This is a course on global socioeconomic and political processes. It is a required gateway course for the Global Studies major, but may be taken by non-majors as well. We will examine the origins of the modern world-system in the rise of European hegemony and the emergence of a single global political and economic system. We will study the forces that have led humans to live in larger and larger urban agglomerations and the problems of sustainability that contemporary human growth processes are creating. Topics that will be covered are: methods of research on global social processes, differing and contested definitions of globalization; trends in global inequalities, globalization and the environment; hegemony and global governance, global social movements and the issues of global democracy. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are required. Others are recommended.

Grading is based on the midterm exam (30%) [Feb. 13], the final exam (30%), [Friday, March 23, 3-5 pm] attendance (15%) and a short (not more than 10 page typed, double-spaced research paper on a transnational social movement (25%) [due date March 15]. The midterm and the final will be in-class essay exams.

The following book is available at the University Book Store and is on reserve:


Jan 4: hand out syllabus. Overview of course Introduction * Chapter 1 of Global Social Change, Christopher Chase-Dunn and Salvatore Babones

Jan 9: *Chapter 2 of Global Social Change: Conducting Global Research, Salvatore Babones

C. Chase-Dunn, Global Formation, Chapter 15, "Research Methods"

Jan 11: more what is

*Chapter 4 of Global Social Change: Leslie Sklair, “Competing Conceptions of Globalization”

William I. Robinson, A Theory of Global Capitalism

*Chapter 5 of Global Social Change: Christopher Chase-Dunn, “Globalization: a world-systems perspective”

Immanuel Wallerstein, World-Systems Analysis; C. Chase-Dunn, B. Brewer and Y. Kawano 2000 Trade Globalization since 1795: waves of integration in the world-system, American Sociological Review 65:77-95 (February)


Jan 23: Movie on the battle of Seattle, 1999: “This is what democracy looks like.” Read news coverage about the World Social Forum in Nairobi

Jan 25: no lecture

Jan 30: report on the World Social Forum in Nairobi

Feb 1: Global Inequality

*Chapter 6 of Global Social Change: Jonathan Turner and Salvatore Babones “Global Inequality: An Introduction”

Mike Davis, Planet of Slums

Feb. 6: *Chapter 7 of Global Social Change: Bruce Podobnik “Global Energy Inequalities: Exploring the Long-Term Implications”

Bruce Podobnik, Global Energy Shifts

Feb 8: Globalization and the Environment. Turn in one-page with the transnational social movement you will study in your research paper and a brief bibliography of sources you will use.

Study Questions handed out for the Midterm.

*Chapter 8 of Global Social Change: Alf Hornborg, Ecosystems and World Systems: Accumulation as an Ecological Process

Jared Diamond, Collapse

Feb 13: Midterm Exam

Feb 15: Globalization and the Environment

*Chapter 9 of Global Social Change: Andrew K. Jorgenson “Global social change, natural resource consumption and environmental degradation”

John Bellamy Foster, The Vulnerable Planet

February 16, Noon- 2 pm. Special lecture.

John Bellamy Foster, Sociology, University of Oregon and Editor, Monthly Review.

"The ‘Political Economy of Growth After 50 Years: Paul Baran’s Analysis of the Global Capitalism a Half-Century Later.” Humanities 1500

Feb 20: Hegemony, empire and Global Governance

*Chapter 10 of Global Social Change: Giovanni Arrighi, “Spatial and Other ‘Fixes’ of Historical Capitalism”

Giovanni Arrighi, The Long Twentieth Century; Christopher Chase-Dunn, Thomas Reifer, Andrew Jorgenson and Shoon Lio 2005 The U.S. Trajectory: A Quantitative Reflection, Sociological Perspectives 48:2; 233-254

Feb 22: More on hegemony, empire and global governance

*Chapter 11 of Global Social Change: Peter Gowan, “Contemporary intra-core relations and world-systems theory”

Michael Mann, Incoherent Empire; David Harvey, The New Imperialism

Feb 27: Global Social Movements

*Chapter 12 of Global Social Change: Valentine M. Moghadam, “Gender and Globalization: Female Labor and Women’s Mobilization”

Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, Activists Beyond Borders; Valentine Moghadam, Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks.

March 1: *Chapter 13 of Global Social Change: Frederick H. Buttel and Kenneth A. Gould, “Global Social Movements at the Crossroads”

Amary Starr, Naming the Enemy
March 6: *Chapter 14 of *Global Social Change*: Jackie Smith and Dawn Weist, “National and global foundations of global civil society”

March 8: Global Democracy and Democratization
*Chapter 15 of *Global Social Change*: Terry Boswell and Christopher Chase-Dunn, “Transnational Social Movements and Democratic Socialist Parties in the Semiperiphery: on to global democracy”

T. Boswell and C. Chase-Dunn, *The Spiral of Capitalism and Socialism*


Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Multitude*

March 15 Lyrical upsurge. **Paper is due (study questions for final handed out)**

**Final Exam** Friday March 23: 3 to 5 p.m.