

SOSC 2290 Understanding Globalization
2021 Spring Semester
Tuesday and Thursday 12:00-13:20

Instructor: Professor C.K. Lee (ckl@ust.hk) Academic Building 3386
Office Hours: Tuesday 14:00-15:00 or by appointment

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Office Hours: Monday 14:00-17:00 or by appointment

Objectives

This course aims at providing students with the basic concepts, theories and perspectives on different aspects of globalization. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, we will examine the “what, why, who, how, and so what” of globalization understood as processes through which the world becomes more connected. The topics include migration, global capitalism, global production chains, global cities, globalization of pop culture, food consumption, and political ideologies, the rise of transnational civil society and social movements. For each topic, there will be a special discussion on China and its place in globalization.

Course Requirements

- Discussion Papers 30%
- Final Exam 50%
- Participation 20%

Discussion Papers

Students will write 6 short (1-2 pages, single-lined spacing) discussion papers reacting to class materials such as documentaries and guest lectures.

Final Exam

There will be only one exam at the end of the course. The exam covers all materials in the semester, and will consist of short and long essay questions.

Participation

To promote a lively learning environment in the classroom, students are expected to attend all lectures (including guest lectures) and participate in in-class discussions. At the same time, be mindful to maintain proper discipline and behave in a responsible manner in class.

Course Policies & Etiquette

1. No make-up exam will be granted. Only exception: officially documented surgical procedure or emergency room visit. (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>

Themes and Schedule

1 What is globalization?

Feb 2

5 questions about Globalization: What, Why, Who, How, So What

Assignment #1: write a response paper on the documentary "The True Cost"

<https://docuseek2-com.lib.ezproxy.ust.hk/cart/product/901>

(Due Feb 8 12 noon)

Feb 4 Major Perspectives on Globalization

Reading: Paul Dean and George Ritzer, "Globalization" in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Sociology* (2012)

Feb 9 Globalization and Global China as "Method"

Reading: Ivan Franceschini and Nicholas Loubere, "What about Whataboutism? Viral Loads and Hyperactive Immune Responses in the China Debate" (2020)

2. Setting the Stage: History of globalization

Feb 11: capitalism, colonialism, Cold War, post-communism, global governance

Reading: Chapter 1 "History" in *Introduction to Global Studies*

3. Migration & Diaspora

Feb 16: migration as agents of globalization

Reading: Chapter 12 "Migration" in *Introduction to Global Studies*

Feb 18: Chinese migration and diaspora

Guest lecture by Dr. Kelly Wanjing Chen, "'PRC's Engagement with Business Diaspora in Southeast Asia: A Grounded View from Laos"

Assignment #2: Reaction paper to public lecture by Professor Xiang Biao, Oxford University, Feb 18, 8pm (Due Feb 22 12 noon)

4 Global Capitalism & Corporations

Feb 23 Making the global economy, marketization / commodification of everything

Reading: Chapters 8 (Economy) & 9 (Trade) in *Introduction to Global Studies*

Feb 25: industrial capitalism (global supply chain)

Reading: Richard Appelbaum and Nelson Lichtenstein, "A New World of Retail Supremacy: Walmart," *International Labor and Working-class History* 2006: 106-125

Mar 2: Global Corporation Coca-Cola (organizing material and immaterial production)
Reading: “Counter-cola”

Mar 4: surveillance capitalism

Reading: Shoshanna Zuboff, “Big Other: Surveillance Capitalism and the Prospects of an Information Civilization” *Journal of Information Technology* 30:75-89, 2015

Assignment #3: Reaction paper on one of the following 2 documentaries (Due March 8 12 noon)

“Facebook Dilemma” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T48KFiHwexM> +
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuA4qxPbpQE>

“Amazon Empire” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVVfJVj5z8s&t=4651s>

5. Global China and its Discontent

Reading: Hongji Lai, “The Rationale and Effects of China’s Belt and Road Initiative” *Journal of Contemporary China* (2020)

Assignment #4: Reaction paper to guest lecture by Professor Gustavo Oliveira, UC Irvine, “China in Brazil” March 9 12:00 (Due March 14 12noon)

Global China & its Limits March 11

Assignment #5: Reaction paper to guest lecture by Professor Carlos Oya, London School of Economics, “China and African industrialization” March 15 20:00 (Due March 20 12 noon)

6. Globalization of Culture

March 16 Food

Reading: “Food” in *Introduction to International and Global Studies*, Smallman and Brown

Reading: Theodore C Bestor, “How Sushi Went Global” *Foreign Policy* Nov/Dec 2000 54-63

March 18 Popular culture: the case of K-pop

Reading: Ingyu Oh, “Globalization of K-pop: Korea’s Place in the Global Music Industry” *Korea Observer* 2013 44(3) 389-409

K-pop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTR7QIKq2Nk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpNlwap2YoQ>

<https://time.com/entertainer-of-the-year-2020-bts>

March 23 Political Ideology

Reading: J.A. Chirico, Chapter 7 “Globalizing Political Culture” in *Globalization: Prospects and Problems* 2013

7. Global City

March 25 Global City

Reading: Saskia Sassen, "The Global City: Introducing a Concept" *The Brown Journal of World Affairs* 2005, Vol. 11, No. 2: 27-43

April 8 Hong Kong as a global city: social polarization and politics

Reading: Stephen W. K. Chiu and Tai-lok Lui, "Testing the Global City—Social Polarisation Thesis: Hong Kong since the 1990s" *Urban Studies* Vol. 41, No. 10 (September 2004), pp. 1863-1888

8 Global Civil Society

April 13 Transnational NGOs and Advocacy Networks

Reading: "Forging a Global Civil Society", Chapter 5, *Globalization: Prospects and Problems*
Reading: Castells, "The New Public Sphere"

April 15 Human Rights Regimes

Reading: Chapter 7 Human Rights, *Introduction to Global Studies*

Reading: Yongjin Zhang and Barry Buzan, "China and the Global Reach of Human Rights" *China Quarterly* no. 241, 2020: 169-190

April 20 Environmental Governance

Reading: Chapter 11 Environment, *Introduction to Global Studies*

Assignment #6: Reaction paper to guest lecture by Dr. Sam Geall, "China and Global Environmentalism" April 15 20:00 (Due April 19 12 noon)

9. Global social movements

April 22 Transnational labor and consumer campaigns

Reading: Gay Seidman, "Transnational Labour Campaigns: Can the Logic of the Market Be Turned Against Itself?" *Development and Change* 39(6): 991–1003 (2008).

Gary Gereffi et al., "The NGO-Industrial Complex" *Foreign Policy*, Jul. - Aug., 2001, No. 125 pp. 56-65

April 27 Globalization of Women's Rights

Reading: Joan Kaufman, "The Global Women's Movement and Chinese Women's Rights." *Journal of Contemporary China* (2012), 21(76), July, 585–602

April 29 Anti-globalization protests from Seattle to Hong Kong

Reading: Munch, "The anti-globalization movement From Seattle (1999) to the future" in *Globalization and Contestations*, 2007.

10. Conclusion & Review May 4 & 6