (i.e., apples or automobiles, bananas or books, coffee or cement, etc.). Be sure to demonstrate your understanding of our assigned readings (Rivoli and Cronon) from Weeks 1-3 in your analysis (use these as foils* for your analysis). Your paper should cite assigned class readings, or journalistic or other sources, but in addition you must also make meaningful use of at least four academic, non-class sources (peer-reviewed books or journal articles). A detailed grading rubric is available on Blackboard. Your paper must be edited, proofread, double-spaced, 1" margins all around, and font 12-point Times New Roman, 1000-1200 words (~4-5 pages; not counting bibliography and illustrations).
- 20% **Spatialization Paper.** on BB before the beginning of class, and bring a paper copy to class. Research and analyze the contemporary globalization of one place, the scale of which you should explain and defend in your paper. Be sure to demonstrate your understanding of our assigned book, *Tropic of Chaos*, in your analysis (use the book as a foil* for your analysis). Your paper should cite assigned class readings, or journalistic or other sources, but in addition you must also make meaningful use of at least 4 academic, non-class sources (peer-reviewed books or journal articles). Your analysis must utilize and engage with the concepts, themes, and analyses covered in the assigned readings and lectures of the course. Your paper must be edited, proofread, double-spaced, 1" margins all around, and font 12-point Times New Roman, 1000-1200 words (~4-5 pages; not counting bibliography and illustrations).

[*foil, from Wikipedia: In fiction, a **foil** is a character who contrasts with another character (usually the protagonist) in order to highlight particular qualities of the other character. A foil usually either differs drastically or is extremely similar but with a key difference setting them apart. The concept of a *foil* is also more widely applied to any comparison that is made to contrast a difference between two things. [There are different categories...]: those that emphasize the *heightened contrast* (this is different because ...), and those that operate by *exclusion* (this is not X because...)]

Attendance/quizzes

In order to encourage keeping up on the reading and to track attendance and engagement, there will be various short assignments and quizzes during lecture over the course of the term. Missing any one of these will be excused; beyond that it will affect your grade.

Midterm and Final

Both the midterm and the final will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and five-paragraph essay questions. Make-ups will be allowed only for documented medical reasons. If you need disabilities accommodations, please contact the professor before the end of week two.

Reading requirements:

All reading assignments shown on the syllabus are required. I may change a few of the readings during the course of the term—any changes will be announced via Blackboard. All readings are posted on Blackboard except the following two books, which you should purchase. They are available at the Duckstore.

Pietra Rivoli, 2014. *T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade* (be sure to get 2nd or 3rd edition). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Christian Parenti, 2011. *Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence*. New York: Nation Books.

Ethics of our learning environment

Everyone should respect this as a place for learning, for each of us and for everyone in class. I see a respectful, supportive learning process as a priority while we work through challenging ideas and different viewpoints. Showing respect for your peers, especially during discussion of often-sensitive topics, is absolutely essential to a good group learning process. This includes tolerance of differing opinions, using your listening skills (in addition to your talking skills) and refraining from personal attacks. Finally, I urge you to value and respect the ways in which people in our class come from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

At times this term we will be discussing topics that may be disturbing, even traumatizing, to some students. If you ever feel the need to step outside during one of these discussions, either for a short time or for the rest of the class session, you may always do so without academic penalty. (You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please make arrangements to get notes from another student or see me individually.)

If you ever wish to discuss your personal reactions to this material, either with the class or with me afterwards, I welcome such discussion as an appropriate part of our coursework.

Academic integrity

Violations of academic integrity, such as plagiarism, and cheating will not be tolerated. For details please see <http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/> Suspected violations will be reported to the Director of Student Judicial Affairs. If that office finds the student to be guilty of a violation, it may result in a grade of F for the course.

Accessibility

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (formerly Disability Services) in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu

Schedule and Readings

Week 1

Introduction to Globalization & Development

Commodification 101

Rivoli, Pietra. 2009. Preface, Prologue, Chapters 1-4 (pp. ix-xx and 3-73) in *T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade*. 2nd Edition. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. [this Rivoli reading only will be available on Blackboard in the Course Documents folder]

Week 2

Divisions of Labor

Rivoli, *T-Shirt in the Global Economy*: Ch 5-8 (pp. 77-139).

Crabapple, Molly. 2015. "Slaves of Happiness Island." *VICE*. <http://www.vice.com/read/slaves-of-happiness-island-0000412-v21n8>. [on Blackboard]

Protectionism and Liberalization

Rivoli, *T-Shirt in the Global Economy*: Ch 9-12 (pp. 143-211).

Week 3

Making Comparative Advantage

Cronon, William. 1991. "Rails and Water" (pp. 55-93) in *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company. [Blackboard]

Commodification 2.0

Cronon, "Pricing the Future: Grain" in *Nature's Metropolis* (pp. 97-147). [Blackboard]

Week 4 (AAG; instructor absent)

Film or Guest Lecture

McClelland, Mac. 2012. "I Was a Warehouse Wage Slave." *Mother Jones*. <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/02/mac-mcclelland-free-online-shipping-warehouses-labor>. [Blackboard]

Film or Guest Lecture

Documentary Critique Due on BB by midnight

Seabrook, John. 2011. "Crunch." *The New Yorker*, November 21. <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2011/11/21/crunch>. [Blackboard]

Week 5

4/28: Cast-off Economies

Commodification Paper Due

Rivoli, *T-Shirt in the Global Economy*: Ch 13-15 (pp. 215-252, 253-285).

4/30: "Free" Markets

Rivoli, *T-Shirt in the Global Economy*: Conclusion, Epilogue (pp. 253-285).

Chang, Ha-Joon. 2012. "Introduction" and "Thing 1: There is no such thing as a free market" (pp.

xiii-xviii and 1-10) in *23 Things They Don't Tell You about Capitalism*. New York: Bloomsbury Press. [Blackboard]

Week 6

Midterm

Walmartization of the World Economy

Petrovic, Misha and Gary Hamilton. 2006. "Making Global Markets: Wal-Mart and Its Suppliers" (pp. 107-141) in Nelson Lichtenstein, ed., *Wal-Mart: The Face of Twenty-First-Century Capitalism*. New York: The New Press. [Blackboard]

The Economist, May 18th 2013 (p. 82): "Free Exchange/The Humble Hero." [Blackboard]

Week 7

The Catastrophic Convergence

Parenti, Christian. 2012. Chapters 1-3 (pp. 3-36) in *Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence*. New York: Nation Books.

Legacies of Colonialism and the Cold War Parenti,

Tropic of Chaos: Chapters 4-8 (pp. 39-94)

Week 8

The Green Revolutions

Parenti, *Tropic of Chaos*: Chapters 9-12 (pp. 97-154)

Global Debt and Global Crisis

Parenti, *Tropic of Chaos*: Chapters 13-14 (pp. 157-205)

Week 9

Globalization in the US

Parenti, *Tropic of Chaos*: Chapters 15-16 (pp. 207-242)

Money in the Global Economy

James Fallows, 2007. "China Makes, The World Takes." *The Atlantic*. [Blackboard]

James Fallows, 2008. "The \$1.4 Trillion Question." *The Atlantic*. [Blackboard]

Week 10

BRICS

Spatialization Paper Due

Padraig Carmody, 2013. "Introduction: New Models of Globalization" (pp. 1-21) in *The Rise of the Brics in Africa: The Geopolitics of South-South Relations*. Zed Books. [Blackboard]

Food

Grain, 2012. *The Great Food Robbery: How corporations control food, grab land and destroy the climate*. Pambazuka Press. Selected pages. [Blackboard]

Final