APPROACHES TO GLOBALIZATION

HM 469

Semester- Autumn
Category- Open Elective
Instructors- Dr. M. Mazumdar and Prof. V. Pandya

Prerequisites:
* At least satisfactory completion of two or more Social Science/ Humanities courses (inclusive of core courses)
* You will be expected to undertake intensive research and writing as well as actively participate in the discussions

*Honour Code: Academic dishonesty cheating, plagiarism or any kind of deceit- will not be tolerated, and will result in a zero for the assignment. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask. All ideas and words that you did not generate yourself must be cited in your papers. I do not anticipate this scenario for the work required in this class, but in extreme cases I reserve the right to assign a failing grade for the course or a specific assignment.

Course Abstract

This course will introduce students to the social and cultural phenomena of globalization. Based on the understanding of the implicit relationship of productive processes to society and history, the course will present to students a series of ethnographic cases, mainly drawn from Asia to understand the multiple sites and forms of globalization. The complex travel of information, goods, ideologies and people around the world – is apprehended and negotiated by people in specific locations. Globalisation is not something that happens “naturally” on its own, but is created by individuals for particular reasons, with costs and benefits constantly shifting. Social-scientific perspective on globalisation is imperative for a sophisticated understanding of the multifaceted issue of globalisation. Anthropology requires that we evaluate the process of globalisation from diverse perspectives around the world rather than treat it as a general or universal fact experienced by everyone in the same way. History on the other hand requires us to
acquire a sense of the connected socio-economic processes that bind the past to the present. While globalisation is a formidable force for change, there are also equally formidable factors that resist it. Globalisation is a topic with infinite variations and layers of complexity, so this course will introduce students to some of the most salient ideas that people are employing to think about it- in academic, the media, indigenous communities, international institutions, even on the streets of India.

**Objectives and Outcomes**

We will first consider the historical antecedents and theoretical foundations of the current globalisation phenomena. We will investigate series of topics – such as free markets, refugees, education, technology, communication and indigenous activism – from a variety of angles and geographical areas (mostly Asia). There will also be a section on how India is perceived in the world particularly the communicated image via Internet. Students will have the opportunity to investigate a relevant topic of the choice and apply social-scientific explanatory frameworks in a final paper. Utilizing the ideas from Anthropology and History the course first will provide some understanding of basic concepts like social change, technology, and communication as understood and applied to societies at large. These foundations would be put against the background of Colonialism and Globalisation to examine issues related to communication of ideas, information, and how technology mediates over and across spatial and temporal dimensions. These case studies for each section will be dealt in the class as seminar sessions with student participation and presentation. The intensive reading and analysis that the course expects from students, is to make them critically engage with issues of social and economic “change” they see around them. At the end of the course they will be expected to develop a deeper understanding of specific questions pertaining to globalization and social change. Is change always a desired and set goal? Does it follow any standardized or uniform agenda? Is globalization an innate drive towards socio-cultural homogenization? Or does globalization invariably lead to cultural and social fragmentation? And finally what is the defining role of communication technology in both driving the processes of globalization and generating resistance to it?
Course Structure and Evaluation

A sequence of three to four lectures will cover some essential ideas that the course intends to impart to you. Related to the lectures are some readings that would help you to understand the basic ideas. The lectures are not to simplify the readings but to approach the readings with a degree of critical perspectives—particularly the ones that are portioned as discussion readings. Consequently each unit of study will have a lecture or two and set of case studies. Student groups would develop presentations based on the readings and research conducted at both the individual and group level. This seminar-based paper would count for 25% of the final grade. At the end of the course students will be expected to write an essay based on the themes and readings presented to them. Students are expected to consult the Course Instructors to develop their research topic. A list of potential themes for their final research paper will be given to them along with the course handout they will receive on the day of the commencement of the course. This paper (final) is worth 50% of the complete grade. Students are expected to attend the lectures and participate in all the discussions in class. Their active and informed participation in the class will count as 10% of their grade. The remaining 15% of their grade will be awarded for Weekly One-pagers. On the last day of the weekly lecture sequence (excluding the first week) students are expected to hand in a one-page commentary on the week’s reading. The papers are to reflect their own thoughts and queries about the reading material. The idea is that by the end of the course, students will have produced a body of written work that they can draw upon for their final paper or other endeavors.

Course Topics to be considered

UNIT 1. INTRODUCTION; MAKING SENSE OF GLOBALIZATION
UNIT 2. CAPITALISM AND NEOLIBERALISM
Unit 3. HISTORICAL AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL FRAMEWORKS
UNIT 4. THE ANTECEDENTS OF GLOBALIZATION-COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM
UNIT 5. THE REVOLUTION IN COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
UNIT 6. TRANSNATIONALISM AND HUMAN FLOWS
UNIT 7. THE GLOBAL FLOWS OF CULTURE AS PLEASURE AND AS PRODUCT
UNIT 8. COSMOPOLITANISM AND LOCALISM: CULTURE AND RESISTANCE
UNIT 9. AGAINST GLOBALIZATION
UNIT 10. GLOBALIZATION - FROM “BUZZWORD TO CURSE”

Basic Readings

Appadurai, A. Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalisation


**TIPS ON RESEARCH AND WRITING**

Think before you write and make revisions before you hand in your essays.

1) Start early, it is always too late to start. Construct a question out of the topic selected. Remember the paper is not to show what you have read and describe it but it must raise a question and have an analysis. (look at the above requirements for one pagers and presentations.

2) Go through the list and select possible/probable question. Consider the question in light of readings and reduce your options; chose a question.

3) Analyze the question carefully. What exactly is it asking? Underline key ideas and concepts. Can the question be reduced within the limits of the question? What are its possible constituent parts? Record your thoughts on a separate piece of paper; place to one side.

4) Start research. Make notes and follow up on possible sources.
5) Record all the information you will need to complete referencing within your essay and in the essays bibliography.

6) After you have done, some research and thinking go back to the question and your initial thoughts on its parts. You may well now see the question in a different light.

7) Draw up a new set of guidelines, attempting to identify the key points of argument in relation to the question. Sketch out how your research could be utilized in an essay. You may well now realize that you need to do some more research.

8) Firm up the guidelines into a plan. Attempt to identify between two and five major points of argument in the essay, which you can support, with examples/sources. Check that this confirms to the question asked.

9) Check on whether you need all the points; discard minor issues or relegate to conclusion. Check you have the points in a logical order.

10) Start to write your essay. You do not need to start with the introduction. Identify your strongest section; write it up. Complete core of essay in draft first. Check how parts fit together. Is your essay balanced? Have you answered the question? Are you using your sources to full advantage? Do you have the references correct? Once the core is finished, write the introduction and the conclusion. Does your introduction really introduce what you claim you are going to do? Does your conclusion really conclude?

11) Once you are satisfied with the balance of the essay check it through for length and style.