

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Globalization and Work
Sociology 2112-SDE 2013

Contacting the Instructor (Brian McMillan)

If you have any questions you would like to ask the instructor, please use Course Mail. Course Mail can be accessed by clicking [Collaborate](#) on the navbar at the top of the site page, and then click [Email](#) on the drop-down menu.

Course Description

Globalization and Work examines the basic concepts and theories of globalization with special attention to the impact of globalization on the organization and experience of work in the Canadian context. The course of study starts with a consideration of globalization as a contested concept, followed by a brief historical analysis and an examination of several theories of globalization. The basic types of globalization are identified, defined and described with a special focus on the role played by neoliberal ideologies, transnational corporations, new information and communications technologies, and powerful governing institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization. The second half of the course of study shifts its attention to the impact of globalization on the world of work in Canadian society. We re-visit the globalization debate in the Canadian context, examine the impact of globalization on recent labour market trends, organizational structures and processes, workers' health and safety and public policy. Finally, we briefly consider alternatives to the current unfolding of the processes of globalization. The course of study also includes consideration of a number of videos pertaining primarily to the role of globalization in the promotion of inequality between nations.

Required Readings

The following books and articles are required readings. They are important information sources for reading assignments, examinations, and discussions. Please refer to the Course Schedule for reading times.

Books:

Steger, Manfred B. 2009. *Globalization* (2nd Ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Broad, Dave, and Wayne Antony. 2006 *Capitalism Rebooted? Work, Welfare and the New Economy*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.

Online Articles:

Armer, J. Michael, and John Katsillis. *Modernization Theory*

<http://edu.learnsoc.org/Chapters/3%20theories%20of%20sociology/11%20modernization%20theory.htm>

Hendricks, Jon. *Dependency Theory*.

<http://edu.learnsoc.org/Chapters/3%20theories%20of%20sociology/5%20dependency%20theory.htm>

Halsall, Paul. *Modern History Sourcebook: Summary of Wallerstein on World System Theory*.

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/wallerstein.html>

Videos:

The course of study includes 3 videos which address various issues of relevance to globalization. The videos are readily available online at no cost to the student. We will use the videos as the basis of our course discussions. The viewing times and links are found in the Course Schedule.

Grading Scheme

Midterm Examination.....40%

Discussion Area Participation.....10%

Final Examination.....50%

Reading Assignments

There are 6 reading assignments scheduled throughout the course of study. Each assignment consists of a set of questions based on the current required readings. Assignment questions are designed to help you identify the most important factual information in the course readings. While you do not submit these assignments for grading, you are strongly encouraged to prepare precise answers to all questions for all 6 assignments according to the Course Schedule. Course examinations will test your understanding of the course content highlighted by the assignment questions. Your answers to the assignment questions will, therefore, be of critical importance to your success on examinations. Assignments will be released according to the Course Schedule.

Discussion Area Participation

The course of study includes 3 videos. We will use our course site's Discussion Area to discuss these 3 videos. You are expected to view the videos at the appropriate time in the course (see the Course Schedule for video viewing times) and post a comment about each video which reflects one or more key course concepts introduced and discussed in the readings (e.g., economic globalization, or neo-liberalism, or ideologies of globalization, etc.). You are encouraged to read the comments of others and perhaps respond to the comments of others, always in a courteous fashion. *Please note: your comments and responses in the Discussion Area must be posted by the deadline indicated in the Course Schedule.* While your comments/responses will not be

systematically graded, the general quality and quantity of your responses will be noted and will contribute towards a maximum of 10% of your final course grade. See the Course Schedule for video viewing times and deadlines for comments.

Note: to access the Discussions Area on our site, simply click the [Collaborate](#) link on the navbar at the top of the page, and then click [Discussions](#) in the drop-down menu. To read and post comments, click the Read and Post Comments re: “The New Rulers of the World” link (in the case of our first video), and click [Compose](#) to post a comment.

