

HPSC2016 Globalization in Theory and Practice

Course Syllabus

2013-14 session
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We live in an increasingly globalized world. But what is globalization? How is it re-shaping our world? Scientists themselves now work increasingly as part of increasingly global teams, but does this mean scientific knowledge is universal? Science and technology exist in, and enable, many of the global networks that have become central to the modern world, for example commerce, communication, and healthcare. This module will explore science, technology and globalization from a theoretical perspective and with reference to specific case studies. It will explore two contemporary case studies: the challenge of public health in developing countries and the internet as a globalizing technology.

Course Information

Basic course information

Moodle Web site:	[search 'HPSC2016']
Assessment:	Short Essay (30%) Long Essay (40%) Project (30%)
Timetable:	www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/hpsc
Prerequisites:	[insert, e.g. 'no pre-requisites', 'course designed for year 3 students' etc. n.b. this must match the portico record]
Required texts:	no required texts
Course tutors:	Dr Simon J Lock
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Office location:	22 Gordon Square, Room 1.2
Office hours:	Monday 2-4pm

Schedule

UCL Week	Topic	Date	Activity
6	What is Globalization?	1 Oct	
7	Globalization – Problems and People	8 Oct	
8	Nations, economies and empires	15 Oct	
9	Global Health – Local Issues in Globalisation	22 Oct	
10	Global Health - Town meeting	29 Oct	Group work activity
11	Reading Week	5 Nov	
12	Technological infrastructures for globalization	12 Nov	Short Essay due 15 Nov
13	The Network Society	19 Nov	
14	Global Technology: The internet I	26 Nov	
15	Global Technology: The internet II	3 Dec	
16	Global Connections	10 Dec	Long Essay due 09 Dec
			Connections Project due 13 Jan 2014

Assessments

Summary

	Description	Deadline	Word limit
Short Essay	Choose from titles below	11.59 pm Friday 15 Nov 2013	2000
Long Essay	Choose from titles below	11.59pm Mon 09 Dec 2013	2400
Project	See instructions below	11.59pm Mon 13 Jan 2014	2000 (equivalent)

Assignments

Short Essay (no more than 2000 words) Choose one of the following:

- Is 'global citizenship' a contradiction in terms?
- Explain the term 'space-time compression' in the context of globalisation studies, and illustrate it with examples changing patterns of social life a globalising world.

Long Essay (no more than 2400 words) Choose one of the following:

- Why is Leishmaniasis in Bihar a good example of the interaction of global (health) science and local issues?
Your essay should give an overview of the problem of Leishmaniasis in Bihar, and then discuss the issues that may arise in a local village meeting held to look at novel solutions to this problem, attended by World Health Organisation scientists, village officials, local villagers and local industrialists.
- Do global technologies enslave or liberate?
- Do we live in a 'network society'?

Connections Project

An influential description of globalisation is Giddens' 'the intensification of world-wide social relations'. From a starting point of some mundane aspect of your life (such as what you ate for lunch or the last item of clothing you bought), trace the world-wide network that frames your experience. Highlight the scientific and technological aspects of this network, but do not neglect the other aspects (for example, economics, history or culture might be important). The format can be a narrative, such as a journey through your network, or it can be an annotated chart, a Powerpoint presentation – you choose.

All coursework must be submitted via Moodle unless it is in an incompatible format

In order to be deemed 'complete' on this module students must attempt all assignments.

Criteria for assessment

The departmental marking guidelines for individual items of assessment can be found in the STS Student Handbook.

Aims & objectives

The course uses science as a case study for exploring how local, transnational and global communities can emerge and function. It provides a locus for synthesis of theoretical and historical resources about communication, community and globalisation.

By the end of this course students should have developed:

- Knowledge of the history of science as a global and globalising phenomenon

- Knowledge of the scope and character of globalization
- An understanding of the science/media/policy context, on a local and global scale
- An understanding of the role of local culture in a global context
- Skills in reading, discussion and analysis
- Skills in argument and communication

General readings

If you are buying books, Schirato & Webb should be your top priority, followed by Wagner. They will give you the best return in terms of academic scope in relation to the content of this course. Steger is reliable, short and cheap. This course draws very widely on history, in particular of the 20th century, so please read around and make sure you are alert to the general historical context.

Tony Schirato and Jen Webb, 2003, *Understanding Globalisation* (London: Sage)

Manfred B. Steger, 2003, *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press)

Caroline S. Wagner, 2008, *The New Invisible College: Science for Development* (Washington DC: the Brookings Institute)

Nigel Dower, 2003, *An Introduction to Global Citizenship* (Edinburgh University Press)

Nigel Dower and John Williams, 2002, *Global Citizenship: a Critical Reader* (Edinburgh University Press)

Kwame Anthony Appiah, 2006, *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers* (London: Penguin)

Gerard Delanty, 2000, *Citizenship in a Global Age: Society, Culture, Politics* (Buckingham: Open University Press)

Specific readings for the lecture topics/essays can be found on Moodle

Course expectations

Students are expected to attend the 2 hour session every week.

Important policy information

For information on all policies can be found in the STS Student Handbook
www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/handbook