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ZERO Textbook Cost Syllabus for PLSC 2001 (The U.S. in the Age of Globalization)

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PLSC 2001: The U.S. in an Age of Globalization

Spring 2018 at Baruch College
 Mon & Wed 2:30-3:45
 Room:

Instructor: Anh T. Tran
 Email:
 Office Hours: By Appointment

“Globalization is not a monolithic force but an evolving set of consequences—some good, some bad, and some unintended. It is the new reality.” ~ John B. Larson

Course Description

How does globalization shape U.S. politics and society today? How does the U.S., in turn, steer the course of globalization throughout the rest of world? In this class, we seek answers to these broader questions through in-depth explorations of the nexus between globalization and security, identity, trade, migration, protest, and other pressing contemporary issues. We will survey mainstream and marginalized debates on globalization and evaluate their logics, assumptions, and empirical merits. We will situate processes of globalization in their national-historical and global-historical contexts, examining how globalization has evolved over time and in different spaces. Most importantly, we will assess the outcomes globalization produces for people’s lives and for political systems.

Learning Objectives

- To develop skills for critically dissecting and interpreting information
- To identify the main concepts, theories, and cases of globalization
- To explain the “how” and “why” of globalization
- To reflect on how globalization reflects or shapes power structures and different ideas of justice
- To articulate all the above in thoughtful conversation and well-structured writing

Grading

- Attendance/Participation: 25%
- Assignments: 30%
- Midterm Oral Exam: 20%
- Final Reflection Paper: 25%

*Email me whenever you would like to see your grade up to that point in the semester

Class Requirements

Attendance/Participation: You get up to 5 points each day you attend class and meaningfully participate in the activities and discussions. If you have to miss class in the event of an emergency, email me ahead of time. Being tardy causes you to lose 1 point for the day. You are



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responsible for obtaining missed announcements and notes from classmates when you are tardy or absent. Per CUNY rules, if you miss more than 6 classes for the semester, you will automatically fail the course.

Preparing for Class: This course alternates between lectures that provide background information for a given topic, and discussions of readings or videos that delve further into the topic. I will upload Powerpoint slides for some lectures—you should print these for class to make it easier for you to take notes. Each assignment is accompanied by “focus questions” to help you prepare for class discussion—bring to class the notes that you take in response to the “focus questions,” as well as any other comments, questions, or critiques you have for the assignments. Bring printed copies of all readings to class, or load these onto a tablet. Always bring loose-leaf notebook paper that you can turn in to me, and anything else that you would need to take notes during class.

Assignments: For each assignment, you will respond to a few “focus questions” designed to deepen your comprehension of the readings and videos. The assignments will help you prepare for class discussion and exams. Each assignment is worth 5 points, due according to the class schedule below. Always check the assignment prompts before you read, because sometimes I will allow you to skip or skim certain sections of the readings or videos. At the end of the semester, I will take your lowest 2 grades on the reading assignments and give you full points for them (equating to 2 “free passes”). I do not accept late work for any reason.

Midterm Oral Exam: To evaluate your level of engagement with the course material, I will interview you in groups of 3 or 4, asking open-ended questions that will prompt you to reflect on what you learned in the course so far. You will be expected to refer to specific content from the lectures, discussions, and readings when answering. You will also respond to your peer’s comments and bounce ideas off one another. I may direct questions at specific individuals or open up the space for anyone to respond. Even though you are interviewed in a group, you will be graded individually based on the following criteria, worth a total of 10 points:

- Demonstrates comprehensive or in-depth knowledge of course material – 4 pts
- Supports arguments with evidence from course material – 4 pts
- Thoughtfully responds to other’s questions/comments – 2 pts

The interviews will last 20 minutes. You can meet with your group ahead of time to help each other prepare, but this is not required. I will randomly assign you to a group and time slot several weeks prior to the oral exams. There are no make-up exams unless you have documentation of an emergency, in which case you will be individually interviewed by me rather than in a group setting.

