

Professor: Greig Guthey
Campus Phone: 338-2049
Campus Office: Room 283
Email: guthey@sfsu.edu
Office Hours: MF: 12:10-1:10; W: 5:30-6:30
Prerequisite: ENG 214 or equivalent
GE: Category B: Decision-Making and Social Policy at the Societal Level;

“Write this on your forehead: Free trade reduces world suffering,” David Brooks, 2004.

“If you aren't a little bit tortured about globalization, you aren't paying attention,” Paul Krugman, 2005.

Overview: Welcome to Geography 421, Future Environments! This course is built around the theme of globalization. From terrorism to television, globalization is perhaps the single most important factor affecting our future environments. But there are widely disparate views on globalization and its impacts and potentials. We begin with consideration of some important contemporary economic dynamics: real-time financial networks, transnational production networks, and the transformation of work in the global economy. These are the core dimensions of economic globalization today and they have a significant impact on our environments. Next we consider a range of human and environmental dilemmas from poverty and hunger to global warming. We then step back to consider how theorists have thought about development and what trajectories we find ourselves on. Throughout the course, we will think about and discuss how globalization influences human geography, hunger/famine/food, environment, consumption, and ultimately “sustainability.”

Objectives:

1. A broader understanding of geography and patterns of development.
2. Increased familiarity with a range of theories and measures of economic and sustainable development.
3. Increased awareness of how globalization influences social inequality, food, hunger, population, gender, environmental problems, and politics.
4. Deeper knowledge of the role of capitalism, colonialism, racism, and sexism in shaping planetary economic and political relationships.
5. Strengthened critical thinking and writing skills.

Readings: There is one assigned course text, a copy of which will be placed at the library reserve desk: R.J. Johnston, Peter J. Taylor and Michael Watts (eds.). 2002. *Geographies of Global Change: Remapping the World*. Blackwell, Malden, MA.

Additional readings will be made available electronically (some links are included in the schedule and others are available via the library Electronic Reserve system (<http://eres.sfsu.edu/>)). The password for this course is “globalization” which you will need in order to log on to the system. Other texts may be assigned throughout course and will either be available electronically, on reserve in the library, or placed in the course file in the department's map library.

Requirements and Grading:

Readings: This course absolutely requires that you do very close readings of the assigned texts. We will read them carefully, work on them in small groups, and discuss them in large groups. The purpose of the different sized groups is to enable everyone to become more comfortable with the material prior to discussing the issues in large groups.

Exams: There will be two exams. The first one will be on **Wednesday, October 4th** in class. The second exam will be on Monday, **December 18, 1:30 PM – 4 PM**. The exams will be based on readings, films, lectures, and class discussions.

Papers: There are three papers.

1. A 3 page critical analysis of Chapter One in Geographies of Global Change -- "Geography/Globalization." **Due September 13th**.
2. A 3 -4 page paper on how you see yourself connected to environmental and economic impacts of global networks and circuits; it must make explicit connection with the readings from this class. You might consider your food consumption habits or your clothing or your energy consumption habits. How you make the connections is up to you but you must make use of (A) the arguments and evidence in our text book (and cite them properly), and (B) your own observations (e.g., observation of where your clothes or food come from). **Due October 16th**.
3. A 4-6 page paper in which you will explore a topic and relate it to a theme in the course. In the past, students have chosen topics as diverse as Acai at Jamba Juice, Coca-Cola's use of water in India, and the prospects for nuclear energy. What you choose must be related to the themes in the course. For example, you might choose to do a short research project on a disease in a specific country, or you might research the geography of BP. You must clear your topic with me by **October 16th**. The paper is due on Monday **November 27th**.

Attendance and Participation: I take attendance randomly so I encourage you to attend regularly and often. Please note that I grade on attendance *and participation*; merely showing up to class does not constitute participation. I determine participation based upon your active and thoughtful engagement.

