Course Instructor: Jung Choi/ Tom Semm

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**GLOBALIZATION AND GLOBAL ETHICS**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Sociology 730

Wednesday 4-6:40pm

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

Proponents of globalization argue that this process offers all persons the opportunity to participate freely in social life and to pursue their goals unfettered by ideological and political strictures. Critics, however, maintain that this description is overly optimistic. They claim that globalization is underpinned by a philosophy that fragments social life and stifles social criticism. As a result, globalization may accomplish little more than increase the current level of alienation. The aim of this class is to enter into this discussion and assess the validity of these competing claims. The focus of this class is different than most of those that deal with globalization. The traditional focus is the economic changes that are the result of this process, along with the institutional responses to deal with these issues. Accompanying globalization, however, is the introduction of a world-view, a new social perspective, which poses many philosophical issues that are regularly overlooked. Therefore, a broader and more theoretically sophisticated type of analyses is introduced throughout the semester. Topics include (but not limited to): the nature of the American ruling class; ownership and control of U.S. corporations; the concentration of wealth in the U.S. and its political consequences; the ruling class’ control of mass media; and the impact of the rise of neoliberalism in world affairs. Also, the class will examine the ethics of “Liberation Theology” and how they undermine the basic tenets of globalization and global capitalism. The class will be divided into three general areas: colonialism, postcolonialim, and neocolonialism. Obviously, the aim is to understand and critically evaluate (and or reject) the different ethics that accompany and legitimize these worldviews.

Course Requirements/Mechanics

**Required Text(s)**: **Overthrow, Kinzer ($6-$12); King Leopold’s Ghost, Hochschild ($5-$10); Year 501, Chomsky ($2-$10); Shock Doctrine, Klein ($5-$10); The Value of Nothing, Patel ($8-$10); Planet of Slums, Davis ($8-$14), and Open Veins of Latin America, Galeano ($7-10): $39- $78**

**Also, I will attach excerpts of other readings as pdf throughout the semester by (but not limited to):**

Chalmers Johnson

Noam Chomsky

Gustavo Gutierrez

Leonardo Boff

Enrique Dussell

Giddens/Hutton

Benjamin Barber

Thomas Friedman

Francis Fukuyama

Joseph Stiglitz

Martin Buber

Emanuel Levinas

Simone de Beauvoir

Mihail Markovic

Henry Giroux

Amir Samin

Alejandro Serrano

Seyla Benhabib

Arundhati Roy

David Harvey

**Readings**: All students are expected to complete the required readings outlined in the Topics/Assignment section well before each lecture. **Students should expect to read**

**75-150 pages per week**.

**Tests/Assignments:**  each student will be expected to lead the class discussion by preparing an outline/power point/position paper etc. throughout the semester. Midterm Also, everyone is expected to complete a **Final Paper (15-20 pages) and do a class presentation of the paper at the end of the semester. There may be** other assignments as determined by the instructor throughout the semester. **Total writing for the semester will be roughly 30-40 pages**. The final grade will be determined by the Final Paper and the end of the semester presentation.

**Final Paper**: Please write a position paper on an anti-globalization movement that is either happening currently or has happened recently (in the last 10 years). Although there is no required format of the paper, it must include at least the following: 1) the history of the movement (where, why, when, and how); 2) the ethical outlook supporting the movement (utilitarian, Kantian, “democratic,”); and 3) the ultimate outcome of the movement and/or the logical outcome of the movement based on its ethics. The paper assignment will be discussed more in depth in class.

**Final Presentation**: (Total time: 30 minutes) The presentation should not be longer than 20 minutes (may employ any visual/audio/etc. to enhance the presentation). 10 minutes of Q and A.

**Attendance and participation**: ***Since this is a 700 level seminar, each student is expected to participate fully and attendance is required. Every student will be expected to lead class discussions (semi-lectures/critical interpretation of the readings) multiple times throughout the semester.***

**Topics/Assignments**

**WEEK(S):**  **REQUIRED READING**

**1-3** **Colonialism as Prologue**

Introduction to Globalization. What does social philosophy

have anything to do with Globalization?

Markovic, (Blackboard Document)

Choi, (Blackboard Document)

Patel, Chapers 1,2

Chomsky, Year 501, Chapter 1

Hochschild, King Leopold, Chapter 10

Biological determinism

Kinzer, Chapters 1-5

**4-5** **Postcolonialism**

Utilitarian Ethics vs Kantian Ethics: How do they support

the expansion of globalization and the dominance of the

Empire?

Sartre, Fanon, and Memmi

The Wretched of the Earth and The Colonizer and

The Colonized.

**6-7** **Introducing Liberation Theology**

Gustavo Gutierrez, “Tomorrow has Begun Today…”

Enrique Dussel, “Preferential Option for the Poor”

Understaning Liberation Theology as an act of

denuding power. “Jesus is verb not noun.” Liberation

Theology as a voice of the “wretched of the earth.”

* 1. **Neocolonialism and** **Neoliberalism…euphemisms for**

**“Gangsters of the World” Neo-liberalism and its moral**

**Justification. The failure of neo-liberalism and human**

**rights. Examples: India, Argentina, Chile, Haiti, Russia,**

**South Africa**

The Shock Doctrine. Klein, Chaps, 1-5; 6-8; 14-15; Finish

Reading Klein

**10-11** **Let’s talk about ethics…the other kind…yes, the**

**Democratic kind…what would this mean to the existing**

**Social order? Ethics of I and Thou**

Simone de Beauvoir “Ethics of Ambiguity”

Murphy and Choi “The Decentering of Identity”

Levinas and Buber

* 1. **The Cost of Globalization. Is Another World Possible?**

**Yes! Do you have the right to be pissed off? Absolutely! Resistance to Neo-liberalism**

Freire, *Pedagogy of Indignation*

Davis, Planet of Slums

Amin, Millenium Development Goals

Choi and Murphy, Introduction in *Globalization and the Prospects for Critical Reflection*

ALBA (The Bolivarian Latin American Alternative)

Learning from Cuba’s half century of socialism

World wide Anti-Globalization/Anti-Neoliberalism movements.

Arundhati Roy, Chalmers Johnson, Henry Giroux, et al.

Political and social movements:

Bolivia, Cuba, Venezuela, Paraquay, indigenous movements, environmental movements, etc.

A new morality…

**Breaking News…Tomorrow has begun today…!!!**

**Midterm**

**Answer two of the following four questions;**

**Using King Leopold’s Ghost, Year 501: The Conquest Continues and Ovethrow, explain what Marlowe, the main character of the Heart of Darkness, means when he says, “The conquest of the earth, which mostly means the taking it away from those who have a different complexion or slightly flatter noses than ourselves, is not a pretty thing when you look into too much.”**

**Using Wretched of the Earth, the Colonizer and the Colonized explain why Memmi, Fanon and Sartre argue that a revolution is necessary in order for colonized countries to achieve independence from colonizing countries.**

**Using Gutierrez, Brown and Dussel explain liberation theology, the context in which it emerged and how it interprets both the Bible and Marxism.**

**Using Klein, explain Friedman’s neo-liberal economic theory and how it is spread through shock therapy.**