Final Reflection Paper (20 pts): In lieu of a final exam, you will write a 5-6 page essay (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, normal margins) in response to the following prompt: “What facets of globalization align with your ideas of social/economic justice, and which do not? Explain why.” You will be graded based on the following rubric:

- Elaborates a conception of justice based on political theory and/or personal experience – 2 pts
- Identifies factors of globalization that are both compatible and incompatible with your conception of justice – 4 pts
- Provides compelling evidence to support your claims based on course material – 4 pts
- Demonstrates comprehensive and/or in-depth knowledge of course material – 4 pts
- Integrates at least two different themes in the course – 3 pts
- Clarity and organization of the writing – 3 pts

This paper on Google Classroom by midnight on the day that Baruch has scheduled the final exam for this class (May 23rd). Late papers are not accepted under any circumstances, so do not wait until last minute.

Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL): Once this semester, we will Skype with students from a university abroad to learn from one another's experiences with globalization. This session will not occur during class hours due to time zone differences, but you are required to make every effort to attend. Ahead of the session, you will be required to submit 2 questions that you would like to ask the students from the other university. Your questions and your level of engagement during the COIL session is worth 10 points toward your participation grade. If you cannot participate due to a scheduling conflict, you will be required to submit an alternative assignment to make up these points (see the last page of this syllabus for further instruction).

All Things Related to Technology

- As soon as possible, download the Google Classroom app on your smartphone and/or tablet and set up an account using the classroom code _____. You can also access Google Classroom on your computer using any web browser. This is the platform through which you will turn in assignments and access all class materials, including Powerpoints, readings, videos, polls, and in-class activities.
- No laptops are allowed in this class. The only electronics you are allowed to use during class is your smartphone/tablet to check Google Classroom. Do not abuse these privileges by doing anything other than checking Google Classroom while class is in session!
- Many of your assignments will require you to watch videos by logging into www.Baruch.KanopyStreaming.com, using your Baruch credentials. Bookmark this website on your devices for easy access.
- If you email me, you can expect a response usually within a few hours. You can also ask myself or your classmates questions through Google Classroom.

Accommodations for Students with Special Needs

If you have special needs that will prevent you from getting the most out of this class, please register with the Office of Disability Support Services, then set up a meeting with me so that we can discuss how I can best accommodate you.

Academic Integrity

CUNY has a zero-tolerance policy towards cheating and plagiarism; if you are caught doing either of these things at any point, you will fail the entire course. Cheating is defined as “the unauthorized use or attempted use of material, information, notes, study aids, devices or communication during an academic exercise.” Plagiarism is defined as “the act of presenting another person’s ideas, research or writings as your own.” For specific examples of what constitutes as cheating and plagiarism, consult CUNY’s Policy on Academic Integrity.

Class Schedule (subject to change)

PART I. INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE	
9/29 Mon	--Go over syllabus & using Google Classroom -- DEFINING GLOBALIZATION
9/31 Wed	-- EVALUATING GLOBALIZATION --Write & read before class: [1] 1-2 paragraphs answering, “What does social/economic justice mean to you, personally?” [2] “A Checklist for Scientific Reasoning” (Paul & Elder) --Workshop: Reading Scholarly Texts
PART II. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS & PROCESSES	
2/5 Mon	-- THE MAKING OF AMERICA
2/7 Wed	--Watch before class: Mickey Mouse Monopoly on Kanopy -- EXPORTING “THE AMERICAN WAY”
2/12 Mon	Holiday (Baruch Closed)
2/14 Wed	--Continue previous discussion

2/19 Mon	Holiday (Baruch Closed)
2/20 Tues	Monday Classes Meet --Watch & read before class: (1) The War on Democracy from 2:31 to 1:09:37 (2) Selections from "Jihad, McWorld, Modernity," pg. 88-100, 105, 112-117
2/21 Wed	-- THEORIES OF FOREIGN POLICY
2/26 Mon	-- NUCLEAR WEAPONS
2/28 Wed	-- FOREIGN POLICY CASE STUDY: U.S.-NORTH KOREA RELATIONS --Read before class: "North Korea's Nuclear Strategy and the Interface Between International and Domestic Politics" (Kim)
3/5 Mon	-- FOREIGN POLICY CASE STUDY: U.S.-RUSSIA RELATIONS
3/7 Wed	--Read before class: "The Future of U.S.-Russia Relations" (Smith & Twardowski)
3/12 Mon 11:00-12:15	COIL Session with students from American University in Dubai, United Arab Emirates
3/12 Mon	-- TERRORISM & COUNTER-TERRORISM
3/14 Wed	--Finish previous discussion
3/19 Mon	--Read before class: "The Assassination Complex" (Scahill) --Watch before class: "The Program" on Kanopy
3/21 Wed	MIDTERM EXAM
3/26 Mon	MIDTERM EXAM
PART III. DOMESTIC RELATIONSHIPS & PROCESSES	
3/28 Wed	-- ORGANIZED CRIME --Read before class: "Globalization of the U.S. Black Market: Prohibition, The War on Drugs, and the Case of Mexico" (Harp)
4/2 Mon	SPRING BREAK
4/4 Wed	SPRING BREAK