Grade Breakdown:

Take home essays	30%
Research Paper	20%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Attendance & Participation	20%

Policies:

A) Special Needs, Missed Exams, Late Papers: Students who need special accommodations please contact me the first week of class and we will work with the Disability Resource Center to make arrangements. Any other special accommodations/questions/situations should be directed to me the **first week of class**. The format for missed exams will be up to me. Anyone who has reason to hand in a paper late must see me prior to the regularly scheduled due date. Otherwise late assignments will lose one grade per day.

B) Preparation: Everyone taking this course is responsible for reading the assigned texts prior to each class. Lurkers be forewarned that you must also participate to do well in this course.

C) Ground Rules for Discussion: I encourage everyone to ask questions, offer opinions, and contribute to this class in a mature manner. I expect everyone to treat others with the highest degree of respect and professionalism. I will do the same. I will moderate all discussions in a fair and equal manner. Please help this university, this course, and your colleagues foster an environment of critical thought, learning, and mutual understanding.

D) Academic Integrity: The University has established codes concerning proper academic conduct and the consequences resulting from improper behavior. Please be aware of these policies. The most important of which are academic misconduct. (1) Students are responsible for knowing San Francisco State University regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism that are described in the University Bulletin. (2) Misconduct includes, but is not limited to: cheating on exams; fabrication of reports, assignments, sources, etc.; plagiarism or the reproduction of others' work *without proper acknowledgment*; interfering with another student's work; or helping another student cheat. (3) Plagiarism is specifically defined as copying another person's words without appropriate acknowledgment. This includes: (a) quoting another person's actual words; (b) paraphrasing another person's words; (c) use of another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or (d) borrowing of facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge, all while not citing or acknowledging your sources. Plagiarism also includes copying directly from the web. The policy of this course will be to report all cases of suspected plagiarism to the Dean of Students.

E) Changes to Syllabus: This syllabus is subject to change. Changes will be made to the online syllabus and announced in class. Electronic information for this course will be available through blackboard.

TOPICS

- *All Readings Should Be Completed Prior To Each Class*

Part I: The Forces of Global Change

Week 1: Course Introduction

Globalization GGC (Geographies of Global Change)-Chapter 1-"Geography/Globalization", pp. 1-18.

Week 2: Globalization Continued

Labor Day No Class

A New Geo-Economy (Handout); Regionalization

Week 3: Finance and Trade

GGC Chapter 2 ("A Hyperactive World")

GGC Chapter 3 ("Trading Worlds")

Critical Analysis of Chapter One Due

Week 4: Labor in the Global Economy

GGC-Chapter 5-"Transnational Corporations and Global Divisions of Labor, pp. 68-77.

Chapter 6-"Global Change in the World of Organized Labor" 78-87

Part II: Persistent and Emerging Dilemmas

Week 5: Poverty and Hunger

Narayan et al. 2000, *Voices of the Poor: Crying out for Change*. pp. 1-7; 71-89; available at: <http://www1.worldbank.org/prem/poverty/voices/reports/crying/cry.pdf>

Kates, 1996, "Ending Hunger: Current Status and Future Prospects"

<http://www.gcrio.org/CONSEQUENCES/vol2no2/article1.htm>

Wednesday October 4: Exam #1

Week 6: The Global Agro-Food System

GGC-Chapter 4- "From Farming to Agribusiness: Global Agri-Food Networks";

Video: *Deconstructing Supper with handout*

Week 7: Population and the Demographic Transition

GGC-Chapter 13- "Population Crises: From the Global to the Local",

Film: *Legacy of Malthus*

Week 8: Geographies of Disease

The Global AIDS Crisis? Readings: GGC-Chapter 14- "Global Change and Patterns of Death and Disease", pp. 216-236

Diseases on the Brink Readings: *Selected Articles from the New York Times*

Assignment #2 Due on Monday October 16; Deadline to Clear Research Topic with Me

Week 9: The Environment

GGC-Chapter 23- "The Earth as Transformed: Trends, Trajectories and Patterns", pp. 364-376; GGC-Chapter 24- "The Earth as Input: Resources", pp. 377-390; GGC-Chapter 35- "The Earth as Output: Pollution", pp. 391-411. *Global Climate Change: Article in Nature on Carbon Sinks*

Week 10: Environmental Governance?

