

Globalization (Spring 2020)

Political Science Department, course #521

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Meets: Tuesdays 1:00-3:20 in LA 344

Office hours in LA 349: Mondays 12:00-1:00 and 3:20 – 4:20, and by appointment

Course Description

This course focuses on what we as a group determine to be the most pressing collective security challenges facing the world today. These overlapping challenges include environmental protection in general and climate change in particular; global governance, international (non)cooperation and trends in political polarization both domestic and international; growing inequalities, technological innovations in general and AI, changing balances of power, nuclear weapons and warfare more generally.

Course Expectations, Assignments, and Grading

The success of this seminar depends on members' careful attention to homework assignments and class preparation, active participation in weekly discussions, and commitment to research projects. The format of the class discussion will vary and is amenable to changes and experimentation over the course of the semester.

There are two primary goals of this class. First, to deepen students' understanding of the current status of globalization trends since 1980 and how they have influenced and continue to influence collective security threats. The second goal of the class is to work together to encourage all of us to improve our critical thinking skills. I encourage you to be forthcoming with me regarding your views concerning the class. I also encourage you to actively seek consultation with me regarding your own performance in the class. Since class participation is so important in this class, and because the class meets only once a week, students should make every effort to make it to all classes and to arrive on time. If you miss a class, please write me a note telling me why you missed and email it to me. **Do not tell me about it: write to me about it on email.**

Grading: Unless other arrangements are made, I will grade you based on your day-to-day participation in the class. This allows us to focus the time and energy we have available for this class on our weekly meetings rather than adding on a big project. This does not mean that we would not all be required to do research outside of class and present our research in class. It just means that your work will not take the form of large end-of-the-semester written documents. As explained on the first day of class, if you would prefer a different grading scheme for yourself, let me know.

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS (to be changed and added to)

Day 1 Jan 13 Introduction to the course and first 50 pages of Abhijit Banerjee & Esther Duflo, Good Economics For Hard Times. Public Affairs, 2019.

January 20 MLK Day

Day 2 January 27 Day 2 of Banerjee and Duflo. Discussion of chapters 3-6.

Email sent to students on January 22 outlining format for class and expectations of students.

Day 3 February 3 Day 3 of Banerjee and Duflo. Discussion of the remainder of the book, chaps 7-Conclusion. **Format of discussion sent out to students through email.**

Day 4 February 10 Social Democracy Blueprint Day 1

Joseph Stiglitz, *People, Power, and Profits: Progressive Capitalism for an Age of Discontent*, Norton, 2019. Class format same as February 3 unless you are notified of a change. Suggestions welcome.

Day 5 Class with Dr. Mark Nechodom sometime between Friday morning February 14 and Tuesday morning February 18. There will also be a public presentation by Dr. Nechodom on campus Thursday February 13 from 3:30 – 5:00.

Reading assignments to be read before we meet with Dr. Nechodom as a class:

Saul Griffith, “How Do We Decarbonize.” May 2019. I previously emailed this article as an attachment.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/sustainability/our-insights/climate-risk-and-decarbonization-what-every-mining-ceo-needs-to-know?cid=other-eml-alt-mip-mck&hlkid=7da1bd66b83343e7a64fcd4a6558956f&hctky=11205103&hdpid=b6bed1c9-cb2a-453f-9e5b-832f3e2e379d> This is a recent report on decarbonization that Nechodom has asked us to read.

February 17 President’s Day. No class.

Day 6. February 24 Stiglitz Day 2. Read second half of book. Preparation for class assignment forthcoming.

Day 7 March 2 Climate Change continued, with each of us asking and commenting/answering **a question or questions that we will determine together, so forthcoming**. This will require each of us to do research and present the results of that research to the class. In addition, each of you will write up an approximately three-page synopsis of the question posed and results of your research, as well as a bibliography of material consulted. These documents will be sent out to the class no later than Friday February 21 at 11:59pm so that each of us has an opportunity to read through all of the reports by Monday. We will have nine presentations, giving each person 15 minutes to respond to questions posed by the class, with our questions being based on the reading of the synopses.

Day 8. March 9 Asia. For at least part of the class, we will be joined by Dr. Mie Oba, a Professor at Tokyo University of Science. Dr. Oba’s area of expertise is international relations, particularly Japan’s relationships in East and Southeast Asia in response to China’s growing influence. Homework assignment will be forthcoming.

Day 9. March 23 Migration Day 1. In the first half of class, I will present to you on the US-Mexico Border. Second half of class will be a discussion of the first half of Patrick Kingsley, *The New Odyssey*. Guardian Faber Publishing, 2017.

Day 10. March 30 Migration Day 2. In first half of class, discussion of second half of Kingsley book. Second half, presentations from you all on “migration updates” from different places around the world. Details forthcoming.

Day 11. April 6 Still to be determined. I am taking suggestions. One theme not covered above is nationalist responses to globalization. We will have discussed this in some fashion already in our discussions of existing globalization’s downsides in Banerjee and Duflo’s book, and in our discussions of migration and climate change. So, do we want to end the class by digging deeper into this topic or do we want to end sounding a different note?