

# Political Science 348: Globalization

Northwestern University  
Fall 2018  
Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30-4:50pm  
Harris Hall 107

## **Prof. Stephen Nelson**

**Office:** Scott Hall 238

**Office hours:** Thursdays 9:45am-11:45am

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## **Teaching Assistants**

Irene Kwon

Shaul Notkin

## **Course Overview**

Globalization is arguably the most powerful force shaping international and domestic politics today. In this course we will focus primarily on market globalization – the increase in cross-border transactions involving goods and services, production, money and financial assets, and workers.

This is a critical time for the global economy. In the past decade, many countries' financial systems have experienced profoundly destabilizing shocks. The global distribution of economic and political power is shifting. Policymakers in the United States and elsewhere increasingly question the efficacy and fairness of the international organizations charged with governing globalized markets. A nationalist-populist tide has swept into the political scene in many countries in recent years. This course is intended to take stock of market globalization in light of these fragmenting forces. What is market globalization? Are its effects on the economic fortunes of individuals and groups in historically rich countries different than in developing countries? Does the reduction of barriers to economic exchange harm national cultures? Has market globalization gone too far – or has it not gone far enough? These are the kinds of questions that will be discussed in the course.

Globalization is the object of both misplaced ire and adulation. The intense public debate about it has, for this reason, generated more heat than light. To get a better handle on globalization we will draw on a variety of theoretical approaches and a wide range of evidence provided by political scientists, economists, sociologists, historians, and journalists. Globalization is such a massive topic that it is impossible to address all of its manifestations in a ten-week course. This syllabus is an attempt to cover as much territory as possible given the time constraints that we face.

The course is organized around five main topics: (1) conceptualizing market globalization; (2) describing transformations in the constituent parts of market globalization (international trade, globalized production, finance, and labor migration); (3) exploring how different national styles of capitalism in the advanced industrial countries have adjusted to pressure from rising economic globalism; (4) the relationship between market globalization, economic development, and global

inequality; (5) the challenges posed by the economic crises of the last decade and the recent surge of nationalist-populist movements + discussion of possible alternative (and perhaps more politically sustainable) forms of globalization.

## Prerequisites

It is recommended (but not required!) that students enrolled in the course have Political Science 240: Introduction to International Relations under their belts.

This is a course about economic globalization. Exposure to macroeconomics, international economics, and international/comparative political economy is helpful but not required.

## Course Requirements and Grading

Course requirements include two exams, active participation in discussion section, and two short response papers. The midterm exam will be given during our regular meeting time on **Monday, October 29**; the final exam is scheduled for **Monday, December 10** from **3:00 to 5:00PM**.

**The final exam day and time is non-negotiable.** If you know in advance that you will not be able to take the final exam from **3:00 to 5:00PM** on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 10**, **DO NOT TAKE THIS COURSE!** Weinberg College rules forbid faculty members from giving final exams in advance of the assigned time. Only if you have sufficient reason (i.e. a documented emergency which prevents you from being able to make it to the room for the exam) will you be granted an incomplete. You can verify the WCAS policy on final exams here:

<https://www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/courses-registration-grades/final-exams.html>

The weighting of the course requirements is as follows:

- Course participation: 10%
- Short critical response paper (1): 10%
- Short case-related essay (1): 10%
- Midterm exam: 30%
- Final Exam: 40%
- Research pool participation [mandatory]

Participation accounts for a significant proportion of the grade. Securing a good participation grade means: consistent attendance and a high level of engagement in the lecture sessions, the in-class case discussions, and the discussion sections; keeping up with the assigned readings; and actively contributing to the conversations generated during your discussion sections and participating in any activities that are introduced during the lecture periods (which may or may not be pre-announced by the instructors).

The required critical response paper involves *briefly* summarizing and (much more importantly) *critically* evaluating the main argument for one (or more, if you prefer) of the week's assigned readings. A sign-up sheet will be circulated during the first meeting of your discussion section to divvy up the readings. You should confer with an instructor in the course to select the reading(s) around which your response paper will be organized. Your response paper must be submitted to

your instructor before your discussion section meets; the instructor will set her/his/their deadline for submitting the paper.