4/9 Mon	-- TRADE, PRODUCTION & ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION
4/11 Wed	No class, Only Friday Classes Meet
4/16 Mon	--Read & watch before class: (1) Making Sweatshops Ch12, "The New Global Apparel Trade: Who Wins, Who Loses?" (Rosen) (2) "Two Cheers for Sweatshops" (Kristof & WuDunn) (3) Responses to Kristof & WuDunn (NYT Letters to the Editor) (4) "Apple's Broken Promises" on Kanopy
4/18 Wed	-- IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES & BORDERS
4/23 Mon	--Watch before class: (1) "What is an American?" on Kanopy (2) "The Immigration Paradox" on Kanopy
4/25 Wed	-- TRUMP LAND
4/30 Mon	--Watch & read before class: (1) Interview with Naomi Klein on Trump as a brand (2) "Globalization in the Age of Trump" (Ghemawat)
5/2 Wed	-- SOCIAL MOVEMENT SPACES, NETWORKS & TECHNOLOGIES
5/7 Mon	--Continue previous discussion
5/9 Wed	--Read before class: "The Occupy Movement: Emerging Protest Forms and Contested Urban Spaces" (Lubin)
5/14 Mon	-- REEVALUATING NATIONAL IDENTITY & THE NATION-STATE
5/16 Wed	--Read before class: "The End of the Nation State" (Ohmae)
5/23 Wed	FINAL REFLECTION PAPER DUE BEFORE MIDNIGHT

Can't Attend the COIL Session?

Pick one (or more) of the topics we cover in class. Apply, compare, and contrast the theories, concepts, and cases associated with your chosen topic(s) to a fictional movie, TV show, or book of your choice. Do not summarize the plot of the movie, TV show, or book—start immediately with the substantive analysis. Your paper should be 2-3 double-spaced pages, in 12-point Times New Roman font, due on Google Classroom by midnight, Friday May 18. No late work is accepted under any circumstances!

You will be graded based on the following rubric (2 points each, 10 points total):

- Briefly describes the major theories and concepts of the comparative politics topic(s) in the introductory paragraph
- Discusses how the movie/TV show/book applies and/or does not apply to the theories and concepts of comparative politics
- Compares the movie/TV show/book to country cases from the class readings and videos
- Demonstrates clear & comprehensive knowledge of major theories, concepts, and cases of comparative politics
- Organization and clarity of the writing

Some suggestions for your pop culture "case study":

Movies: Babel, The Cup, Children of Heaven, The Way Home, War Machine, Enemy of State, Hunger Games, Elysium, V for Vendetta, The Kite Runner, West Side Story, City of God, Manchurian Candidate, the Bourne series, Black Hawk Down, Children of Men, Lord of War, Blood Diamond, Men in Black, Snowpiercer, Milk, Gattaca

TV Shows: Black Mirror, Electric Dreams, Game of Thrones, Star Trek, Battlestar Galactica, House of Cards, Firefly, Orphan Black, West Wing, Parks & Recreation, The Handmaid's Tale, Ozark, Breaking Bad, Narcos, Humans

Books: 1984, Animal Farm, Brave New World, Fahrenheit 451, Hunger Games, The Giver, Seeing, The Trial, The Castle, The Handmaid's Tale, Darkness at Noon, It Can't Happen Here, The Way We Live Now, anything by Ursula K Le Guin