

SOSC 2290 Understanding Globalization
Spring 2019
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Class Time and Classroom: Mondays & Wednesdays 12:00 – 13:20, Academic Building Room 1103

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Course Description and Objectives

This course will introduce students to theories about globalization and international political economy. The first half of the course (Parts I and II) will focus on the globalization of capital, production, trade, technology, energy and human resources, its impact on society, labour and politics, as well as on cities, and how it generates recurrent economic crises, all within the global economic structure. Part III will apply these perspectives on globalization to China's opening, including its capital flows, trade promotion, technological development, higher education system, inequality and the strengthening of human talent. In the end we assess the positive and negative aspects of globalization and possible future trends.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students are expected to acquire a deeper conceptual understanding of globalization and the global political economy and be able to evaluate the causes and consequences of globalization in its different dimensions. They will also be able to understand China's opening and reform within the context of globalization. Specifically, students will be able to:

- Explain different theoretical perspectives on globalization.
- Evaluate the positive and negative aspects of 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 textbook (available at the University Bookstore):

Joan Spero & Jeffrey Hart. *The Politics of International Economic Relations* (7th Ed) (Wadsworth Publishing, 2010) (This book is also placed at the library reserve.)

Course Requirements

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

The midterm and final exams will include the materials/contents covered in lectures and readings. The Mid-term will be in a multiple choice format while the final exam will be an essay exam. The final exam will apply the theories and concepts of globalization to the China case and evaluate the overall impact of globalization on the world.

Group Project

Approximately 5–7 students will form a group to write a paper on a selected topic related to globalization and will make a PowerPoint presentation near the end of the semester. The group project will be assessed in the following manner:

Paper (15%), Presentation (10%), Peer evaluation (5%):

- (1) Paper: Each group will write a 12-15 page paper which will assess the impact of globalization on a particular aspect of the economy, national and/or global politics, culture, or society. After outlining the general concepts, the presentation will apply these ideas to the China case or to another country. Further instructions will be given in class.
- (2) Presentation: At the end of the semester, each group will make a 12-15-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 Professor Zweig to discuss their group project. This meeting will facilitate your project preparation. Details about the meetings will be announced in class. The TA will also help students with their presentations.

Participation and classroom behavior:

To promote a lively learning environment in the class, 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 & Etiquette

1. No make-up exams will be granted.

Only exceptions:

- Officially documented surgical procedure or emergency room visit. (A visit to a doctor/Student Health Center because you feel sick is not enough.)
- Important: Exchange students should not book flights home before May 29 to insure that they are present for the final exam. We will not know the final exam date until April.

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

Prof Zweig or Benny 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. All readings will also be on Canvas.

4. Respect your fellow classmates and the professor by:

- Arriving punctually
- Not chatting with your neighbours during the 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.

Class Schedule and Readings

PART I. INTRODUCTION AND A LITTLE THEORY

Class 1. Introduction to Globalization, 30 January

Reading: Spero & Hart, *The Politics of International Economic Relations*, pp. 1-11.

Class 2. Theory 1: Globalization, International Structure and the State, 4 February

Reading: Robert Gilpin, *The Political Economy of International Relations*, pp. 25-41.

NO CLASS, 6 February

Class 3. Theory 2. Measuring Globalization and Its Impact, 11 February

Reading: Spero and Hart, pp. 217-248.

PART II. FORMS OF GLOBALIZATION

Class 4. Financial Globalization, 13 February (Prof David Cook)

Reading: Spero and Hart, pp. 28-53.

Class 5. Globalization of Production, MNCs and Research and Development, 18 February

Reading: Spero and Hart, pp. 128-146.

Class 6. Globalization of Trade and Transport, 20 February

Reading: Spero and Hart, pp. 98-116.

Class 7. Globalization and the Politics of Energy, 25 February

Reading: Spero and Hart, pp. 348-373.

Class 8. Globalization and Inequality, 27 February

Reading: Spero and Hart, Ch. 5, pp. 265-288.