The other writing assignment that you will complete is a short essay about one of the four cases that we will discuss as a group in this course. You will write and submit the case-based essay *before* the discussion of the case study in the class meeting. You will receive more information about the critical response paper and the case-based essay from your instructors in the first weeks of the course.

Befitting a 300-level course, the reading load in this class is significant though far from massive (averaging about 57 pages per week). Lectures and readings are *complements*, not substitutes – some lectures draw closely on that week’s readings, but many do not. To perform well in this course, you will need to regularly attend lectures in addition to closely reading all of the assigned material.

*Note on required participation in the Political Science Research Pool:* students enrolled in this course are required to complete a research assignment that can include up to 4 hours of research study participation. These studies require that students set up an appointment to complete participation at a laboratory on campus (or via an on-line survey). Students will learn how studies are conducted and will receive a synopsis at the conclusion of the quarter describing the study’s goal, result, and relevance to the class. Students who prefer not to participate in the research may opt for an alternative that entails reading any one chapter about political science research and writing a five-page reaction paper. The typical chapter is about 20 pages and thus reading it and writing a five-page paper should take approximately four hours.

Near the start of the quarter, students will receive an e-mail asking them whether they prefer study participation or the alternative assignment. The e-mail will also include details on how to complete either requirement. Failure to complete the requirement during the quarter will result in an incomplete. Failure to complete the requirement during the following quarter will result in a failing grade for the class. Note that if you are enrolled in multiple classes that require participation, you only need to satisfy the requirement one time. Also, if you already completed the requirement in another course in a previous quarter, you are excused from the requirement.

### **Required Book (for purchase)**

There is one book that you should purchase for the course:

- Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy* (W.W. Norton & Co., 2011).

Rodrik’s book should be available available in the Norris bookstore, and there are lots of copies available from online book vendors. If the cost of the book is an issue do let me know.

### **Electronic Reserves**

Aside from the book, all of the required course readings have been forwarded to the library to be placed on electronic reserves. Links – either directly to a PDF of the scanned article/chapter or to

the e-journal that contains the reading – should appear on the canvas page.

### **Rules for Discussion Sections**

Every participant brings a different perspective to the classroom. Part of my job is to make sure that one viewpoint is not privileged over others. Dialogue in my course is expected to always be respectful. We all reserve the right to respectfully disagree with each other; we do not have the right to intimidate, insult, or marginalize anyone. Your professor and your teaching assistant observe and will enforce all university policies concerning discrimination, harassment, and other abuses.

### **Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is a serious offense at Northwestern. If we suspect that you have knowingly misrepresented someone else's work as your own, this may lead to suspension or dismissal from the university.

Northwestern's official policy regarding academic integrity is found at:  
<http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc>

### **Student Disability Services**

Students that require any special academic accommodations must provide a letter prepared by AccessibleNU detailing the arrangements to me ***no later than the end of the second week of classes***. Please contact AccessibleNU (<http://www.northwestern.edu/accessiblenu>) or visit the office at 600 Haven Street for more information about special services offered by Northwestern.

### **Policy on Posting Class Material (Lecture Slides, Notes, Readings)**

The material from this course is *only* for students enrolled in this course. Please do not post any material from this course (including your own notes) on any online platforms (e.g., StudyBlue).

## ***Course Schedule***

### **Topic 1: introduction; what is market globalization?** (October 1)

#### **Readings**

- Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, pp. 3-23.

Total pages of required reading for this topic: **21**

### **Topic 2: disaggregating market globalization** (October 3-October 21)

*Part I: the Great Unbundling (international trade and globalized production)* (October 3-15)

#### **Readings**

- Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, pp. 47-60 AND pp. 159-183.
- Naomi Klein, *No Logo*, chapter 9 (“The Discarded Factory”): pp. 195-229.
- John A. Quelch and Margaret L. Rodriguez, “Rana Plaza: Workplace Safety in Bangladesh,” Harvard Business School Case 9-514-034 (Feb. 20, 2015): pp. 1-14.

