

GLOBALIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS
(PSCI 3802B, ANTH 3027B, SOCI3027B)

Lectures: Mondays 8:35 - 11:25 a.m.
(133 Unicentre)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The terms human rights and globalization are often used and often misunderstood. In the post-Cold War era the discourse of human rights has come to assume great prominence in foreign policy debates, the struggles of social movements and in wider debates over globalization and transnational legal processes. However, contemporary economic globalization, a multifaceted process comprised of dynamic power relations that are reformulating and transforming economic, political, social and cultural boundaries, is often at odds with human rights. This course examines various dimensions of globalization and the relationship, contests and conflicts with human rights that have emerged..

We will discuss various political, legal and economic aspects of globalization; the role of the state; the roles of non-state actors whether in civil society or the private sector.

Globalized markets have facilitated more monitoring of social conditions but have also opened up more opportunities for economic exploitation. At the same time, information flows have emboldened human rights campaigns and fostered transnational activist networks. In particular, this course focuses on the impact of globalization on development as it directly influences the human rights of millions of the world's people.

Moving from an examination of globalization and human rights in current context, the course moves to an examination of some key theatres, issues and actors. Through work group assignments as well as term papers, students will be encouraged to examine one or more of these cases in greater depth.

In addition to global cases, the course will partially focus on the contemporary scene in North America, the interplay of globalization and human rights, the role of public policy and the engagement of social actors.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide an introduction to the links, contests and conflicts between largely economic globalization and human rights.

2. To engage with debates about globalization and ways of promoting and protecting human rights.
3. To illuminate power relationships and the roles of diverse actors.
4. To examine public policy implications, particularly as they relate to Canada in the North American as well as global contexts.

COURSE READINGS

The textbook for the course is Alison Brysk (ed.) *Globalization and Human Rights* (University of California Press, 2002) 310 pp. Additional course material will be available in the MacOdrum library and/or Political Science Reading Room C666 Loeb.

Required readings are listed (by class) below. Additional readings may be assigned by the instructor during the progress of the course.

COURSE FORMAT

The course will consist of lecture for the first three weeks. Beginning in Week 4, the opening lecture will be followed by two group work presentations with questions and discussion. In preparation for the lectures/discussion, presentations/discussion reading assignments are provided and must be completed on time and used as a basis for questions and comments in class. Lectures will include reference to the readings but other material as well.

Each student is expected to write one term paper and share in one 15-minute group work presentation, as well as to attend all classes. **The deadline for submission of the term paper is March 17th.** Late papers will **not** be accepted, except in extreme circumstances. In cases of serious illness, an explanatory note from a physician is required. A more detailed guideline sheet regarding term papers will be distributed later in the term. Topics are to be negotiated and agreed with the lecturer/.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Participation and attendance	10%
Group work/presentations	30%
Term paper	60% (due March 17, 2008)

Participation: marks are based on attendance and number of insightful contributions to class discussion.

Group Presentation Project: Students should develop useful teamwork skills. The class will be divided into groups of 3 or 4 each that will make presentations on subjects related to weekly topics beginning in week 4, themes will be assigned by week 3. The presentations will be 10-15 minutes in length followed by 10 minutes of questions and discussion. The groups will be evaluated on their presentation's completeness in presenting the facts of the case; ability to clearly relate issues of globalization to human rights law; group organization and division of workload.

Term paper: is to be 3,000-4,000 words. Topics must be negotiated with the Lecturer by the end of office hours, week 4.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Assignments sent by fax to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology / Department of Political Science will NOT be accepted.
2. Essays are to be submitted to the instructor only. Late papers may be submitted to the Political Science Departmental drop box. The drop box is cleared each weekday at 4 p.m. at which time all items are date-stamped with that day's date. Late papers will lose one grade per day.
3. Always retain a hard copy of the work you submit.
4. Essays will be returned by the instructor in class only. You must attend that class in order to receive your graded essay. You may submit a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your essay in order to ensure its safe return to you after it has been graded.
5. All final grades are subject to the Dean's approval, meaning that the mark you receive from the course instructor may be altered.. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses.
6. At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays. This provision is intended to allow the instructor to evaluate suspected cases of plagiarism or other problems with papers. Please read carefully the information regarding Instructional Offences and Offences of Conduct on pp. 61-64 of the Undergraduate Calendar.

GRADES

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 43), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 B+ = 77-79 C+ = 67-69 D+ = 56-59

A = 85-89 B = 73-76 C = 63-66 D = 53-56

A - = 80-84 B - = 70-72 C - = 60-62 D - = 50-52

F = Below 50

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

ABS = Student absent from final exam

DEF = Deferred (See above)

FND = (Failed, no Deferred) = Student

could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam.

