

Instructor: Professor Manfred B. Steger
Meeting Time: Thursday, 1:30 - 4:00 / Saunders 624
Office: Saunders 615
Telephone: 956-8092
Email: manfred@hawaii.edu

POLS 610: POLITICAL THEORY AND ANALYSIS

Fall 2015: THEORIES OF GLOBALIZATION

Course Description

The primary objective of this course is to acquaint graduate students with major theories (and leading theorists) of globalization that have risen to prominence during the last two decades. But rather than approaching globalization *theory* as an abstract sphere floating above *practice*, we'll seek to understand the many links between theory and practice in our globalizing world. Thus, we'll raise and discuss critical global issues and concrete political problems linked to contemporary globalization dynamics. After all, ideas always come in history wrapped up in concrete material practices. Critical of the antiquated disciplinary framework of the social sciences inherited from late 19th-century Europe, this seminar is designed to foster the kind of *transdisciplinary* thinking that is required to make sense of the complexity of 21st-century politics. Indeed, this course is especially designed to connect political theory to other social science and humanities disciplines as well as to cross subfields within political science. Covering theories related to the major dimensions of globalization (political, social, economic, cultural), this course also focuses on ideological dynamics.

Student Learning Objectives

The five major student-learning objectives of this course are:

- *To understand the main dimensions, dynamics, and issues of globalization and their historical evolution in (post)modernity;*
- *To gain a clear understanding of major theories and theorists of globalization;*
- *To acquire the knowledge and skill to analyze contemporary global formations across disciplines and with an critical eye toward the workings of asymmetrical power relations in the current global order;*
- *To appreciate the role of ideas and ideologies in globalization dynamics;*
- *To produce and deepen critical forms of knowledge and understanding that contribute to emancipatory strategies of global political transformation.*

Course Readings (required)

The following paperback books are available for purchase in the U.H. bookstore:

- 1) Manfred B. Steger, *Globalisms: The Great Ideological Struggle of the 21st Century*. 3rd ed. Rowman & Littlefield, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-7425-5587-7
- 2) Jan Nederveen Pieterse, *Globalization and Culture*, 3rd. ed. Rowman & Littlefield, 2015. ISBN: 978-1442222557

Additional Required Readings are in the form of journal articles (mostly from the journal *Globalizations*) and book chapters—all are available free of charge (see COURSE SCHEDULE).

Please note: Each student is required to identify 5-10 additional journal articles pertaining to your research topic/theme in globalization theory (conduct your own online search).

Course Structure and Requirements

Let me encourage you to maintain an exploratory mind and create your own active learning environment—not solely interacting with me, but with each other as well. I EXPECT REGULAR STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION. Students must be willing to engage in class discussions. I will facilitate student discussions by creating a safe context that allows you to speak up freely. But I do not accept the equation of subjective experience or unreflective “common sense” with “truth.” Be prepared to engage with the questions raised in this seminar, regardless of students’ own preferences. Most of all, I am interested in preparing students for independent research which requires a tolerant, reflective mind, best summarized by Immanuel Kant’s dictum, *Sapere aude*—“Have the courage to use your *own* understanding!”

The course readings and assignments have been carefully selected to generate broad in-class discussions and insightful oral presentations. Except for the initial 5 weeks, each class meeting will follow the same basic structure:

- 1) A student engages as “discussant” of the assigned readings by raising questions for discussion and leading class discussion (40 min)
- 2) Instructor’s response to discussant and class discussion (10 min)
- 3) Short break (10 min)
- 4) Instructor’s lecture on assigned readings of the week plus class discussion (90 min)

Students are required to select a topic of their choice (in consultation with me) for a **25-page research paper that relates the materials of this seminar to a topic of the student’s interest. An abstract/outline of the paper (1 page) plus a research bibliography (10-15 entries), will be due Week 13 (November 19). At students’ request, I will provide feedback on ONE draft of the term paper between Dec 1 and 11 (face-to-face consultation in my office only—no email drafts!). In addition, in our last class on December 10, all students are required to give a short presentation on their paper topic and their selection of texts.**

In your term paper, you raise a clear research question and then engage your selected texts and topics with as much sophistication as possible. You should indicate how your textual analysis relates to your chosen topic and how it reveals something of political significance about the larger theme/context from which it is taken. Thus you should engage in a careful textual analysis of your themes and texts and cite appropriate, short textual passages (full footnotes or endnotes). *No book reports or summaries please!* You are expected to incorporate in your papers external research (books, journal articles, and reviews). I am happy to give you recommendations for additional secondary sources. If you wish such advice, please talk to me about it BEFORE you get to work on your paper. Your papers represent an exercise in political interpretation. A hardcopy of the research paper is due on **Thursday, December 17 at 10am, in my office (or department office).** **No late papers will be accepted.**

Finally, each student will be responsible for serving as a discussant of our weekly reading assignments (possibly with another student). You will be required to raise question for class discussion that relate to self-selected textual passages of the assigned readings. You will lead these discussions and involve the entire class. You will be asked to sign up for a specific week at the latest by the third week of class. Assignments on particular topics/weeks will be made on first-come, first-serve basis. In addition the assigned readings, your presentation may include additional supportive (brief) materials (for example, handouts, charts, and/or visual materials like Power Points, video clips, or other web-based materials).

