

Instructor: Dr. Abdoulaye Kane

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Office Hours: Tuesdays from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

ANT 4930(sec. 8113) & AFS 4935 (sec. 006C)

“Global Connections”

Mondays, period 9-11 (4:05 PM to 7:05PM),

Room: TUR 2341

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Globalization as a process by which national economies, societies, and cultures have become more and more integrated through a globe-spanning network of communication and exchange has attracted a lot of attention from anthropologists. This seminar intends to review and discuss the anthropological literature focusing on the flows of people, goods, money, technologies, ideas, and cultural forms and practices between countries and continents. It explores the transnational lives of migrants, the global governance of international institutions, the cultural resistance of ethnic and religious groups, the attitudes and behavior of global corporations in new local frontiers, etc. The seminar discusses the various transnational practices of communication, outsourcing, decision making on global affairs, remittances, and travel adopted by migrants living in global cities, nation-states, corporations, and NGOs and their transformative effects on local communities in southern hemisphere.

Through ethnography and the larger social theory perspective, the seminar introduces students to the new approaches in anthropological research on the social, economic, cultural and political and ethical dimensions of globalization. Some of the themes used to shed light in the numerous global connections include the following:

- Transnationalism and diasporic belongings
- Citizenship and deterritorialized national identities,
- Global governance, global flows and their ethical dilemmas
- Social and economic exclusion at the global level,
- New forms of collective actions across national borders,
- Technologies of communication and socio-political activism,
- Religious and ethnic identities in homogenizing global culture,

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation: 20 points

Each student will be expected to participate in class discussion. Students will be evaluated for their familiarity with required readings and their productive contributions to class debate.

Précis's of Reading: 80 points

Each student is required to write a précis for four classes. A précis is a relatively brief (1-2 pages) summary of critical thought that arise during your reading. It should include: (1) the primary argument of the text (s); (2) note on the object of analysis and kinds of evidence; (3) the intellectual, disciplinary, and /or political context of the work. These should be sent by e-mail to the instructor on each Friday before 4:00PM.

Questions on readings: 20 points

Each student will be expected to write 3 questions that he or she found important about the required readings. The questions have to be asked in class. Students have to send by e-mail their three questions each Friday before 4:00PM.

Research Paper: 80 points

Each student will be expected to write a research paper of 10 pages. The paper should be double-spaced, in 12 pt font, with 1" margins on all sides. This paper may review some substantive matter of interest to the student, or directly address a theoretical issue of relevance to one of the themes highlighted in the course description. Please talk to me about your topic and focus by the end of September. This paper will be due on the last day of class (Dec. 5). Place all papers in my mailbox in the Anthropology Office by 4 pm on that day. There will be no extensions.

REQUIRED BOOKS

- 1- Tsing, A. L., (2005). *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connections*. Princeton University Press.
- 2- Fergusson, J., (2006). *Global Shadows, Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Duke University Press.
- 3- Basch, L. G.; Schiller, N. G. & Cristina Szanton Blanc, C. S. (1994). *Nations Unbound: Transnational Projects, Postcolonial Predicaments and Deterritorialized Nation-States*. Gordon and Breach Science Publishers.
- 4- Ong, A. (1999). *Flexible citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality*. Duke University Press.
- 5- Ong, A. & Collier, S. J., (2005). *Global Assemblages: Techonology, Politics and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*. Blackwell Publishing.
- 6- D'Alisera, J., (2004). *Imagined Geography. Sierra Leonean Muslims in America*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

These books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore.

MEETING SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READING

Week 1: Mon Aug 22:

Syllabus and Seminar Overview

Week 2: Mon Aug 29: Anthropological perspective on global connection

Tsing, A. L., (2005). *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connections*. Princeton University Press. Intro and Part I.

Week 3: Mon Sep 5: No Class (labor day)

Week 4: Mon Sep 12: The Global and its Margins

Tsing, A. L., (2005). *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connections*. Princeton University Press. Part II and III.

Week 5: Mon Sep 19

Fergusson, J., (2006). *Global Shadows, Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Duke University Press. Chap. 1 to 8

Week 6: Mon Sep 26: Transnational Practices

Basch, L. G.; Schiller, N. G. & Cristina Szanton Blanc, C. S. (1994). *Nations Unbound: Transnational Projects, Postcolonial Predicaments and Deterritorialized Nation-States*. Gordon and Breach Science Publishers. Chap. 1 to 4.

Week 7: Mon Oct 3

Basch, L. G.; Schiller, N. G. & Cristina Szanton Blanc, C. S. (1994). *Nations Unbound: Transnational Projects, Postcolonial Predicaments and Deterritorialized Nation-States*. Gordon and Breach Science Publishers. Chap. 5 to 8.

Week 8: Mon Oct 10: Identity and Belonging at the Age of Transnationalism

Ong, A. (1999). *Flexible citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality*. Duke University Press. Part I and II

Week 9: Mon Oct 17

Ong, A. (1999). Flexible citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality. Duke University Press. Part III and IV.

Week 10: Mon Oct 24: Global Interactions and their Political and Ethical Dimensions

Ong, A. & Collier, S. J., (2005). Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics and Ethics as Anthropological Problems. Blackwell Publishing. Part I and II

Week 11: Mon Oct 31

Ong, A. & Collier, S. J., (2005). Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics and Ethics as Anthropological Problems. Blackwell Publishing. Part III

Week 12: Mon Nov 7:

Ong, A. & Collier, S. J., (2005). Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics and Ethics as Anthropological Problems. Blackwell Publishing. Part IV.

Week 13: Mon Nov 14: Religion and Transnational Communities

D'Alisera, J., (2004). Imagined Geography. Sierra Leonean Muslims in America. University of Pennsylvania Press. Chap. 1 to 4

Week 14: Mon Nov 21

D'Alisera, J., (2004). Imagined Geography. Sierra Leonean Muslims in America. University of Pennsylvania Press. Chap. 5 to 7

Week 15: Mon Nov 28

Dossier Presentation on Remittances, International Aid, and Financial Crisis

Week 16: Mon Dec 5

Dossier Presentation on Intellectual Property, Indigenous Knowledge and Brain Drain