

**POSC 198** Topics in Political Science: Globalization and the Nation State  
Spring, 2007-2008 (Senior Experience seminar in political science)

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**Introduction.** This course focuses on the economic, political and social impacts of globalization on nation states across the globe. As such, it will encompass and build upon material from political science courses in international, comparative, and (to a lesser extent) American politics. We will focus most centrally on the nation-state impacts of economic globalization, or the increasing volume, speed, and intensity of international flows of goods, services, capital and labor around the globe. We will also recognize and assess the impacts of political globalization (i.e., the creation of supranational institutions for regional or global governance ) and socio-cultural globalization (e.g., the international proliferation of western cultural norms and tastes).

The course is structured around three thematic units that address central questions in the academic and popular debate about the consequences of globalization. First, we will examine *the case for globalization*. In this section, we will examine the classic arguments about the benefits of economic globalization and attendant processes, namely, that internationalization of markets promotes economic well-being, liberal democracy, and peace. We will consider the main critiques of these pro-globalist theories and the rebuttals by the globalists.

Second, we will examine the central question of *whether or not globalization significantly limits the autonomy of national governments* to pursue their preferred policies. We will pay particular attention to the question of whether or not globalization constrains democratically elected governments from pursuing their chosen policies. Some emphasis will be given to the potential constraints of globalization in the core public policy areas of environment and consumer protection, economic management and social protection.

Third, we will examine in some depth the central question of *whether the economic and political impacts of globalization in the developing world are generally positive or negative*. Globalists argue that economic internationalization brings development to the “third world” and reinforces democracy and human rights. Vocal critics of globalization argue that increases in exposure to international markets potentially harms developing nations and potentially intensifies domestic political conflicts.

To address these central questions, we will read five books (complete book list and reading schedule below) that represent distinct academic perspectives. Some authors such as economist Gary Burtless and collaborators are strikingly pro-globalization. Others, such as political scientist Layna Mosley, are more agnostic and seek to offer a sophisticated and balanced analysis of the domestic impacts of globalization. Still other authors, most notably Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz, are moderately skeptical: they see the potential benefits of globalization but caution against simplistic policy and political approaches that ignore potential problems with globalization. Finally, still other scholars such as Yale Law Professor Amy Chua see potentially disastrous consequences of globalization for ethnically diverse developing nations and regions.

**Readings/Books.** Nearly all of the course’s reading assignments will come from five books. These are available for purchase at the Book Marq. A small set of core readings will be available electronically through the library’s electronic journals. For instance go to MARQCAT on the Raynor Memorial Libraries Website, then to “Title” - here input name of journal and then find year and issue. A few readings will be on electronic or hard copy reserve for the course at Raynor Memorial Libraries; several short readings will also come by way of class handout. Our book list:

Gary Burtless et al, *Globaphobia: Confronting Fears about Open Trade*. (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 1998).

Amy Chua, *World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability*. (New York: Anchor Books-Random House, 2003).

Layna Mosley, *Global Capital and National Governments*. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Joseph Stiglitz, *Making Globalization Work*. (New York: W.W. Norton and Company 2006).

David Vogel, *Trading Up: Consumer and Environmental Regulation in a Global Economy*. (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1995).

**Grading.** Grades will be based on three exams -- two hourly exams and a final (a third hourly exam) -- and a research paper. Each of the exams will consist of essay questions covering required readings and class materials. The research paper will involve an analysis of a specific question about globalization and the nation state. A well-developed *paper prospectus* describing the research question, time frame, and countries for the paper, and including a preliminary bibliography, is **due on March 11** (and this is lieu of a midterm exam; handout on paper prospectus and final paper forthcoming). The *paper is due May 1*.

Hourly Exam I:	20 %	Hourly Exam II:	20 %
Paper Prospectus:	10 %	Final Paper	30 %
Final Exam:	20 %		

**Class Attendance.** It is required, subject of course to excused absences (e.g., sickness, family and special work commitments); students are expected to actively participate in seminar discussions and critiques of the readings.

## Schedule of Readings

### Part I: The Case for Globalization

January 15: Course Introduction

- syllabus distribution, course overview, preliminaries

January 17: What is Globalization?

- Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, "Globalization: What's New? What's Not? (And So What?)," *Foreign Policy* (Issue 118, Spring 2000), pp. 104-119.

January 22: The Case for Globalization: Overview

- Chs. 1 & 2 in Burtless, et al, *Globaphobia*

January 24: The Case for Globalization: Critics and rebuttals on Jobs, Wages and Inequality

- Chs. 3, 4 and 7 of Burtless, et al, *Globaphobia*

January 29: The Case for Globalization: Democracy

- Jagdish Bhagwati, "Democracy at Bay?" (Ch. 8 of Bhagwati's *In Defense of Globalization*, Oxford University Press, 2004 - electronic book accessible at MARQCAT)

### Part II: Globalization, Regionalization, and National Autonomy: Diminished Democracy and Sovereignty?

January 31 & Feb 5: Is Environmental and Consumer Protection Possible in a Global Economy?  
(Part I: Theory and the Case of Regionalization in Europe)

- Chs. 1-3 in Vogel, *Trading Up*

February 7: Is Environmental and Consumer Protection Possible in a Global Economy?  
(Part II: The Case of Pressures from Global Trade and GATT/WTO)

- Chs. 4-5 in Vogel, *Trading Up*

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February 12 & 14: Is Environmental and Consumer Protection Possible in a Global Economy?  
(Part III: North American and NAFTA)

- Chs. 6-8 in Vodel, *Trading Up*

February 19: **First Hourly Exam**

Feb 21 & 26: Global Capital Markets and Control over National Public Policies, Part I

- Chs. 1-2 in Mosley, *Global Capital...*

February 28: Global Capital Markets and Control over National Public Policies, Part II

- Pp. 50-69, & 101 in Ch. 3 and 102-145 in Ch. 4 of Mosley, *Global Capital...*

March 4: Global Capital Markets and Control over National Public Policies, Part III

- Pp. 157-177 in Ch. 5; Pp. 199-215 in Ch. 6; and Pp. 249-276 in Ch. 7 of Mosely, *Global Capital...*

March 6: Research day (seminar participants work to complete paper prospectus)

March 11: Research Paper Prospectus due/ class presentations

March 13-23: Spring Break and Easter Combined Holiday

**Part III: The Economic and Political Impacts of Globalization (Developing Nation Perspectives)**

March 25 & 27: The Prospect of Development, I

- Chs. 1-3 in Stiglitz, *Making Globalization Work*

- recommended: Dani Rodrik, "Trading in Illusions." *Foreign Policy* (No. 123 March-April, 2001), pp. 54-62.

April 1: The Prospect of Development, II

- Chs. 5-6 in Stiglitz, *Making Globalization Work* (recommended: Ch. 4 in Stiglitz)

April 3 - **Second Hourly Exam**

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April 8: The Prospect of Development, III

- Chs. 7-8 in Stiglitz, *Making Globalization Work*

April 10: The Prospect of Development, IV

- Chs. 10 in Stiglitz, *Making Globalization Work*

April 15 & 17: Globalization and Political Conflict in the Developing World, Part I

- Part I (Chs. 1-4) in Chua, *World on Fire*

April 22 & 24: Globalization and Political Conflict in the Developing World, Part II

- Part II (Chs. 5-7) in Chua, *World on Fire*

April 29 & May 1: Globalization and Political Conflict in the Developing World, Part III

- Part III (Chs. 9-12) in Chua, *World on Fire*

May 1: **Final Papers Due**

May 8 (9-10 pm) **Final Exam** (Third Hourly Exam)