Fall 2018

STS 308-001: Technology and Global Development

David Rothenberg
GLOBALIZATION?

Prof. David Rothenberg
tel. 596-3289. terranova@highlands.com
office hours by appointment, Cullimore 318

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will investigate the issues and problems inherent in the globalization of technology, economics, and culture in this new century. Countries and economies are becoming more entwined in each others identities and economies, and cultural diversity is both threatened and proliferating at one and the same time. How much can the world’s markets continue to grow and connect? How does the spread of information change what we know about one another? Should we be afraid of progress? Does the world understand the United States? Do we understand the world? How can ‘growth’ or ‘development’ be sustained? Can we remain a leading nation in an uncertain economy? Is globalization an idea whose time has come and gone?

REQUIRED TEXTS:

A course reader of 925 pages which may be downloaded here:
http://tinyurl.com/ycx87ocg
and is also on our course Moodle page.

Jonathan Porritt, The World We Made, (Phaidon, 2013)
(this book you need to buy, get it now, before the bookstore sends all the copies back)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Class attendance and participation in discussion is required. One five page research paper on an assigned topic. One substantial ten page research paper from a series of topics suggested by me just after the midterm (Honors students will need to write fifteen pages). Honors students will need to lead at least one class discussion, for others this is recommended but optional. Both papers will be expected to be based on original, thoughtful research, not just a collection of facts gleaned from a quick web search. Midterm exam. Final exam. Final grade is a fair combination of the above.
COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Sep. 5  What is globalization?  pp. 4-62.
Sep. 7  The roots of inequality, pp. 63-129
Sep. 12 Europe and the world.  pp. 130-165.
Sep. 21 Revolution 2.0 and what happened next.  pp. 232-251. **First paper assigned.**
Sep. 28  **film: Inside Job**
Oct. 5  How have we dealt with poverty today? pp. 350-392.
Oct. 10 Empowering the disenfranchised, pp. 393-443.
Oct. 12  Sweatshops and smartphones.  pp. 444-519. **First paper due.**
Oct. 12  Climate change, pp. 520-585.
Oct. 19  **Film: Before the Flood, Time to Choose, or The Age of Consequences**
Oct. 24  **Midterm exam due**  China, pp. 646-663
Oct. 31 Africa the Bright Continent, pp. 705-760.
Nov. 2  The WTO and its legacy, pp. 761-797. **Final paper assigned.**
Nov. 7  What’s happening to global trade now?  pp. 806-820.
Nov. 9  GMOs pro and con, pp. 821-849.
Nov. 16 Paul Mason, postcapitalism, pp. 899-950
Nov. 21 *The World We Made*
Nov. 23 NO CLASS, Thanksgiving
Nov. 28  **film: Life and Debt?**
Nov. 30  **film: The Economics of Happiness?**
Nov. 29 *The World We Made*
Dec. 5 *The World We Made*
Dec. 7 *The World We Made*
Dec. 12  **Last day of class. Final papers due. Take-home final exam handed out.**
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## The Rise of Inequality

Homi Kharas, “How a Global Middle Class Could Save the World’s Economy”  
*Pew Trusts Magazine*, Summer 2016  

## What Was Global Development?

Gilbert Rist, “The Invention of Development,”  

## The Legacy of the Arab Spring

Benjamin Barber, “Jihad vs. McWorld”  
Wael Ghonim, *Revolution 2.0*  
Laura Dean, “Young Egyptians Quitting Politics Altogether,” *New Republic*, Nov. 2, 2013  

## Debates on Poverty

William Easterly, ch. 1 and 2 from *The Elusive Quest for Growth* (MIT Press 2002)  
Easterly, *Review of Sachs*  
Nina Munk, from *The Idealist: Jeffrey Sachs and His Quest to End Poverty*, Doubleday 2014  

## Empowerment of the Disenfranchised


## Sweatshops and Smartphones

William Greider, from *One World, Ready or Not*, Simon and Schuster, 1997:  
ch. 15, “These Dark Satanic Mills,”  
*New York Times* coverage of Apple and Foxcomm  
Zoe Sullivan, “Foxconn’s move to the US is not a reason to celebrate,” *Guardian*, May 2017  
Climate Change
Bill Gates, “We Need an Energy Miracle,” The Atlantic, Nov. 2015
Beyond Paris: What Was Achieved at COP21
“Big Companies Will Still Fight Climate Change,” Wired, June 2017
“Cities and States Vow to Meet Climate Commitments,” InsideClimate, 2017

China the New Colonial Power?
“Behind China’s $1 Trillion plan to reshape the world economy,” New York Times, May 2017
Brook Larmer, “Is China the world’s new colonial power?” New York Times, May 2017

Africa the Bright Continent
Howard French, “Ghana,” from China’s Second Continent, 2015

The WTO
Guardian article on WTO failing developing nations
Lydia Pillis, “Everything you need to know about the Trans-Pacific Partnership,”
Washington Post, Dec. 11, 2013
Adam Behsudi, “Trump’s Pullout Roils Rural America,” politico.com, 2017

GMOs

Hope for the Future