Regular class attendance is required. Please inform the instructor *in advance* if you have to miss class for really, really important reasons!

A Note on Grading

You must complete all assigned written and oral work in order to pass the seminar. Any student found guilty of plagiarism will fail the seminar (see academic dishonest section below). Your in-class presentation and participation will count for 25% and your term paper for 75%. Thus, your seminar grade will reflect your presentation, participation, and the overall quality of your written work. Students who participate regularly during our class discussions will receive *extra credit*—meaning that if you find yourself between two grades at the end of the semester, you will receive the *higher grade*.

Please be advised that *overparticipation* and the monopolization of class discussion at the expense of your peers may hurt the quality of the course, especially if such actions tend to derail the thematic agenda. I reserve the right to cut off discussion at any point in order keep us on track and help *all* students to engage with the relevant materials. A significant element in academic study is the ability to learn to listen to other voices. For the purposes of this course, you should interpret the grades you receive in the following terms:

1) Discussant Presentations:

An “A” will only be given to presentations that are clearly superior in form as well as content. Typically, such presentations of self-selected textual passages are coherent, well

organized, and adhere to the given time frame. "A" students show their critical and careful reading of the text(s) and generate genuine interest and excitement for their topic. They lead discussions effortlessly, distribute speaking time fairly, and stay focused on their theme.

2) Research Paper:

Much of the above pertains to term papers as well. In addition to treating the subject in a sophisticated and creative manner, "A" papers exhibit elegant and clear prose. Such papers draw connections between non-obvious points; they are well organized and furnish adequate citations of primary and secondary sources without losing their own unique and distinct voice. An "A" paper in a graduate seminar should add a new wrinkle to the existing body of texts/literature. If this grade is to mean something, just doing a "good job" will result in a "B." To get an "A," you must demonstrate your ability to go *beyond* the expected.

Office Hours

Monday, 2:00-3:00; and by appointment.

Students are encouraged to see me during office hours on a regular basis. Please clarify any difficult readings and/or other problems as soon as they arise. Don't wait until the last few weeks of the semester.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (Aug 27): Introduction to the Course

Readings for week 3: 1) Steger, *Globalisms*, Chapter 2; 2) Roland Robertson, "The Conceptual Promise of Glocalization," *Art-e-Fact* (2004): http://artefact.mi2.hr/_a04/lang_en/theory_robertson_en.htm;
3) Pieterse, *Globalization & Culture*, Chapter 1; 4) Douglas Kellner, "Globalization and the Postmodern Turn," and "Theorizing Globalization," <http://pages.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/kellner/essays/globalizationpostmodernturn.pdf>;
<http://pages.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/kellner/essays/theorizingglobalization.pdf>

WEEK 2 (Sept 3): NO CLASS (APSA Annual Meeting in San Francisco)

WEEK 3 (Sept 10): Globalization: Concepts, Definitions, & Approaches

Readings for week 4: 1) Jan Nederveen Pieterse, "What is Global Studies?" *Globalizations* 10.4 (2013), pp. 499-514; 2) James H. Mittelman, "Globalization: An Ascendant Paradigm?" <http://www.colorado.edu/ibs/PEC/gadconf/papers/mittelman.pdf> 3) Manfred Max-Neef, "Foundations of Transdisciplinarity," *Ecological Economics* 53 (2005), pp. 5-16, http://disciplinas.stoa.usp.br/pluginfile.php/247855/mod_resource/content/1/Max_Neef_2005_Foundations_of_transdisciplinarity.pdf

WEEK 4 (Sept 17): Globalization: Global Studies & Transdisciplinarity

Readings for week 5: 1) Jerry Bentley, "Globalizing History and Historicizing Globalization," *Globalizations* 1.1 (2004), pp. 69-81; 2) William H. MacNeill, "Globalization: Long-Term Process or New Era in Human Affairs?," *New Global Studies* 2.1 (2008), pp. 1-9 (posted on Laulima); 3) Pieterse, *Globalization & Culture*, Chapter 2; 4) Jan Pieterse, "Periodizing Globalization," *New Global Studies* 6.2 (2012; handout provided in class); 5) Bruce Mazlish, "The New Global History," <http://web.mit.edu/newglobalhistory/docs/mazlich-the-new-global-history.pdf>

WEEK 5 (Sept 24): Histories & Periodizations

Readings for week 6: 1) Anthony Giddens, *The Consequences of Modernity* (Chapter II, pp. 55-78; posted on Laulima); 2) Paul James, "Nation Formation: From the Medieval to the Postmodern," in *Globalism, Nationalism, Tribalism* (Chapter 10: pp. 231-61; posted on Laulima); 3) Martin Albrow, "Globalization: Theorizing the Transition," in *The Global Age* (Chapter 4: pp. 75-96; posted on Laulima).

