Course Description:
Globalization has become one of the primary categories by which 21st century change is imagined. Scholars have used the concept to both justify and explain everything from increased social inequality to changing migration patterns to national growth to sectarian strife to corporatization to humanitarianism. Yet, globalization as a category has been ill-defined: is it primarily an economic, political, or cultural process? Where do we see the results of globalization and why?

Either implicitly or explicitly, rightly or wrongly, the city has taken on a renewed focus as the “site” in which these global processes take place, with airports, roads, multinational corporations, information technologies, supranational organizations, and financial centers facilitating global connection between cities. Yet, emerging cities in the Global South such as Sao Paolo, Lahore, New Delhi, and Newark have seen changes drastically different than cities such as New York, London, and Paris. These differences reflect complex histories linked to earlier colonial, racial, and ethnic relations. How, then, does globalization differentially affect these cities?

In the first half of the semester we will review the debates on globalization before locating our discussion in major cities from around the globe, trying to understand the concept of globalization as it is refracted through specific histories of governance, migration, infrastructural development, and violence. We will draw on multi-disciplinary literature to examine the factors that transform urban spaces and to understand why particular cities have emerged as “world” powers in the 21st Century. We draw links between global processes, such as the growth of urban middle-classes and emerging communication technologies, and read from across the globe to determine shared opportunities and challenges of global urbanization. Most importantly, we will understand globalization empirically, using case studies from the Global North and the Global South to understand how global connections are forged, creating benefits for some and disadvantages for others; a process of ‘uneven development’.

Students will choose their own city upon which to conduct primary research and deepen their understanding of globalization as a process located in specific histories and spatial relations. They will do primary and secondary research using scholarly articles, news media sources, and documentary film archives to make arguments about how global processes are re-shaping their selected urban locale. By the end of the course, students will have the theoretical knowledge along with empirical case studies to critically respond to the question: *What does the globalization of the city look like?*
Learn techniques for substantive, theoretically rich, fact-based dialogue and debate

Course Assignments:

1. **Class Participation:** A seminar is only as dynamic as the discussions generated by students. It is essential that all students do the readings before class and have notes ready for in-class discussion. Students are expected to be active participants, asking questions and furthering dialogue during class.

2. **Class Presentation:** Each week two students will give a 15-minute presentation on the readings for the week and facilitate a class discussion of approximately 45 minutes. Students should be able to provide a brief history of the urban context under discussion, identify several key theoretical interventions made by each scholar, provide their own thoughts on how these theories allow us to understand globalization differently, and generate guiding questions for discussion. Students are expected to relate the readings with current events (preferably on their chosen city), developing insights and challenging scholarship based on their primary source data.

3. **Course Blog:** Each week there will be a question based on that week’s readings. Each student will be expected to post a response of no more than 250 words by Sunday night at 5pm. Students will be expected to read each others posting and respond to at least one post before arriving in class on Tuesday. The presenters for each week will not be expected to post, but will be expected to read and bring in particular blogposts of interest as part of their Tuesday presentations.

4. **Newspaper Readings:** Globalization is an ongoing process that is both emerging and dynamic. Reading a range of newspaper sources daily will allow you to start understanding how global processes occur and change, and may allow you to uncover aspects of globalization – such as global climate change – that are not covered in the course. You should read several newspapers (such as The New York Times, The Financial Times, The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, The BBC, Al Jazeera, the Hindu, Atlantic Cities as well as local sources in countries and regions you are interested in), and explore websites such as those listed at the end of the syllabus. Your outside readings will be the basis for your final projects and should be introduced into the class presentations and discussion. Please make the linkages with arguments in the class readings and the themes of the class explicit.

5. **Midterm Exam:** The midterm will be a take home exam that will ask you to respond to two essay prompts related to the topics from the first half of the semester. It will be due via email within seven days after it has been administered.

6. **Voiceover Powerpoint:** The end term assignment will be a voiceover powerpoint of 5-7 minutes in which you will use only your voices, images, and film clips to make a specific argument regarding how globalization has affected one specific city in the world (not included on the syllabus already).
You may work alone or with a partner to answer the guiding question of our course: *What does the globalization of the city look like?* You will need to argue using sights and sounds, making your argument by ‘showing’ us a global city. How is the space of your city structured? What are the particular economic practices that have been set in place? What is the demographic makeup of your city and how do particular cultural practices influence how globalization takes place?

