UCSS II
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Perspectives on Globalization

Lorraine Macmillan

Course Description

The phenomenon of globalization has come to fascinate scholars, diplomats, international organizations and the world of business in recent decades. A number of scholars in the field have forcefully claimed that the nation state is in terminal decline as the world's economies appear to move inexorably towards greater integration. Some multinational companies seem to have gained power in excess of that held by small states, and the authority that some international and supranational bodies have achieved is on the rise. Terrorism and environmental crises have challenged the notion that states may counter threats to their security alone. Increased flows of information and migrants and the claims of ethnic groups within multi-ethnic states have contributed to re-evaluations of citizenship and identity. In short, globalization has challenged some of the foundational concepts with which international relations has traditionally been understood.

This course sets about reviewing some of the many manifestations of globalization, from the impact on warfare to the global reach of the media and the creation of hybrid identities and cultures. The lectures introduce students to the major theories in the field and encourage them to critically assess the assertions being made. The lecture series is intended for students who possess no prior knowledge of the area, although any familiarity with history, international politics or security studies would be a distinct advantage.

Objectives of the Course

Following completion of the course, students will be:

- familiar with various conceptualizations of globalization such as interdependence, mobility, technological interconnectedness and homogenization;
- conversant with key theories that explore globalization such as hyperglobalism, globoscepticism and transformationalism;
- able to assess claims about the changing nature of sovereignty and the rise of global governance;
- display understanding of the role that globalization is thought to play in the evolution of war and terrorism;
- demonstrate knowledge of scholarship on the impact of globalization on culture and identities.
Teaching Methodology

Teaching is by means of lectures plus tutorial classes (seminars) for the period of the course. The lectures aim to present the material, while the seminars act as fora in which the material presented in the lectures may be discussed. It is also where problems in understanding may be addressed and wider issues raised by the lecture and by the participants may be explored.

Performance Evaluation

Students are assessed in three ways, through a final exam; a final essay; and through participation, progress and attendance. The last category includes a mid-term assignment and seminar contributions. Students are expected to attend all lectures and seminars and to contribute actively to discussion to gain additional marks. The percentage breakdown is as follows:

- 1 Final Exam: 45%
- 1 Final Essay (2,500-3,000 words): 45%
- Participation, progress and attendance: 10%

Detailed Lecture And Required Reading List

There are two course readers. The primary reader is:


This must be bought in advance of travel to Cambridge. Additional required reading is supplied in a second reader compiled by the International Programmes office and available on arrival in Cambridge (except for those works specifically indicated as available online – these are freely available). All references to ‘chapters’ in the following list (with no further bibliographic details) pertain to the first reader by Held and McGrew, all other references are to the second reader from the office.

1. Introductory lecture: Key themes and concepts  
   Chaps 1 and 2 (Modelski and Giddens).

2. Edging the state aside? The rise of the multinational company  
   Chaps 12 and 29 (Mann and Gilpin).

3. Hyperglobalism: Views from left and right  
   Chap. 11 (Strange).  

4. Backlash: The globoskeptics talk back  
   Chaps 6 and 7 (Rosenberg and Hirst & Thompson).
5. **Regionalism: The path forward or into crisis?**
   Chap. 18 (Payne).

6. **Visions of a global future: Cosmopolitanism and R2P**
   Chaps 43 and 44 (McGrew and Held).

7. **Decision-making on a global scale: IOs and international NGOs**
   Chap 42 (Halliday).
   Eizenstat, Stuart, E. 2004 ‘Nongovernmental Organizations as the fifth estate’ Seton Hall Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations (Summer/Fall).

8. **Security in the global age: Terrorists and mercenaries go global**

9. **Wars of the global era? ‘New’ wars**

10. **When the subalterns speak: Views from the margins**

11. **What price globalization? Culture as the fall guy**
    Chaps 23 and 24 (Tomlinson and Smith).

12. **Covering the planet: The global news media**
    Chaps 21 and 22 (Thompson and McChesney).
Seminar Outline

*Each seminar's discussion will be guided by a small number of questions, listed under the headings below.*

1. **What globalization means to you**
   - How do the meanings of the terms international, transnational and global differ?
   - What do you stand to gain or lose from globalization, personally?

2. **How will the state be missed?**
   - What is sovereignty?
   - What is lost with the diminution of sovereignty?

3. **What work does globalization discourse do?**
   - Is hyperglobalism merely neoliberal rhetoric?
   - Does globoskepticism go too far?

4. **What shape should the future take?**
   - Is R2P a figleaf for the projection of Western power?

5. **What is global governance?**
   - How can global governance be characterized best?

6. **Should the state have a monopoly on violence?**
   - What does the PMC tell us about the forces of globalization?
   - How can the PMC be overseen?

7. **Would you die for your culture?**
   - When does culture become important enough to do violence?
   - Is there any such thing as a national culture?

8. **Revision and exam preparation**

**Required Pre-Arrival Reading**

As each lecture has required readings assigned, it is highly recommended that students make a head start on the readings before they leave for the UK. This will greatly reduce the reading burden while in Cambridge. As mentioned above, required material should be read before lectures. All readings are either available in the primary reader from Held and McGrew or should be available through students’ own university libraries and online.