

ANTH 2520 / UGEC2990

Globalization and Culture Spring 2020

Lecture: Thursday 1:30-3:15

Teacher: Gordon Mathews, cmgordon@cuhk.edu.hk

Tutor: Tan Tiantian, Tina, tan_tt2018@hotmail.com

Tutorial Schedule: Th. 4:30-5:15, 5:30-6:15, perhaps a different time

Introduction

Globalization is economically transforming the world, as national borders become increasingly irrelevant before the global flow of money and goods. But globalization also has a great impact on cultures across the globe, as products from Coca-Cola to Facebook, and ideas from human rights to standards of beauty to ideologies of terrorism and viruses such as covid-19, intrude everywhere. This transforms the meanings of culture, as increasingly we no longer belong to a society based in a certain place, but to a global society, and a global “cultural supermarket.” This course examines how globalization is transforming the meanings of culture in today’s world.

Course Objectives

The course objectives are to enable you to:

- 1) gain insight into the globalization of culture, a process taking place across the world today and shaping all of our lives;
- 2) obtain a broad understanding of different aspects of the globalization of culture, including those involving recent history, economics, consumption, immigration, terrorism, epidemics, nationalism, and cultural identity; and
- 3) comprehend both the costs and benefits of contemporary processes of globalization to individuals, societies, and the world.

In order to fully meet these objectives, you will need to attend all classes and do all class readings and watch all class videos. Grades will be based on the extent to which you can analytically utilize the readings, videos and lectures of the course in engaging in the questions posed by the course.

Course Requirements

The course will be graded as follows:

--take-home midterm exam (6-7 pages long: 30% of grade), handed out March 4, due March 18.

--take-home final exam (10 pages long: 50% of grade), handed out April 15, due May 7

--class participation (20%)

Course Materials

--There is one required text for the course: Manfred Steger, *Globalization, a Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press. 2013). Newspaper and other articles, as well as all other readings, are available on Blackboard.

Plagiarism

Students are required by university policy to submit all papers to VeriGuide. Please check the website <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/> for information on how to submit papers through VeriGuide.

Zoom

I hope that we will be able to meet in person, in a mixed-mode classroom later in the semester, but for now the class will be conducted on Zoom due to covid 19.

Grade Descriptors

A Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes, through work that has creatively synthesized course materials and key ideas, to the extent that you show a depth of understanding as great as or greater than my own. Your arguments in your work are logical and cohesive, the discussion is well-organized, and the writing is clear. All relevant course materials have been fully utilized in your work, and additional material as well has been used from your own research.

A- Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes, through work has creatively synthesized course materials and key ideas. Your arguments in your work are logical and cohesive, the discussion is well-organized, and the writing is clear. All relevant course materials have been fully utilized in your work, and perhaps additional material as well from your own research.

B+ Substantial performance on all learning outcomes. Your arguments in your work are largely logical and cohesive, the discussion is generally well-organized, and the writing is clear. Most relevant course materials have been fully utilized in your work. There are areas for improvement with respect to building a cohesive argument, organizing the discussion, communicating clearly, and/or identifying relevant evidence and using all course materials, but by and large you have turned in good, solid work.

B Satisfactory performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall satisfactory performance. Your arguments in your work are somewhat logical and cohesive, the discussion is somewhat well-organized, and the writing is somewhat clear. Much relevant course materials have been fully utilized in your work. There are areas for improvement with respect to building a cohesive argument, organizing the discussion, communicating clearly, and/or identifying relevant evidence.

B- Adequate performance on all learning outcomes, OR satisfactory performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall largely adequate performance. Your arguments in your work are partially logical and cohesive, the discussion is partially organized, and the writing is somewhat clear. Some relevant course materials have been fully utilized in your work. There are areas for improvement with respect to building a cohesive argument, organizing the discussion, communicating clearly, and/or identifying relevant evidence.

C+ Adequate performance on the majority of learning outcomes. Your written work shows some effort, but course materials have not been sufficiently engaged. The argument and the writing is not clear, and/or there is less than full evidence for statements and claims made. There are areas for improvement with respect to building a cohesive argument, organizing the discussion, communicating clearly, and/or identifying relevant evidence.

C, C- Barely adequate performance on a number of learning outcomes. These grade will be awarded to students who have missed a large number of classes and have failed to use course materials in their written answers.

Jan. 14: Introduction

--Manfred Steger, "Globalization: A Contested Concept," in *Globalization, a Very Short Introduction* 4th edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), p. 1-17

--Video: "The End of Globalization (and the Beginning of Something New)" (Mike O'Sullivan/TED 2020 13:28)

Jan. 21: Key Concepts for Understanding Globalization

--Robert H. Lavenda and Emily A. Schultz, "Globalization and the Culture of Capitalism," in *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology* 5th edition (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2013), p. 171-196

--Arjun Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy" (part), in Jonathan Xavier Inda and Renato Rosaldo, eds. *The Anthropology of Globalization* 2^d edition (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008), p. 51-59

--Video: "Thomas Friedman's Three Eras of Globalization" (2008, 2:55)

--Video: "Globalization Theories | Society and Culture | MCAT | Khan Academy" 2014, 5:46)

Jan. 28: Globalization in History: Imperialism, Colonialism, Capitalism:

--Manfred Steger, "Globalization and History: Is Globalization a New Phenomenon?" in *Globalization, a Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), p. 18-37