Late papers: papers submitted after deadline will be graded one letter grade deduction for each day late – ie. a "B" paper becomes a "B-" paper if it is one day late.)

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Week 1: January 7, 2007

Introduction and outline of the course

Required reading:

Brysk, Alison (ed.) Globalization and Human Rights (University of California Press, 2002)

Introduction

Week 2: January 14

The G-word: Debating and defining globalization

Required reading:

Scholte, Jan Aart. Globalization: A critical introduction.

Chapters 2 and 3

Class divided into work teams and work team assignments chosen:

Week 3: January 21

Globalization and human rights: organizations and powers

Required reading:

Foster, John W. with Anand, Anita. Whose World Is It Anyway? Civil Society, the United Nations and the multilateral future. Ottawa. UNAC, 1999.

Chapters 12 and 13.

Week 4: January 28

Trading away rights/ Globalization, investment and human rights

Required reading:

Sands, Philippe: Lawless World: Making and Breaking Global Rules. London, Penguin. 2006 **Chapter 5, Chapter 6**

Bhushan, Aniket; Blouin, Chantal; Foster, John and Weston, Ann "Human Rights and International Trade: a primer on the linkages between economic, social and cultural rights and trade rules. Ottawa, The North-South Institute. 2007.

Group Work Presentations

Week 5: February 4

Globalization, Civil Society and Human Rights: organizing for change

Required reading:

Held, David & McGrew Anthony, Globalization and Anti-Globalization. Cambridge, Polity Press. 2003.

Chapter 8.

Smith, Jackie, Coalitions Across Borders: Transnational Protest and the Neoliberal Order. Oxford, Roman and Littlefield. 2004.

Chapter 11.

Group Work Presentations

Week 6: February 11

Case 1: the human right to health. HIV/AIDS, TRIPS and GATS

Required reading:

Thomas, Paul and Foster, John, AIDS, Development and Canadian Policy: Achieving universal access by 2010. Ottawa, The North-South Institute, 2007

Prins, Gwyn. "AIDS, power, culture and multilateralism" Chapter 15 in Newman, Edward, Thakur, Ramesh and Tirman, John. Multilateralism under challenge? Power, international order, and structural change. Tokyo, New York, Paris. United Nations University Press. 2006

Group work presentations

February 18: WINTER BREAK: NO CLASS

Week 7: February 25

Case 2 a) Battle fronts: Globalization and labour, Case 2b) globalization and environment

Required reading:

Brysk, Alison (ed.) Globalization and Human Rights. University of California Press, 2002.
Chapter 5

Shelton, Dinah. "Environmental Rights" in Alston, Philip (ed.) Peoples' Rights (Oxford, 2001) **On reserve.**

Group work presentations

Week 8: March 3

Case 2c) Corporate actors

Required reading:

Steinhardt, Ralph G. "Corporate Responsibility and the International Law of Human Rights: The New Lex Mercatoria," in Alston, Phillip (ed.) Non-State Actors and Human Rights (Oxford, 2005) p.177 (photocopy on Reserve)

Weisbrodt, Davis & Kruger, Maria. "Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights," in 97 American Journal of International Law (2003)

Business and Human Rights: A resource website

<http://www.business-humanrights.org/>

(sample)

Group work presentations

Week 9: March 10

Case 2d: Globalization, culture and indigenous roots, Case 2d Globalization, sexual minorities and reproductive rights: culture in play

Required reading:

UNESCO. Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001429/1429.19e.pdf>

United Nations General Assembly: Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples A/Res. 61/295

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/512/07/PDF/N0651207.pdf?OpenElement>

Press release and summary of comments on the decision.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10612.doc.htm>

Other readings t.b.a.

Group work presentations

Week 10: March 17 (TERM PAPERS DUE)

Case 3a: Globalization and inequality: North America: Social Rights

Required reading

Scholte, Jan Aart. Globalization: A critical introduction. Basingstoke, Palgrave/Macmillan. 2nd edition. 2005.

Chapter 11

And/Or

Faux, Jeff, The Global Class War. Hoboken, Wiley. 2006

Chapter 3

Group work presentations

Week 11: March 24

Case 2B: Regional evolution: North America: NAFTA, SPP and human rights

Required reading:

Clarkson, Stephen. Uncle Sam and US. Toronto, University of Toronto Press. 2002.

Chapter 4.

Foster, John. “Beyond NAFTA: The Security and Prosperity Partnership”. Canada and the USA 2008. London, Taylor and Francis. 2007.

Group work presentations

Week 13: March 31

Canada, Globalization and Human Rights: policy under the “scope”

Conclusions and ways forward

Group work presentations

Term papers returned

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least **two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: March 14th, 2008 for April examinations.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work.

Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20style%20Guide.html

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure B No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.