COURSE DESCRIPTION

“Globalization” is one of the most important concepts for understanding the nature of the contemporary world, where various connections and interdependencies continue to proliferate and intensify across national borders. Especially in Singapore, we live globalization on a daily basis; for example, the mixing of various cultures and peoples from the East and the West, and the growing business interests and financial investments from all over the world. Moreover, the postcolonial context of Singapore sheds light on historical connections between contemporary globalization and legacies of imperialism. Thus, Singapore is a natural laboratory for studying the trajectories and frontiers of globalization.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you will be able to critically analyze various dimensions of globalization in Singapore and the world at large, identify strengths and weaknesses of different sociological theories of globalization, and reflect on how you might want to act in the globalizing world. To this end, you will acquire the following analytical and communicative skills:

(1) To apply sociological theories of globalization to real-world phenomena. You will understand strengths and weaknesses of different theories by using them to analyze the world outside the classroom.

(2) To use real-world phenomena to challenge existing sociological theories. Simple application of theories to real-world phenomena is only the beginning of your learning. By constantly going back and forth between theory and data, you will invent new concepts and explanations that will improve our understanding of globalization.

(3) To collaborate effectively with your fellow students. As you know, the real world is full of economic, political, and social problems for which there are no single right answers. Problem-solving is fundamentally a collective endeavor wherein participants engage in constructive discussion to articulate the best available answer.

ASSESSMENT METHODS
Singapore Management University
School of Social Sciences

Attendance & Participation 10%
Pop Quiz 10%
Group Presentation (10% group + 8% individual + 2% peer evaluation) 20%
Response Paper (15% x 2) 30%
Final Examination 30%

Attendance & Participation

By attending every class session, you will automatically earn attendance and participation points. To contribute to class discussion, come to every class with at least one question or comment on the assigned readings. If you still have questions after class or want to share your thoughts with your fellow students, post them on the eLearn discussion page.

With proper documentation (e.g., regarding your medical conditions, family situations), an arrangement will be made for you to make up your absence.

Pop Quiz

You will complete 10 sets of open-book pop quizzes over the course of the term. We will go over answers together in class to review main points in the readings and challenge them, if possible, so that you can deepen your thoughts on the readings.

Group Presentation (20-minute presentation, 10-minute Q &A)

I will divide you into ten groups. (The number of groups may change, depending on final enrollment.) Each group will choose two readings: (1) summarize main arguments in the two readings; and (2) evaluate which argument is more cogent by testing them against a real-world phenomenon. By executing a group presentation, you will acquire the skills to collaborate with others, analyze the real world sociologically, and diagnose strengths and weaknesses of different theories, and communicate your thoughts clearly.

I will give you more detailed instructions (e.g., assessment criteria) as the presentation weeks approach. Roughly speaking, a group presentation will be assessed in terms of (a) overall group performance, (b) individual performance, and (c) peer evaluation.

Response Paper (5 pages, doubled spaced, Times New Roman 12, and 2.54 cm margin)

Over the course of the term, you will write papers to illustrate your critical responses to the assigned readings. The main task of your response paper is to point out what is problematic about the author’s argument in light of real-world phenomena. To illustrate the problem as precisely as possible, you will be required to (1) use direct quotes and (2) concrete real-world examples found in recent newspaper articles. By writing a response paper, you will acquire the skills to construct your argument coherently and communicate it effectively in writing, analyze the real world sociologically, and diagnose strengths and weaknesses of different theories.
I will give you more detailed instructions (e.g., which readings to write about, assessment criteria) as the deadlines approach.

**Final Examination (3 hours, 3 pages, doubled spaced, Times New Roman 12, and 2.54 cm margin)**

This will be an open-book essay examination, where you will be asked to synthesize different theories of globalization in analyzing a certain real-life phenomenon. Assessment criteria will be provided at the beginning of the examination.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**


**ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you need academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability, please speak with me as soon as possible, so that we can make necessary arrangements to assist your learning.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS**

My instructional style is interactive. While I give a short lecture on assigned readings at the beginning of each class, I expect students to inject their questions and share their reactions publicly. When we have a small-group discussion to develop our own thinking based on assigned readings, I expect students to actively and respectfully engage with one another. In short, your learning is facilitated by two intersecting sets of interactions (1) between you (student) and me (instructor) and (2) amongst yourselves.

**READINGS**

All the assigned readings are available at the course web site.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Week 1: Introduction: Key Definitions and Debates


Week 2: Transnational Cultural Flows


Week 3: Globalization and Identity


Week 4: Global Capitalism


Week 5: Global Governance


**Week 6: Global Cities**


**Week 7: Group Presentation I**

**Week 8: Recess [No Class]**

**Week 9: Globalization of Education**


**Week 10: Environmental Problems**


Week 11: Tourism and Immigration


Week 12: Globalization in Singapore


Week 13: Group Presentation II

Week 14: Revision [No Class]

Week 15: Final Examination