--Richard H. Robbins, "The Era of the Global Trader, The Era of the Industrialist," in *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism* (Boston: Allyn and Bacon: 2002), p. 62-86

--Video: "Imperialism: Crash Course World History #35" (2012, 13:46)

Feb. 4: The Globalization of the World Economy

--Manfred Steger, "The Economic Dimension of Globalization" in *Globalization, a Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), p. 38-61

--Video: "Capitalism, by Joseph Stiglitz" (2013, 41:03)

--Video: "Will Covid Kill Globalization? / *The Economist*" (2020: 14:07)

Feb. 11: Lunar New Year Vacation

Feb. 18: "Low-End Globalization"/"Globalization From Below"

--Gordon Mathews and Carlos Alba Vega, "Introduction: What is Globalization From Below?" in G. Mathews, G. Ribeiro, and C. Vega, *Globalization from Below: The World's Other Economy* (London: Routledge, 2012), p. 1-15

--Gordon Mathews, "Low-end Globalization" (part), in *The World in Guangzhou: Africans and Other Foreigners in South China's Global Marketplace* (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 2017), p. 81-105

Feb. 25: Globalization, Consumption, and Ecology

--Amber Dance, "How Halloween Has Traveled the Globe" (*Sapiens*, Oct. 26, 2018)

--Manfred Steger, "The Ecological Dimension of Globalization" in *Globalization, a Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), p. 92-108

--Thomas Hylland Eriksen, "How Globalization Has Broken the Chain of Responsibility" (*Sapiens*, August 9, 2018).

--"This Has Been the Best Year Ever" (*New York Times*, Dec. 28, 2019)

--Video: "Consumption in a world of 32:1" (2012, 2:49)

March 4: Globalization, Media, and Cultural Values

--Manfred Steger, "The Cultural Dimension of Globalization," in *Globalization, a Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), p. 80-91

--Yuval Noah Harari, "Equality: Those Who Own the Data Own the Future," in *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* (New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2018), pp. 73-81

--"In Search for the New Supermodel, Cultures Collide" (*International Herald Tribune*, April 23, 2003); "Web Freedom Is Seen as a Growing Global Issue" (*New York Times*, Jan. 1, 2015)

(Take-home midterm exam handed out March 4, due March 18)

March 11: Globalization and Immigration

--Yuval Noah Harari, "Immigration: Some Cultures Might Be Better Than Others," in *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* (New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2018), pp. 140-157

--Gordon Mathews, "Asylum Seekers as Symbols of Hong Kong's Non-Chineseness," *China Perspectives* 2018/3, 51-58

--"Reports of Attacks on Women Heighten Tension Over Migrants" (*New York Times*, Jan. 5, 2016)

--Linda E. Sanchez, "Facing COVID-19 as an Undocumented Essential Worker," (*Sapiens*, 3 Dec. 2020)

March 18: Globalization and Tourism

--Beth E. Notar, "Lonely Planets and a Transnational Authentic," in *Displacing Desire: Travel and Popular Culture on China* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2006), p. 20-46

--Barbara Fraser, "The Perils and Privileges of an Amazonian Hallucinogen," (*Sapiens*, 3 Aug. 2017).

--"The Tourism Trap" (*Time*, July 26, 2018); "Rude Awakening: Chinese Tourists Have the Money, but not the Manners" (*South China Morning Post*, Dec. 31, 2014)

March 25: Globalization, Terrorism, and Pandemic

--"Oslo Suspect Wrote of Fear of Islam and Plan for War" (*New York Times*, July 23, 2011); "How the Charlie Hebdo Attack Changed France" (*Al Jazeera*, Jan. 6, 2016)

--"When Culture Clashes with Covid-19" (*MIT News*, June 25, 2020); "The Covid-19 Changes that Could Last Long-term" (*BBC Future*, June 30, 2020)

--Video: "Can Terrorism Be Justified? (Part 1)" (2008, 4:38)

--Video: "Plague to Coronavirus: How Pandemics Have Transformed History" (2020: 11:00)

April 1: Reading Week (no lecture)

April 8: Globalization, Politics, and Nationalism

--Manfred Steger, "The Political Dimensions of Globalization," in *Globalization, a Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), p. 62-79

--Gordon Mathews, "The Hong Kong Protests in Anthropological Perspective: National Identity and What it Means." (*Critique of Anthropology* 40(2), 2020: 264-26

--Video: "Is nationalism ever a force for good?" | Jared Diamond | Big Think (2019: 3:38)

April 15: Cultural Identity in a Globalizing World

--Gordon Mathews, "On the Meanings of Culture," in *Global Culture/Individual Identity: Searching for Home in the Cultural Supermarket* (London: Routledge: 2000), p. 1-23

--"In Changing South Korea, Who Counts as Korean?" (*New York Times*, Nov. 29, 2012);

"'Free Tibet' Flags Made in China" (BBC, April 28, 2008); "As Hong Kong Tightens Screws on Rebellion, Democracy Moves Further Out of Reach" (CNN, Jan. 2, 2019).

--Video: "Ronald Reagan: Tribute to Patriotism" (2008, 6:39)

--Video: "George Carlin: Patriotism and National Pride" (2013, 9:47)

(Take-home final examination handed out April 15, due May 7)

April 22: Assessing Globalization: Is It Helping Or Hurting the World?

--Manfred Steger, "Ideologies of Globalization: Market Globalism, Justice Globalism, Religious Globalisms," "The Future of Globalization," in *Globalization, a Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), p. 109-128, p. 129-134

--Discussion of take-home final