

## **SOSC 2290 Understanding Globalization**

**Fall 2017**

**The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00 – 4:20 PM**  
**Academic Building Room 2503**

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### ***Course Objectives***

This course aims to help students learn theories and debates about globalization. We will focus on economic, political, cultural, and social aspects of globalization and discuss the process and impact of globalization in its various aspects.

### ***Intended Learning Outcomes***

Upon successful completion of the course, students are expected to acquire a deeper conceptual understanding of globalization and evaluate the causes and consequences of globalization in its different dimensions. Specifically, students will be able to:

- Explain different theoretical perspectives on globalization.
- Evaluate the positive and negative aspects of economic globalization.
- Discuss the role of the state in the globalized world.
- Explain how globalization can help or undermine democracy.
- Assess the consequences of cultural globalization and its impact on politics and markets.
- Discuss how globalization influences China and China's role in the globalized world.

### ***Required textbooks*** (available at the University Bookstore):

- Spero & Hart. 2010. *The Politics of International Economic Relations* (7<sup>th</sup> Ed). Wadsworth Publishing.
- Bhagwati. 2004. *In Defense of Globalization*. Oxford University Press.

(Both books are placed at the library reserve.)

## ***Course Requirements***

- Midterm exam (25%)
- Final exam (35%)
- Group project (30%)
- Class participation (10%)

### Midterm and final exams:

- The exams will include the materials/contents covered in lectures, readings, videos, and discussions.

### Group Project:

- Roughly 5 – 7 students will form a group to write a paper on a selected topic and make a PowerPoint presentation.
- Paper (15%), Presentation (10%), Peer evaluation (5%):
  - (1) Paper: Each group will write a 12-15 page paper. In the paper, you will assess the impact of globalization on a particular aspect of economy, politics, culture, or society, depending on your specific topic. Further instructions will be given in class.
  - (2) Presentation: At the end of the semester, each group will make a 15-minute presentation.
  - (3) Peer evaluation: You will evaluate your fellow group members regarding their contribution to the group project.
- *Mandatory meeting with the instructor:* Each group will meet with the instructor to discuss the group project. This is intended to facilitate your project preparation. Details about the meetings will be announced in class.

### Participation and classroom behavior:

To promote the classroom environment of active learning and mutual respect, a part of the course grade is allocated to class participation and in-class behavior. You are encouraged to actively participate in class discussions (note that the quality of your participation is more important than the quantity; a good way to improve quality is to supplement your answers with well-reasoned arguments). At the same time, you are expected to maintain proper discipline and behave in a responsible manner in class.

## ***Course Policies & Etiquettes***

### **1. No make-up exams will be granted.**

Only exceptions:

- Officially documented surgical procedure
- Officially documented emergency room visit for a threat to life  
(A visit to a doctor/Student Health Center because you feel sick is not enough.)

### **2. No cheating and no plagiarism allowed.**

You can find the University's regulations on cheating and plagiarism from the following website:  
<http://tl.ust.hk/integrity/student-1.html>

**3. The course will use PRS (Personal Response System).**

You can bring a clicker for class meetings or use your mobile phone.

For more information, check out the website:

<http://itsc.ust.hk/sites/itscprod.sites.ust.hk/files/images/PRS/iPRS%20Student%20Guide.pdf>

**4. Use of Canvas (<https://canvas.ust.hk>)**

The instructor will make important course announcements and post lecture slides and sample exam questions on the course website. You should set up your own notification settings on Canvas to make sure you receive all course-related posts.

**5. Respect your fellow classmates and the instructor by:**

Arriving punctually

Not chatting with your neighbors during lecture

Turning off your mobile phone in class

Not eating in class

Not leaving the classroom in the middle of the lecture

You will be requested to leave the classroom if your behavior is deemed to disrupt class.

***Tentative Course Outline***

(Readings with an asterisk [\*] will be posted on the course website.)

Dates	Topic	Readings
Sept 5	What Is Globalization? Is Globalization a New Phenomenon?	Bhagwati, Ch. 1
Sept 7	How Do We Explain Globalization?	Gilpin, Ch. 2 *
Sept 12-19	Is Globalization a Positive or a Negative Development? (1) International trade	Spero & Hart, Ch. 3 Bhagwati, Ch. 16
Sept 21-26	(2) Globalization of Production	Spero & Hart, Ch. 4 Bhagwati, Ch. 10
Sept 28-Oct 3	(3) Development and Inequality	Spero & Hart, Ch. 5 (recommended: Ch. 7, pp. 257-277); Bhagwati, Ch. 5
Oct 10-17	(4) Globalization of Finance	Spero & Hart, Ch. 2, 6 (recommended: Bhagwati, Ch. 13)

***Midterm exam on Oct 12***

Oct 19            Research day for group project

Oct 24-26	Does Globalization Make the World More Democratic?	Bhagwati Ch. 4, 8
Oct 31-Nov 2	Is Globalization Western Imperialism?	Bhagwati Ch. 9
Nov 7-14	Does Globalization Make the State Obsolete?	Spero & Hart, Ch. 8 Bhagwati, Ch. 12
Nov 16-23	<b><i>Student Presentations</i></b>	
Nov 28-30	China in the Globalized World and the Future of Globalization (II)	Spero & Hart, Ch. 10 Frieden et al., Ch. 13 *
	<b><i>Final Exam</i></b> (Date to be announced by the University)	