Debating Globalization
Syllabus and Schedule
Fall 2014

Instructor: Sean Metzger
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Class Time: T, 9:55-12:30
Instructor Office Hours: by appt
Room: H 6108
Instructor Office: TBA

Description
Globalization promises and threatens to change radically the ways in which people work, play, communicate, and collaborate. How are artists, businesspeople, journalists, and theorists documenting, critiquing, or otherwise addressing the issues accompanying transnational dynamics in the overlapping realms of culture, economics, politics, religion, and other dimensions of life? Are globalization and transnationalism equivalent? What happens if we place China at the center of globalization? In this course, we enter this conversation.

A series of key words will animate our inquiry. In creating a shared vocabulary for a specific discussion of globalization, we will explore often-contradictory viewpoints on issues like nationalism and migration in the current historical moment.

Each week, we focus on a different term(s) that will assist us in thinking about a particular aspect of globalization. We will consider each week’s term through comparative case studies: one pertaining to China (or, at least, “Chineseness” and one pertaining to another part of the world). Such a comparative approach is meant to encourage us to think on both local and global scales.

Our “local” learning activities will include reading, film viewing, and field trips. Assignments will include an on-line journal, a short paper, and a group project.

Objectives
Students will

- Read and see a wide range of material to develop an understanding of globalization and related terms.
- Become conversant in selected areas of Chinese cultural production, broadly understood, from film to art to waste.
- Improve critical writing, with an emphasis on developing thesis-driven arguments.

Course Assignments and Requirements
- Regular reading of assigned material, attendance and participation in discussion—(20% of final grade). Please be in class on time. Cell phones and other devices
must be turned off before class begins and remain off through the duration of class unless specifically permitted by the instructor. Classroom courtesy includes the full participation of every student. If you must leave the room during class, do so quietly and unobtrusively. Note: missing more than 2 classes will cause a 10% reduction to your final grade for every subsequent class missed (so if you miss 3 classes, you will lose 10% from your final grade; 4 classes missed will result in a 20% deduction, etc.). Remember the class depends on you to help make it engaging. FYI: participation is graded as follows: A student who receives an “A” enlivens the classroom with her/his engaging questions and discussions. Her/his remarks are very insightful, encouraging people to think (comes to class with information gleaned from other classes, newspapers, experience, etc.). A “B” grade for participation is accorded to a student who participates but does so in a passive fashion: raises questions but sometimes may not be attentive to the participation of others. Or she or he waits for others to start the ball rolling. A “C” is given to a student who may attend classes regularly, but who, for whatever reason refrains from participation.

- To facilitate a student-centered approach to learning, each student will be asked to spend the last 5 minutes of each lecture thinking about how the readings and lecture material discussed that day help you to understand globalization. You will turn in this document at the end of lecture, and it will serve as a means to record your attendance. Please bring paper and a pen to class to facilitate this learning process.
- Laptops should NOT be used in class unless specifically requested by the professor.
- Academic essay assignments—(1 at 30%). The essay will be based on a prompt and should be 6-8 pages long, with at least three sources. The essay should be a thesis-driven argument.
- Group project—(1 at 25%). Details will be provided in class. The assignment will include a written and an oral component.
- Field trips—(3 at 5% each). These are listed on the following schedule. We may need to change field trip sites depending on local circumstances.
- Blog/journal—(5 at 2% each). 5 entries required. This is a short response of 250 words. Initial questions will be provided in class, although you are free to generate your own prompt with instructor approval. Exceptional journals may be circulated – globally, of course. Due dates are indicated in the following schedule.
- Late papers: Paper grades drop 1 letter for each day late.
- Submissions of all class work must be in hard-copy form unless otherwise indicated by the professor. All work must be typed, double-spaced and written in acceptable style with normative spelling and grammar. Facsimile or email transmissions are unacceptable.
- Grades: 100-94 A, 90-93 A-, 87-89 B+, 84-86 B, 80-83 B-, 77-79 C+ . . . 59 and below is failing.
- Students should inform the professor to request an accommodation due to a suspected or documented disability.
- A final note: Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class and may be grounds for failing the course.
Required Reading and Viewings

The textbook for this course is Hilary E. Kahn, ed. *Framing the Global: Entry Points for Research* (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2014).

Additional readings are available for viewing and downloading online. See your pre-departure checklist for the reading list links.

To access the readings, you will need to enter the following:

Username: UCEAPStudent
Password: CourseMaterials

Screenings will occur in class.

Please note on-line materials should NOT be distributed outside of class.
Schedule
You should come to class having read or seen whatever is listed for that day.

Week 1, Sep 16: Introduction – on key terms
“Capitalism” Raymond Williams
“Globalization” Lisa Lowe
*Imagined Communities* excerpt (chapters 1 and 2), Benedict Anderson
“Introduction” in Kahn
Syllabus
View in class: excerpts from Opening Ceremonies of 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing

Week 2, Sep 23: Frameworks
“Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy” Arjun Appadurai
“Frames” in Kahn
“The particular” in Kahn
“Seascape” in Kahn
“Shanghai Expo 2010” David Li

Week 3, Sep 30: Engendering Global History
“Genealogies” in Kahn
“Scale” in Kahn
“Talks at the Yan’an Forum” excerpt Mao Zedong
Journal 1 due

Week 4, Oct 7: holiday

Week 5, Oct 14: Fashioning the New Woman around the World
“Buying In” Tani Barlow
*Chinese Looks* excerpt Sean Metzger
*The Modern Girl Around the World* chapters 1 and 2, Weinbaum et al., eds
“Who is Afraid of the Modern Chinese Girl” Madeleine Dong

Week 6, Oct 21: Chinese Dream/ Zhongguo meng
“China in 2013” Thomas Heberer
“China Needs Its Own Dream” Thomas Friedman
“Decoding Xi Jinping’s China Dream” Peter Ford
“Sovereignty” in Kahn
Journal 2 due
Week 7, Oct 28: Global Image Inc.
Field Trip to Shanghai Museum of Contemporary Art or Power Station of Art (till Oct 26) - Details TBA
“Forms” in Kahn
“Notes on Globalization as a Philosophical Issue” Frederic Jameson
Journal 3 due

Week 8, Nov 4: The Glocal Blockbuster
Field trip to Hangzhou to see Zhang Yimou Impressions (this may be moved) – Details TBA
Futures of Chinese Cinema excerpt Olivia Khoo and Sean Metzger
“Location” in Kahn

Week 9, Nov 11: Business and Regulatory Fictions
Chinglish, David Henry Hwang
“Rules“ in Kahn
View in class: Shanghai Calling (Daniel Hsia, 2012)
Paper due

Week 10, Nov 18: Diaspora
“Affect” in Kahn
“Displacement” in Kahn
Field trip to Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum – Details TBA
Journal 4 due

Week 11, Nov 25: China in Africa
China’s Second Continent excerpt Howard French
“Land” in Kahn
“Rights” in Kahn
View in class: When China Met Africa (Marc Francis and Nick Francis, 2010)

Week 12, Dec 2: Global Materiality
Friction excerpt Anna Tsing
“Materiality” in Kahn
Journal 5 due

Week 13, Dec 9: Group Project presentations
(this is the last meeting of our class; final exams are Dec 15-19)