“Globalization and International Politics”

Alexander Cooley
414 Lehman Hall (Barnard Library)
Tel: (212) 854-9544
e-mail: acooley@barnard.edu
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00-12:00pm and by appointment.

PREQUISITES: None, though an introductory course in Political Science and/or Economics would serve as useful background.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course explores the impact of globalization on contemporary international politics. Globalization is a complex phenomenon and it influences many different aspects of domestic and international political, economic and social life. It can be fruitfully studied by a number of different disciplines, but in this particular course we will use the perspectives developed in political science and international relations theory. Specifically, we will study how globalization affects the structure and functions of the international economy, international organizations, security, state sovereignty, and international society. We will also consider the implications of these issues for the development of international governance and accountability within global organizations. Finally, we will consider the political backlash, at both the domestic and international levels, engendered by globalizing processes. The first half of the course will focus upon the economic dimensions of globalization. The second part of the course will analyze the security and social dimensions.

Classes will consist mostly of lectures. Students majoring in disciplines other than political science are free to take the course, but will have to familiarize themselves with writings in various political science subfields as the semester progresses.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The course will introduce students to the major debates on globalization within the international relations field. Students who complete the course will learn how to:

1. Distinguish among the various processes, actors and institutions described by the term “globalization.”
2. Identify the major theoretical debates and arguments within the globalization literature.
3. Evaluate the merits and shortcomings of these positions in writing.
4. Assess the quality of evidence and methodology employed by authors in support of their theoretical claims.
5. Apply the concepts and analytical constructs learned in this course to related methodological and theoretical questions in the political science discipline and the social sciences, more broadly.
6. Analyze and assess popular and journalistic writings on globalization, classify their analytical approaches and critically evaluate their claims.
REQUIREMENTS: Given the course’s broad scope and heavy reading load, it is ESSENTIAL to keep up with the weekly reading assignments, as the readings are designed to be building blocks for understanding topics in subsequent weeks. Lectures will complement, not substitute for, the readings and regular class attendance is imperative. Students are encouraged to seek help from the instructor and teaching assistants during office hours or to make individual appointments. In addition, students are required to complete:

1. One Short Paper (5 pages) Assignment (due Oct. 4, 2010)
2. First in-class Midterm exam (Oct. 20, 2010)

The short paper topic and guidelines will be distributed on Monday, September 20. Final paper topics and guidelines will be distributed after the first midterm. All students, regardless of institutional affiliation, must adhere to the Barnard College Academic Honor Code.

GRADING: Grades will be calculated as follows:
Short paper (10%);
Final Paper (30%);
First Midterm Exam (30%);
Second Midterm (30%).

I will grant Incompletes or extensions only in the case of a documented medical emergency. Otherwise, all late work will be downgraded.

READINGS: The following books are required and are available for purchase at the Columbia University bookstore:


The rest of the readings are journal articles that are available through the E-Journals tab on Columbia University’s LibraryWeb. To find an article, simply type in the journal title and follow the appropriate link based on your citation information (volume, date). Readings should also be available through Courseworks. Students are encouraged to download and keep personal copies of these readings. If you still have problems obtaining the readings even after you’ve followed these procedures, please let one of us know ASAP.
I. Introduction: Overview, Definitions and Theoretical Approaches

Class 1 (Sept 8) and Class 2 (Sep 13)  Course Overview and Introduction


http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/about/essay.jsp


Class 3 (Sep 15)  International Organizations in Global Politics


Class 4  (Sep 20)  The Sources of Global Governance, Authority and Accountability

Deborah Avant, Martha Finnemore and Susan Sell, *Who Governs the Globe?* Chapter 1.


Distribution of Short Paper Assignment, due Monday, October 4.

II. Globalization and the International Economy

Class 5  (Sep 22)  The Evolution of the Global Economy: An Overview


Cooley 3615 - 3
Class 6 (Sep 27)  The Globalization of Production and its Consequences


Pankaj Ghemawat, “Why the World Isn’t Flat,” Foreign Policy No. 159 (March/April 2007), pp. 54-60.

Class 7 (Sep 29)  The Politics of Global Trade and the WTO


Class 8 (Oct 4)  The Politics of Global Finance and Financial Crises

Short Paper Assignment Due Today!


Recommended:

Class 9 (Oct 6) Private Actors and the Global Economy: Credit Rating Agencies and Legal Arbitration


Cooley 3615 - 4

Class 10 (Oct 11) The Global Financial Crisis of 2007-2010
Nayan Chanda, “Lessons from Athens” Businessworld May 12, 2010. Available at: http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/lessons-athens

Class 11 (Oct 13) New Challenges to the Liberal Economic Order?
Moses Naim, “Rogue Aid,” Foreign Policy. No. 159 (March/April 2007), pp. 96, 95.

Class 12 (Oct 18) The Politics of Off-Shore Money and Tax Havens


**III Globalization and International Security**

Class 15  (Oct 27) Globalizing Processes and International Security


Monday Nov. 1 Academic Holiday

Class 16  (Nov 3)  *The Rise of New Media, the Internet and State Power*

Evgeny Morozov, “Think Again: The Internet” *Foreign Policy* No. 179 (January/February 2010), pp. 40-44.


Class 17  (Nov 8)  *The Politics of US Power and Global Hegemony*


Alexander Cooley, “Cooperation Gets Shanghaied: China, Russia and the SCO,” *Foreign Affairs* (online) December 14, 2009. Available at:

Cooley 3615 - 6
http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65724/alexander-cooley/cooperation-gets-shanghaied

**Class 18** (Nov 10)  *The Rise of Private Security Actors*


**Class 19** (Nov 15)  *The Politics of Global Terrorism I*


**Class 20** (Nov 17)  *The Global Arms Trade, Politics and Corruption*

No Assigned Reading (you should be working on your papers!). Today we will watch the Frontline documentary “Black Money” about BAE Systems and allegations of bribery in its dealings with international governments.

**Class 21** (Nov 22)  *The Politics of Global Terrorism II: Local-Global Linkages*


**Wed. Nov 24 No Class – Wednesday before Thanksgiving**

**IV  Globalization, Law and International Society**

**Class 22** (Nov 29)  *The Politics of Global Justice*


Cooley 3615 - 7
Class 23  (Dec 1)  *Global Social Movements: The Rise of NGOs and Advocacy Networks*

Final Papers due Today!


Class 24  (Dec 6)  *NGO Performance and the Transnational Sector Reconsidered*


Class 25  (Dec 8)  *Identity and the Cultural Consequences of Globalization*


No alternate dates will be accommodated. No exam substitutions.