

Instructor: Dr. Abdoulaye Kane
Grinter Hall, 439
Tel : 392 6788,
E-mail: akane@anthro.ufl.edu
Office Hours: Thursday from 2: 00PM to 4:00 PM

ANG6930 (sec.213H)/ANT4930 (2130) & AFS6905 (sec. 2021) /AFS4935 (2E32)

“Global Connections”

Wednesdays, period 5-7 (11:45AM to 2:45PM),

Room: MAT 0112

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is globalization? Is it an observable set of facts? Or is it a process of social transformation with identifiable actors behind its force (Multinational Corporations, International Organizations, transnational Non-governmental Organizations, or powerful nation-states?) Is globalization a historical context marked by unprecedented connections through a set of medium between people, communities, and nations-states across geographical, linguistic, religious, and ethnic boundaries? What are the effects of the globalization process on the day to day life of “remotely located” communities?

A critical perspective on globalization needs to take it not as a given but as a problematic concept that require a carefully specification of its meaning. Many ongoing social, economic, and political changes have been attributed to globalization without a rigorous analysis of the correlation between local and national happening with global actors and forces. The evocation of globalization as an explaining category hides more than it reveals about the complexity of transnational social, economic, and political dynamics connecting global cities to “remotely located villages in Africa, Asia, or Latin America.

This seminar takes 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. 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 when confronted global capitalism expansion, the attitudes and behavior of global corporations in new local frontiers.

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 and the homogenizing global culture,

Objectives:

1-introduce students to the current academic debates and public discussions around the effects of globalization on local and national communities.

2-Arm student with the conceptual and methodological tools to critically analyze global processes and their empirical manifestations in the everyday lives of local communities and peoples.

3-Engage students in the discussion of ethics and politics at the heart of global social movements focusing on the environment and global economic inequalities.

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.

Oral Presentation: 20 points (only for graduate student)

Each student will be expected to give 1 oral presentation of the required readings for one class and then lead a discussion on the issues addressed in the reading material. To prepare for these presentations and discussions the student must not only read the assigned text, but also complementary readings pertinent to the questions and themes at study. (It is not a requirement but those who want to talk to me about their presentation or their strategy for stimulating and leading discussion can come to me during my office hours).

Précis's of Reading: 30 points

Each student is required to write a précis for seven classes for graduate students and four for undergraduate students. 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 Tuesday by 5:00PM.

Questions on readings: 10 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 Tuesday by 5:00PM.

Research Paper: 60 points

Each student will be expected to write a research paper of 15 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 (April. 19 by 4:00pm). Please send an electronic copy of your paper to my e-mail address: akane@ufl.edu.

REQUIRED BOOKS

- 1- Tsing, A. L., (2005). Friction: 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. & Collier, S. J., (2005). Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics and Ethics as Anthropological Problems. Blackwell Publishing.
- 5- Smith, J. (2008). Social Movement for Global Democracy. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Most of These books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. For the remaining books please consider buying them online.

Academic Honesty:

All work submitted by a student for a grade must be completed by that student and free from unauthorized assistance or deliberate misrepresentations. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating is a grade of zero points on the assignment in question; in such cases an incident form will also be sent to the Office of the Dean of Students. If you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please consult the UF Honor Code as well as the UF Policies on Academic Honesty, Student Rights and Responsibilities. These are available online at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php-academichonestyguidelines>.

ADA Statement: “Students with disabilities, who need reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific accommodations. Students will be asked to supply a letter from the Disability Resource Center to assist in planning accommodations.”

Grading Scale: The following scale will be used for grades on all assignments and exams: 94-100=A; 90-93=A-; 87-89=B+; 83-86=B; 79-82=B-; 76-78=C+; 72-75=C; 69-71=C-; 66-68=D+; 62-65=D; 59-61=D-; 58 and below=E (failing). Regarding university grading policies, be advised that a grade of C- is not valid for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or for college basic distribution credit. For questions about minus grades, please see <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>. You may consult current UF policy on how grade point averages are calculated at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>.

Health and Counseling: The University offers the following health and counseling services for students in the event personal problems threaten to hinder academic performance: University Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575), Student Mental Health (Student Health Care Center, 392-1171), and Sexual Assault Recovery Services (Student Health Care Center, 392-1161).

Please note: The Instructor may make minor adjustments to class readings or assignments during the course of the semester. Any and all modifications will be announced ahead of time.

MEETING SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READING (the instructor reserves the right to add more reading materials, films, and documentaries to this schedule).

Week 1: Wed Jan 6:

Syllabus and Seminar Overview

Week 2: Wed Jan 13: Anthropological perspective on global connection

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

Week 3: Wed Jan 20:

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

Week 4: Wed Jan 27: The Global and its Margins

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

Week 5: Wed Feb 3

 Fergusson, J., (2006), Global Shadows, Africa in the Neoliberal World Order, Duke University Press. Chap. 1 to 3

Week 6: Wed Feb 10: Transnational Practices

 Fergusson, J., (2006), Global Shadows, Africa in the Neoliberal World Order, Duke University Press. Chap. 4 to 7

Week 7: Wed Feb 17

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 3.

Week 8: Wed Feb 24: Identity and Belonging at the Age of Globalization

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. 4 to end.

Week 9: Wed Mar 2: Spring Break

Week 9: Wed Mar 9:

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

Week 10: Wed Mar 16: 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 II.

Week 11: Wed Mar 23: Globalization from Below

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

Week 12: Wed Mar 30:

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

Week 13: Wed Apr 6:

Smith, J. (2008), Social Movement for Global Democracy, Johns Hopkins University Press, Part 1 and 2

Week 14: Wed Apr 13

Smith, J. (2008), Social Movement for Global Democracy, Johns Hopkins University Press, Part 3

Week 15: Wed Apr 20

Discussion: on Global Islam, Terrorism, and Foreign Policy