WEEK 6 (Oct 1): Nations & Modernities

Student Presentations #1

Readings for week 7: 1) Henri Lefebvre, *The Production of Space* (Chapter 1, pp. 1-59);

2) Saskia Sassen, "Globalization or Denationalization?," *Review of International Political Economy* 10.1 (2003), pp. 1-22:

<http://www.saskiasassen.com/PDFs/publications/Globalization-or-Denationalization.pdf>

3) Paul James, "Time and Space, Calendars and Maps," in *Globalism, Nationalism, Tribalism* (Chapter 7, 158-78);

4) David Harvey, "The Right to the City," *The Left Review* 53 (September-October 2008): <http://newleftreview.org/II/53/david-harvey-the-right-to-the-city>

WEEK 7 (Oct 8): Space, Place & Time

Student Presentations #2

Readings for week 8: 1) John Agnew, "Globalization and State Sovereignty," in *Globalization & Sovereignty* (Chapter 1, pp. 1-45; posted on laulima); 2) Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, "Preface" to *Empire* (pp. xi-xvii, posted on Laulima); 3) Manuel Castells, "Materials for an Exploratory Theory of the Network Society," *British Journal of Sociology* 51.1 (2000), pp. 5-24:

[http://faculty.georgetown.edu/irvinem/theory/Castells-](http://faculty.georgetown.edu/irvinem/theory/Castells-NetworkSociety.pdf)

[NetworkSociety.pdf](http://faculty.georgetown.edu/irvinem/theory/Castells-NetworkSociety.pdf) 4) Manuel Castells, 'A Network Theory of Power,'

International Journal of Communications 5 (2011), pp. 773-787:

http://postjournalist.ru/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/castels_2.pdf

WEEK 8 (Oct 15): States, Sovereignty & Network Power

Student Presentations #3

Readings for week 9: 1) Saskia Sassen, "The Repositioning of Citizenship and Alienage: Emergent Subjects and Spaces for Politics," *Globalizations* 2.1 (2005), pp. 79-94; 2) Hans Schattle, 'The Dual Dynamic between Globalization and Citizenship', in *Globalization and Citizenship*, Chapter 1; posted on Laulima); 3) Gerard Delanty, "Contemporary Cosmopolitanism and Social Theory," in *The Cosmopolitan Imagination* (Cambridge UP, 2009; Chapter 2; pp. 51-88; handout provided in class)

WEEK 9 (Oct 22): Cosmopolitanism & Global Citizenship

Student Presentations # 4

Readings for week 10: 1) Deane Neubauer, "The Rise of the Global Corporation," in Steger, Battersby, and Siracusa, *The Sage Handbook of Globalization* (Sage, 2013) pp. 266-282; available on Laulima); 2) William I. Robinson, "Globalization as Epochal Change in World Capitalism," in *A Theory of Global Capitalism* (Johns Hopkins Press, 2004, pp. 1-32; handout provided in class); 3) Melissa Aronczyk, "Living the Brand: Nationality, Globality, and the Identity Strategies of Nation Branding Consultants," *International Journal of Communication* 2 (2008), pp. 41-65,

<http://melissaaronczyk.com/uploads/PDFs/218-939-1-PB.pdf>

WEEK 10 (Oct 29): Global Capitalism & Transnational Corporations

Student Presentations #5

Readings for week 11: Pieterse, *Globalization & Culture*, Chapters 3-8; Sanakaran Krishna, *Globalization & Postcolonialism*, Chapter 6 (Conclusion), handout provided in class.

WEEK 11 (Nov 5): Cultures, Postcolonialism, & Identities

Student Presentations #6

Readings for week 13: 1) Mary Kaldor, "Five Meanings of Civil Society," *Global Civil Society* (Polity, 2003; available on Laulima); 2) Manel Castells, "The New Public Sphere: Global Civil Society, Communication, Networks, and Global Governance," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political Science* 6161.1 (2008), pp. 78-93 (available on Laulima); 3) Ramesh Thakur and Thomas G. Weiss, "Framing Global Governance, Five Gaps," in Manfred B. Steger, *The Global Studies Reader* (Oxford UP, 2015, pp. 27-40; posted on Laulima).

WEEK 12 (Nov 12): Global Governance & Global Civil Society

Student Presentations #7

Readings for week 13: Steger, *Globalisms*, Chapters 1 & 3

WEEK 13 (Nov 19): Ideologies & Social Movements I

Student Presentations # 8

Readings for week 15: Steger, *Globalisms*, Chapters 4 & 5

1-page abstract and bibliography for research paper due.

WEEK 14 (Nov 26): NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

WEEK 15 (Dec 3): Ideologies & Social Movements II

Student Presentation #9

Readings for week 16: Steger, *Globalisms*, Chapter 6.

WEEK 16 (Dec 10): Research Presentations in Class; Future Trajectories: Where is Globalization Theory Going?

Research Paper due: Thursday, Dec 17, at 10am. No late papers will be accepted.