**Required texts:**

**Week 1 (09/02): Introduction: Is the World Flat?**


**Interview:** Thomas Friedman w/ Barack Obama (Aug 4, 2014)

**Readings:**
- Varma, Meher. 2007. “India Wiring Out: Ethnographic Reflections from Two Transnational Call Centers in India.” *Anthropology Matters*. 9(2)

**Week 2 (09/09): Neoliberal Globalization**

**Film:** Inside Job (2010). Directed by Charles Ferguson.

**RSA Animate:**
- David Harvey - The Crisis of Capitalism
- Slavoj Zizek - First as Tragedy, Then as Farce

**Readings:**
• Read the Interview with David Harvey. “On Neoliberalism: An Interview with David Harvey.” http://davidharvey.org/

Recommended:

Week 3 (09/16): The City in a Globalized Context

Film:

Readings:
• Steve Kobrin. 2008. It Ain’t Over Until the Fat Lady Sings: Three Narratives Relating to the Rise and Possible Fall of the 2nd Wave of Globalization

Recommended:

Week 4 (09/25): The City in a Globalized Context (Power)


**Recommended:**


**Week 5 (10/01): New York**

**Film:**

**Readings:**


**Recommended:**


**Week 6 (10/07): Newark**

**Film:** Heart of Stone (2009)

**Readings:**

• Ramos-Zayas, Ana. 2012. "Excerpts.” *Street Therapists: Race, Affect, and Neoliberal Personhood in Latino Newark*

• Russakoff, Dale. 2014. “Schooled.” *The New Yorker.* [http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/05/19/schooled](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/05/19/schooled)

**Week 7 (10/14): Sao Paulo**

**TV Series:** City of Men

**Readings:**


Recommended:


Week 8 (10/21): Cairo

Film: Youssef Chahine – Cairo (1991)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRO1kB2VEu0

Film: Mai Iskander - Garbage Dreams (2010)

Readings:

- Denis, Eric. 2009. “Cairo ad Neoliberal Capital?” in eds. Diane Singerman and Paul Amar, Cairo Cosmopolitan
The National. “And then Cairo turned itself Inside Out.”
http://www.thenational.ae/news/world/and-then-cairo-turned-itself-inside-out#full

Week 9 (10/28): Dubai and Abu Dhabi

Film:

Readings:


Week 10 (11/04): Lahore and Karachi

Guest lecturer by Mariam Durrani

Film: The Reluctant Fundamentalist (2012)

Film: These Birds Walk (2013)

Readings:


Recommended:
Readings from www.researchcollective.org

Week 11 (11/11): Delhi and Bangalore
Film: When Shankar Nag Comes Asking (2013)

Readings:

Week 12 (11/18):
Colombo
Film:

Readings:

Week 13 (12/02): Johannesburg and Durban
Film:

Readings:
Week 14 (12/09): Wenzhou as the City of Migrants

Film: Lixin Fan. Last Train Home (2010)

Readings:


Week 15 (12/16): Home-ownership and Middle-Class Housing in Kunming

Film:

Readings:


Useful Websites

London School of Economics Cities
http://lsecities.net/ua/

The Atlantic Cities Online Journal
http://www.theatlanticcities.com/

Globalization and World Cities Research Network at Loughborough Univesity, UK
http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/
The Nation Special Issue on Bloomberg’s New York

New York Times Special Series: The United States of Subsidies
http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/12/01/us/government-incentives.html?_r=0

The New York Times series on the iEconomy:

Edward Glaser’s New York Times blog

MIT Senseable City Lab (for visualizations of urban analytics)
http://senseable.mit.edu/

The Guardian: The rise of megacities

BBC Hot Cities Series on Cities and Climate Change
http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC0EA73D7E7C57AE7

2012 Global Cities Index
https://www.atkearney.com/gbpc/global-cities-index/full-report/-/asset_publisher/yAl1OgZpc1DO/content/2012-global-cities-index/10192

Mckinsey Global Institute’s Cities Reports
http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/mgi/research/urbanization

The Globalization Studies Website at the University of Pennsylvania:
http://globalizationstudies.sas.upenn.edu/

The Tate Modern Global Cities Website:
http://www.tate.org.uk/modern/exhibitions/globalcities/default.shtm

Saskia Sassen’s webpage at the Columbia University:
http://transnationalism.uchicago.edu/links.html