Class 9. Globalization of Human Capital: Migration of Skilled Workers, March 4

Reading: Manolo Abella, "Global Competition for skilled workers and consequences," in Christiane Kuptsch and PANG Eng Fong, eds., *Competing for Global Talent* (Geneva: International Labour Office, 2006), pp. 11-32.

Class 10. Globalization of Cities: Culture, Life Styles and the Media, 6 March

Reading: James L. Watson, "Introduction: Transnationalism, Localization, and Fast Foods in East Asia," in James L. Watson, ed., *Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia, Second Edition* (Stanford University Press, 2006), pp. 1-38.

Class 11. Globalization of Higher Education, 11 March (Prof. Gerald Postilione)

Reading: Simon Marginson and Marijk Van Der Wende, "Globalisation And Higher Education," Draft Background Paper prepared for the OECD/CERI Expert meeting on "Globalisation, Market Forces and the Future of Higher Education," Hosted by the Portuguese Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education Lisbon, Portugal 4-5 May 2006, @ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/225084057_Globalisation_and_Higher_Education

Class 12. Globalization and Politics: Democracy or Authoritarianism? 13 March

Reading: Jagdish Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization* (Oxford University Press, 2004), Ch. 4, 8.

Fareed Zakaria, "America's self-destructive whites," *The Washington Post*, 31 December 2015, https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/americas-self-destructive-whites/2015/12/31/5017f958-afdc-11e5-9ab0-884d1cc4b33e_story.html

Class 13. Globalization and Financial Crises, 18 March

Reading: Spiro and Hart, pp. 53-63.

Class 14. MID-TERM EXAM, 20 March

Class 15. Is Hong Kong a Global City? 25 March

Reading: James L. Watson, "McDonald's in Hong Kong: Consumerism, Dietary Change, and the Rise of Children's Culture," in Watson, ed., *Golden Arches East*, pp. 77-109.

PART III. CHINA AND GLOBALIZATION

Class 16. China's Opening to the Outside World, 27 March

Reading: David Zweig, *Internationalizing China: domestic interests and global linkages* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2002), pp. 23-48.

Class 17. Globalization of Production and Trade in China, 1 April

Reading: Michael Enright, *Developing China: The Remarkable Impact of Foreign Direct Investment* (Hong Kong: Hinrich Foundation, 2016), pp. 59-87.

Class 18. Class 19. Globalization of Capital in China, 3 April

Reading: Greg Chin in Avery Goldstein

Class 19. Globalization, Income Distribution and China's Developmental Strategy, 8 April

Reading: Xiaobo Zhang & Kevin H. Zhang, "How Does Globalisation Affect Regional Inequality within A Developing Country? Evidence from China," *Journal of Development Studies*, 39:4 (2003): 47-67, DOI: 10.1080/713869425.

Class 20. Globalization and China's Technological Development, 10 April (Prof Naubahar Sharif)

Reading: Can Huang and Naubahar Sharif, "Global Technology Leadership: The case of China," *Science and Public Policy* (2015): 1-12.

Class 21. Globalization of Education, Talent and Migration, 15 April

Reading: David Zweig, "Learning to compete: China's efforts to encourage a 'reverse brain drain'," in Christiane Kuptsch and PANG Eng Fong, eds., *Competing for Global Talent* (Geneva: International Labour Office, 2006), pp. 187-214.

Class 21. China's Search for Energy and Resources, 17 April

Reading: David Zweig and Hao Yufan, eds., *Sino-U.S. Energy Triangles: Resource Diplomacy under Hegemony*, (Routledge: London, 2015), pp. 19-37.

22 April, NO CLASS

Class M. China Goes Global: Belt and Road Initiative, 24 April (Prof Barry Sautman)

Reading: Peter Cai, "Understanding China's Belt and Road Initiative," *Lowy Institute for International Policy*, March 2017.

GROUP PROJECTS

Class 24. Group Project Presentations, I, 29 April

1 May, NO CLASS

Class 25. Group Project Presentations, II, 6 May

Class 26. The Future of Globalization, 8 May

Readings: to be determined