GGC-Chapter 27- "Environmental Governance" pp. 427-440

Merchant, Carol, 2005, *Radical Ecology*, pp. 157-182 (ERES);

Part III: Trajectories of Change

Week 11: Progress and Conquest

Porter and Sheppard, 1998, "A World of Difference", pp. 308-381 (ERES).

Teodor Shanin, 1997, "The Idea of Progress", In *Post Development Reader* (ERES).

Week 12: Dreaming Development: Theory and Reality

GGC-Chapter 7- "Trajectories of Development Theory: Capitalism, Socialism and Beyond, pp. 88-100;

GGC-Chapter 20- "Resisting and Reshaping Destructive Development: Social Movements and Globalizing Networks", pp. 310-327. GGC – Chapter 12 – "Post-Cold War Geopolitics."

No Class Thanksgiving Break 11/20-11/24

Week 13: Consumption and Affluence

Marshal Sahlins, 1997, "The Original Affluent Society", In *Post Development Reader (ERES)*;

GGC – Chapter 18 – "Consumption in a Globalizing World."

Research paper due on Monday November 27th.

Week 14: Global Cities

GGC – Chapter 21 – "World Cities and the Organization of Global Space."

Mike Davis, 2004. "Planet of Slums" *New Left Review* 26: March-April. (ERES).

Week 15: Towards Sustainability?

Merchant, Carol, 2005, *Radical Ecology*, pp. 211-233 (ERES).

Clarkson, Linda et al., 1997, "Our Responsibility to the Seventh Generation", in *Post Development Reader (ERES)*; GGC – Chapter 28 – *Remapping the World: What sort of map? What sort of world?*

Week 16: Final Exam on Monday December 18 from 1:30- 4:00 pm.

Ground Rules for Citations for this Course

These guidelines *must be followed* in all the writing completed in this course; failure to do so will result in a lower grade: When in doubt, ask me or check the Chicago Manual of Style.

- 1) Cite something whenever you feel that you are borrowing some one's idea or using information from a specific source. The rule of thumb is cite unless it is "common knowledge." So, when in doubt, cite.
- 2) When you quote or paraphrase from a source, or refer to an idea from a source, etc., the research papers for this course will use in-text citations. These are simple:

Example #1 Manuel Castells (1996: 65) claims the new economy is "informational because the productivity and competitiveness of units of agents... fundamentally depend upon their capacity to generate, process, and apply efficiently knowledge-based information." [note: use full names on first references, last names only on subsequent references.]

Example #2 An alternative view to the notion of "new times" is that capitalism as a system is in a constant process of geographical readjustment, which among critical geographers sometimes involves the declining rate of profit and a related "spatial fix" (Harvey, 1982). From this geographical perspective, new times are another round of restructuring, albeit on a perhaps larger scale. [Note that here we only use last names even if it is a first reference.]

- 3) In both of the above examples, we need to include a bibliographic reference as follows:

Castells, M. 1996. *The Rise of the Network Society*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Harvey, D. 1982. *The Limits to Capital*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell Publishers.

- 4) Students, professors and researchers often make use of websites and the internet. Here is how such references will be cited for the research paper in this class:

Schultz, T. 2000. The Dairy Industry in Tulare County. Davis: University of California Cooperative Extension. [<http://cetulare.ucdavis.edu/pubdairy/industry.pdf>].

5) Journal articles may be cited as follows:

Hart, J. 2000. Tomales Bay Convergence: 171 Sick Oyster Eaters Can't Be Wrong. *California Coast and Ocean* 16(3):14-19.

6) Newspapers: Apple Jr., R.W. 2001. "A New Normandy North of the Golden Gate," *The New York Times*, Sec. F, 1, November 28, 2001.