Midterm Examination

The Midterm Examination takes the form of a take-home test based exclusively on the first 3 reading assignments. The particulars of the test will be posted on our course site on Saturday June 1st, 9:00am EST. You must submit your completed examination no later than Monday June 3rd, 6:00pm EST. You must submit your take-home test using the D2L Dropbox. The Dropbox is accessed by clicking on [Assessments](#) on the navbar at the top of the site page. It is your responsibility to ensure that your Dropbox submission has been completed successfully. I will provide some guidance on using the Dropbox when I provide details of the test. The take-home test is worth a maximum of 40% of your final course grade. PLEASE NOTE: Late submissions of take-home tests will be treated like a failure to write a formally-scheduled exam and will require documented support of an acceptable reason (e.g., a doctor’s note).

Final Examination

The Final Examination takes the form of a take-home test based on any or all of the required course readings. The particulars of the test will be posted on our course site on Saturday June 15, 9:00am EST. You must submit your completed examination no later than Monday June 17th, 6:00pm EST. You must submit your take-home test using the D2L Dropbox. It is your responsibility to ensure that your Dropbox submission has been completed successfully. The Final Examination is worth a maximum of 50% of your final course grade. PLEASE NOTE: Late submissions of take-home tests will be treated like a failure to write a formally-scheduled exam and will require documented support of an acceptable reason (e.g., a doctor’s note).

Course Schedule (all times EST)

May 23-26

Readings:

“Globalization: A Contested Concept” (Steger, ch. 1)

Modernization Theory (Armer and Katsillis)

Dependency Theory (Hendricks)

Modern History Sourcebook: Summary of Wallerstein on World System Theory (Halsall)

Assignment #1 posted May 23rd noon

May 27-29

Readings:

“Globalization and History: Is Globalization a New Phenomenon?” (Steger, ch. 2)

“The Economic Dimension of Globalization” (Steger, ch. 3)

“The Political Dimension of Globalization” (Steger, ch. 4)

Assignment #2 posted May 27th 9:00am

Video: “The New Rulers of the World”

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-new-rulers-of-the-world/>

Discussion Deadline: May 30th, 8:00pm

May 30-June 1

Readings:

“The Cultural Dimension of Globalization” (Steger, ch. 5)

“The Ecological Dimension of Globalization” (Steger, ch. 6)

“Ideologies of Globalization...” (Steger, ch. 7)

Recommended Reading: “Assessing the Future of Globalization” (Steger, ch. 8)

Assignment #3 posted May 30th, 9:00am

Video: “Reel Bad Arabs” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjMHSn4vMz8>

Discussion Deadline: June 3rd, 8:00pm

June 1

Midterm Examination (take-home test): posted Saturday June 1st, 9:00am EST

Deadline for Midterm Examination: Monday June 3rd, 6:00pm EST (submit using site Dropbox)

June 3-5

Readings:

“The New Economy: Are All Our Woes Virtually Solved?” (Broad et al., Introduction)

“Capitalism Rebooted: The New Economy Might Not Be All That New” (Broad et al., ch. 1)

Assignment #4 posted June 3rd, 9:00am

June 6-9

Readings:

“Where’s the Work? Labour Market Trends in the New Economy” (Broad et al., ch. 2)

“Managing Change: Organizational and Managerial Responses to the New Economy” (Broad et al. ch. 3)

Assignment #5 posted June 6th, 9:00am

Video: “Wal-mart: The High Cost of Low Price”

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/wal-mart-the-high-cost-of-low-price/>

Discussion Deadline: June 10th, 8:00pm

June 10-12

Readings:

“Stresses and Strains: Workers’ Health and the New Economy” (Broad et al., ch. 5)

“From Welfare to Workfare: Public Policy for the New Economy” (Broad et al., ch. 6)

“New Economy or New Society: A Change is Gonna Come” (Broad et al., ch. 8)

Assignment #6 posted June 10th, 9:00am

June 15-17

Final Examination (take-home test): posted Saturday June 15th, 9:00am EST

Deadline for Final Examination: Monday June 17th, 6:00pm EST (submit using site Dropbox)