

Fall 2021

STS 308-001: Globalization

David Rothenberg

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STS 308-001

GLOBALIZATION?

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Tuesdays and Thursdays **10am-11:20am** FMH 305
office hours by appointment only

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 have become entwined in each other's 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? How has COVID-19 and the re-examination of global free trade changed our sense of its future?

REQUIRED TEXTS:

A course reader of 975 pages which is available for download here:

<https://tinyurl.com/c22ajaww>

Jonathan Porritt, *The World We Made*, (Phaidon, 2013) which is available for download here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyo2zfv1>

We will read this book in the final weeks of class.

Class attendance in person and participation in discussion is required. **All students will do short presentations of the reading throughout the semester.**

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 seven and fifteen pages).

Both papers will be expected to be based on original, thoughtful research, not just a collection of facts gleaned from a quick web search. Take home midterm exam.
Take home final exam.

Final grade is a fair combination of the above.

- Sep. 2 What does globalization mean now? pp. 5-33.
- Sep. 7 The world and the virus. pp. 34-75.
- Sep. 9 How do we know the truth?, pp. 76-97.
- Sep. 14 Fake news continued. Russia influencing our elections, pp. 97-121.
- Sep. 16 The roots of inequality. pp. 122-180.
- Sep. 21 **Rothenberg away, film: to be decided**
- Sep. 23 **Rothenberg away, film: to be decided**
- Sep. 28 online class** Climate Change. pp. 181-230.
- Sep. 30 online class** Climate Change. pp. 231-249.
- Oct. 5 Climate Change, pp. 260-340.
- Oct. 7 Development and freedom. pp. 341-372.
- Oct. 12 Development and Freedom,
The big vs. the small solutions. Sachs vs. Easterly. pp. 373-418. **First paper assigned.**
- Oct. 14 Approaches to poverty cont. pp. 419-458.
- Oct. 19 The next steps on poverty, pp. 458-515.
- Oct. 21 The GMO Controversy, pp. 516-541.
- Oct. 26 Sweatshops and smartphones, pp. 542-605. **First Paper Due.**
Take home midterm handed out.
- Oct. 28 Factories and outsourcing, pp. 606-615.
- Nov. 2 China. pp. 616-654.
Take home midterm due.
- Nov. 4 China cont., pp. 655-691.
- Nov. 9 Global trade agreements and trade wars, pp. 692-760.
- Nov. 11 Africa the Bright Continent, pp. 761-809. **Final paper assigned.**
- Nov. 16 Kalle Lasn, *Meme Wars*, pp. 863-911.
- Nov. 18 The future of economics, pp.912-974. **Paper topics due.**
- Nov. 23 *The World We Made*
- Nov. 25 **NO CLASS, Thanksgiving**
- Nov. 30 *The World We Made.*
- Dec. 2 Final presentations
- Dec. 7 Final presentations
- Dec. 9 Final presentations, and the future of globalization.
Last day of class. Final papers due. Take-home final exam handed out.

STS 308-001

GLOBALIZATION?

STS 308 Fall 2021 Reader

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Globalization and the Virus

Nikil Saval, "Globalization: The Rise and Fall of an Idea" <i>Guardian</i> , July 14, 2017	5
"A Global Outbreak is Fueling a Backlash to Civilization" <i>New York Times</i> , Mar. 5, 2020	26
Jeremy Lent, "Coronavirus Spells the End of the Neoliberal Era," <i>New York Times</i> , Nov. 2020	34
Fareed Zakaria, "The Pandemic Can Remake the Future," <i>Washington Post</i> , Oct. 6, 2020	46
"The State of Globalization in 2021," <i>Harvard Business Review</i> , May 2021	56
"A Covid-Weary World is Facing a Devastating Reality Check," <i>Bloomberg</i> , July 27, 2021	65

Finding the Truth—About Anything

Media Bias Chart, https://www.adfontesmedia.com/	76
Michael Lewis, "Fake News? 8 Ways to Determine if a Story Is Reliable." Aug. 2018	77
Alex Azar, "I Was the Architect of Operation Warp Speed," <i>New York Times</i> , Aug. 3, 2021	95
"What I Learned from an Unlikely Friendship with an Antimasker," <i>Guardian</i> , Aug. 20, 2021	98
Eliza Mackintosh, "How Finland Won the War on Fake News," <i>CNN</i> , May 2019	105

