

Globalization & Social Movements (POSC 327)///Spring 2016

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Office Hours: W 10-Noon or by appointment

Course Description: What is globalization and what movements have emerged to challenge it? In this course we'll ask these and other key questions about this phenomenon. Globalization is a multifaceted and a contested concept. We'll seek to understand it in all its manifestations: economic, political, cultural, ecological, and ideological. We'll also try to situate it historically. In addition, globalization has real-world consequences including the reach of the global surveillance technologies. As such we'll engage with these real-world consequences in terms of the kinds of resistances they have generated globally. These include global justice, feminist, autonomous, anti-surveillance state, and Islamist movements in the United States, Europe, and the countries of the Global South in general. We'll end the semester with a consideration of the possible futures of globalization given the present crises faced by humanity.

Required Books: (1) Derber: *Marx's Ghost* (2) Sitrin & Azzellini: *They Can't Represent Us!* (3) Moghadam: *Globalization and Social Movements* (4) Bond & Garcia: *BRICS: An Anti-Capitalist Critique* (5) Halper: *War Against the People*

Evaluation*: Consistent Attendance (10%); Journals (30%); Class Participation (20%); Research Paper (30%); Presentation (10%)

Notes:

- **Class Participation grade** consists of (a) student's effective participation in their Weekly Circles (50%) and (b) informed participation in the general class discussions (50%).
 - **Journals:** The course requires that students submit a total of 10 weekly journals due each Tuesday no later than 8 AM and submitted in a Google-Doc format. Late entries will affect grades negatively. The entries can function as creative spaces where you get to engage the course materials on a deeper basis. However, I do require the following minimum: *pose a question* and provide a *brief discussion* of (a) how the question fits in with or is related to the key concepts in the readings for that day and (b) what its significance is for our broader class discussions and materials. Avoid writing summaries of the readings. A rule: the more an entry identifies and engages *the KEY concepts, ideas, and arguments* of a given assigned text the greater its appropriateness.
 - **Weekly Circles:** Students will be organized into groups of 4 or 5 and will meet on every Tuesday to discuss their journal entries. To facilitate focused and informed discussions each group will designate a *facilitator on a rotational basis* to moderate the group's discussions. Specifically, a facilitator shall ensure that (a) every person's entry is shared, (b) discussions remain focused on significant issues, and (c) the group formulates and justifies posing a *single question* for a broader class consideration to follow.
 - **A Research Paper (RP):** Due two weeks before the final class session in the semester. It should be no less than 10 typewritten pages (not including the Work Cited and the Title pages). I require that 2 weeks prior to this due date, the students hand in a typed Preliminary Statement (PS) indicating the following information about your research: 1) topic, 2) key research questions, 3) their significance, and 4) a list of sources already consulted. *Failure to hand in the PS on time will reduce the RP grade by a full grade*. During the last 2 weeks of the course the students will present their research in class.
 - **Class Readings** are assigned on a class-by-class basis. It is the student's responsibility to find out about assigned readings in case of absence.
- **Attendance Policy:** Be there and be on time. Absences due to illness require written confirmation from a healthcare provider. I will mark unexcused absences and incorporate them into the course grade determination.
 - **Academic Honesty Policy:** In cases of cheating or plagiarizing in any way, I will follow the appropriate procedures as they appear in the College Student Handbook.
 - **E-Devices:** All electronic devices should be turned *off* before class.
 - "Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Academic Support Center, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center."

* It is within my purview to apply qualitative judgment in the determination of any and all grades.