COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we subject globalization, as an economic, political and cultural phenomenon, to critical scrutiny, from the standpoint of various moral and political perspectives. The aim of the course is not mainly to describe or explain globalization, but instead to consider a number of approaches to criticizing it and proposing alternatives to it or alternative forms of it. Topics considered include: capitalism and ‘trade liberalization’; the interaction between globalization and Indigenous resurgence; the relation between “recognition,” “redistribution” and “representation” in global political conflicts; the reorganization and self-organization of the global working class; and the ethics of militant protest to support demands for global justice.
COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the heart of the course is the idea that globalization can be viewed through the lens of multiple perspectives, and that these perspectives draw attention to different aspects of globalization, and highlight different areas of moral and political concern associated with it. The four main perspectives considered are: the neo-liberal perspective, the marxist perspective; the decolonial perspective; and the transnational feminist perspective. Students are expected to master these perspectives, and to work to improve their ability to articulate, critically assess and rationally defend their own convictions concerning the moral and political issues raised (or omitted) by each perspective. They are expected, too, to grasp the points of overlap and convergence between, and tensions among, the main perspectives considered in the course.

DESCRIPTION OF CLASSROOM METHODS

Classes consist of lectures and class discussion. Students should come to each class having read the assigned texts and ready to comment, answer questions, ask questions, and/or participate in class discussions. Each student will submit three short papers.

TEXTS AND REQUIRED READINGS

1. David McNally, Another World is Possible. Available at Bookstore.
2. Nancy Fraser, several articles, available via the course Owl site.
3. Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, As We Have Always Done. Available at Bookstore.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

30% Short Paper on McNally (due on 21 October 2018; submit via Owl)
30% Short Paper on Fraser (due on 11 November 2018; submit via Owl)
30% Short Paper on Simpson (due on 7 December 2018; submit via Owl)
10% Participation (based on instructor assessment of attendance and participation)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF READINGS

12. September: Introduction to the Course / Neo-liberalism
   Reading: Thomas Friedman, “The Golden Straitjacket” (OWL site)

A Marxist Perspective: David McNally
19 September: Globalization and Resistance
   Reading: McNally, pp. 1-25; pp. 27-68
26 September: Enclosure, Markets and Capitalism
   Reading: McNally, pp. 83-131
3 October: Globalization and Imperialism
   Reading: McNally, pp. 204-260
=> 8-12 October: Fall Reading Week <=
17 October: Liberation from Global Capitalism
   Reading: McNally, pp. 267-280; pp. 336-391
A Transnational Feminist Perspective: Nancy Fraser

24 October: Frames and Scales of Global Justice
   Reading: Fraser, “Abnormal Justice”; Fraser, “Reframing Justice in a Globalizing World”

31 October: Flexibilization, Transnationalizing Democratic Politics
   Reading: Fraser, “From Discipline to Flexibilization”; Fraser, “Transnationalizing the Public Sphere”

7 November: Geographies of Racialized Capitalism
   Reading: Fraser, “From Exploitation to Expropriation”

A Decolonial Perspective: Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

14 November: Radical Resurgence and Nishnaabeg Intelligence
   Reading: Simpson, pp. 1-54 (Intro and Chapters 1-3)

21 November: Indigenous (Nishnaabeg) Anti-Capitalism and Feminism
   Reading: Simpson, pp. 55-94 (Chapters 4-6)

28 November: On Gender
   Reading: Simpson, pp. 95-144; pp. 163-173 (Chapter 7-8, and last part of 9)

5 December: On Recognition, ‘Co-resistance,’ and Resurgence
   Reading: 175-247

The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.