Inequality

Paul Krugman, "For Richer," <i>New York Times Magazine</i> , Oct. 20, 2002	122
"How CEO Pay in America Got Out of Whack," <i>The Economist</i> , Jul. 11, 2020	150
"Equality Is Good for Growth," <i>New York Times</i> , Aug. 28, 2020	156
"McDonald's Workers in Denmark Pity Us," <i>New York Times</i> , May 8, 2020	165

Climate Change

"World Climate Scientists Issue Stark Warning," <i>Guardian</i> , August 2021	181
"We Can't Tackle Climate Change Without You," <i>Wired</i> , April 2020	184
"A Green Stimulus to Rebuild Our Economy," <i>medium.com</i>	194
Bill Gates, "We Need an Energy Miracle," <i>The Atlantic</i> , Nov. 2015	213
Greg Jackson, "Prayer for a Just War," <i>Harpers</i> , June 2021	231
"Truth About Corporate Climate Pledges," <i>The Guardian</i> , July 2021	247
Sarah Kaplan, "Earth Itself Is Our Ally..." <i>Washington Post</i> , Apr. 2021	253
Christian Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac, <i>The Future We Choose</i>	260
Neil Irwin, "How Should the Fed Deal with Climate Change?" <i>NY Times</i> , Aug. 26, 2021	329
Ezra Klein, "Let the World Burn," <i>New York Times</i> , July 2021	333

Poverty and Development

Gilbert Rist, "The Invention of Development,"	341
Oliver Kugler, "Escaping Wars and Waves," <i>Harper's</i> , September 2017	347

Amartya Sen, "The Perspective of Freedom," <i>Development as Freedom</i> , Knopf, 2000	361
William Easterly, ch. 1 and 2 from <i>The Elusive Quest for Growth</i> (MIT Press 2002)	373
Sachs, <i>The End of Poverty</i> , Penguin, 2005 ch. 15, 17	393
Easterly, <i>Review of Sachs</i>	414
Nina Munk, from <i>The Idealist: Jeffrey Sachs and His Quest to End Poverty</i> , Doubleday 2014	419
World Bank, <i>Taking on Inequality</i> , excerpts, 2016	458
World Bank, <i>Reversals of Fortune</i> , overview, 2020	481
Jennifer Kahn, "Learning to Love GMOs," <i>New York Times</i> , July 2021	516

Sweatshops and Smartphones

William Greider, from <i>One World, Ready or Not</i> , Simon and Schuster, 1997, ch. 15, "These Dark Satanic Mills,"	542
<i>Fashion Transparency Index</i> from Fashion Revolution 2016	556
<i>New York Times</i> coverage of Apple and Foxcomm	576
Steve Lohr, "HotSpot for Outsourcing: The USA," <i>New York Times</i> , July 30, 2017	606
"Tech Workers Are Living the American Dream, in Canada," <i>NY Times</i> , Aug. 20, 2020	613

China the New Colonial Power?

Ian Johnson, "Beijing Becomes a Supercity," <i>New York Times</i> , Jul. 19, 2015	616
"Behind China's \$1 Trillion plan to reshape the world economy," <i>New York Times</i> , May 2017	623
Brook Larmer, "Is China the world's new colonial power?" <i>New York Times</i> , May 2017	643
"A Resentful Greece Embraces China's Cash," <i>New York Times</i> , May 2017	655
"Poor Countries Borrowed Billions From China. They Can't Pay It Back," <i>NY Times</i> , May 2020	664
"As China Boomed It Ignored Climate Change. Now It Must Change." <i>NY Times</i> , Aug. 2021	678
"This American Factory Run by the Chinese is No Workers Paradise," <i>NY Times</i> , Nov. 2020	686

Trade Wars

Dani Rodrik, "What do Trade Agreements Really Do?"	692
Dani Rodrik, "Populism and the Economics of Globalization,"	710
Peter Goodman, "Globalization is Moving Past the US," <i>New York Times</i> , June 2019	732
"Here's What's In the New NAFTA," <i>New York Times</i> , Jan. 29, 2020	741
"Make Shoes in the US or Pay," <i>New York Times</i> , Sep. 2019	748

Africa the Bright Continent

Dayo Olopade, <i>The Bright Continent: Breaking Rules in Modern Africa</i> , HMH, 2014	761
Steve Lohr, "Startup Bets on Tech Talent Pipeline from Africa," <i>New York Times</i> , Oct. 2017	804

Hope for the Future

Kalle Lasn, <i>Meme Wars</i> , NY: Seven Stories Press, 2012	810
Rutger Bregman, "The Neoliberal Era Is Ending," <i>The Correspondent</i> , Aug. 24, 2020	859