Total pages of required reading for this sub-topic: **86**

*Part II: the Great Unleashing (finance) and the Great Repression (immigration)* (October 17-24)

#### **Readings**

- Gerald F. Davis, *Managed by the Markets: How Finance Reshaped America* (Oxford University Press, 2009): pp. 154-90.
- Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, pp. 89-111.
- Branko Milanovic, *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization* (Harvard University Press, 2016): pp. 143-54.
- Deepak Nayyar, “International Migration and Economic Development,” in Narcís Serra and Joseph Stiglitz, eds. *The Washington Consensus Reconsidered* (Oxford University Press, 2008): 277-305.
- Gunnar J. Trumbull, Elena Corsi, and Daniela Beyersdorfer, “Managing the European Refugee Crisis,” Harvard Business School Case 9-716-076 (July 25, 2016): pp. 1-47.

Total pages of required reading for this sub-topic: **149**

**\*\*\*MIDTERM EXAM GIVEN ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 29 [NOTE: DROP DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2]\*\*\***

### **Topic 3: globalization and national varieties of capitalism** (October 31-November 14)

*Part I: introducing the typology; case study of the social/coordinated variety of national capitalism (Sweden)* (October 31-November 5)

#### **Readings**

- Vivien Schmidt, *The Futures of European Capitalism*, chapter 3 (“Still the Three Models of Capitalism?”): pp. 108-46.
- Jonas Pontusson, “Once Again a Model: Nordic Social Democracy in a Globalized World,” in Cronin, Ross, and Shoch, eds. *What’s Left of the Left? Democrats and Social Democrats in Challenging Times* (Duke University Press, 2011): pp. 89-115.
- Neil Irwin, “A Big Safety Net and Strong Job Market Can Coexist. Just Ask Scandinavia,” *New York Times*, 17 December 2014.

Total pages of required reading for this sub-topic: **71**

*Part II: case studies of centralized/state-led (France) and liberal/market-led (Britain) varieties of national capitalism* (November 7-14)

#### **Readings**

- Jonah Levy, “Directionless: French Economic Policy in the Twenty-First Century,” in Breznitz and Zysman, eds. *The Third Globalization: Can Wealthy Nations Stay Rich in the Twenty-First Century?* (Oxford University Press, 2013): pp. 323-49.
- James Angelos, “Will France Sound the Death Knell for Social Democracy?” *The New York Times Magazine* (online ed.), 24 January 2017, pp. 1-15.
- “The French Elite: Old School Ties,” *The Economist*, 10 March 2012.
- Vivien Schmidt, *The Futures of European Capitalism*, sections from chapter 4 (“The Dynamics of Adjustment in Economic Practices in Britain, Germany, and France”): pp. 147-64.
- Nelson D. Schwartz and Patricia Cohen, “For America, ‘Brexit’ May Be a Warning of Globalization’s Limits,” *New York Times* (online ed.), 26 June 2016, pp. 1-6.
- Laura Alfaro, Jesse Schreger, and Haviland Sheldahl-Thomason, “Brexit,” Harvard Business School Case 9-717-028 (July 11, 2017): pp. 1-42.

Total pages of required reading for this sub-topic: **108**

### **Topic 4: market globalization, economic development, and global inequality** (November 19-21)

#### **Readings**

- Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox*, pp. 135-158.
- Branko Milanovic, “The Two Faces of Globalization: Against Globalization as We Know It,” *World Development* 31, 4 (2003): pp. 667-683.

- Rawi Abdelal, Regina Abrami, Noel Maurer, and Aldo Musacchio, “The Market and the Mountain Kingdom: Change in Lesotho’s Textile Industry,” Harvard Business School Case 9-706-043 (November 9, 2006): pp. 1-27.

Total pages of required reading for this topic: **67**

**Topic 5: the durability of market globalization** (November 26-28)

**Readings**

- Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2011): 184-206 AND 233-284.

Total pages of required reading for this topic: **75**

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**WCAS Reading Week begins on Monday, December 3**  
**Final exams start on Monday, December 10**  
**Our Final Exam: MONDAY, DECEMBER 10 from 3:00-5:00PM**

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