

**GLBL 501 Perspectives on Global Studies:
Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Approaches /**

Professor: Dr. Steven Witt switt@illinois.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11-12, and Wednesdays 1-2 PM, or by appointment via zoom

Course Topic

Global Studies is an emerging and rapidly changing field. It is well on the way to becoming a new field of study among the major research universities in the United States and abroad. It is also more than a discipline. Today it is increasingly expected that holders of graduate degrees—whether professional degrees in Medicine, Law or Business, Masters or Ph.D.—also acquire an understanding of key global concepts and debates along with training in their primary disciplines. This course provides that much-needed analytical and methodological understanding.

This understanding requires more than a basic familiarity of globalization or key so-called global problems and transnational phenomena. It requires novel ways of thinking about one's research interests including an ability to see issues from multiple perspectives, to identify and analyze the connections among relevant actors and institutions that exist at difference scales (local, national, global, regional) and skills with which to research and then articulate such differences and relationships. This course is aimed to acquaint students with these key concepts and analytical strategies in addition to the traditional substantive themes of global studies, such as security, migration, trade, democratization and global health and environmental issues.

Objectives

- To instill in graduate students an understanding of key global concepts and methods in a variety of fields and disciplines.
- To introduce graduate students to different perspectives on globalization and transnational social relations: these are key debates about global issues.
- To foster critical analytical skills with an eye to application to concrete case studies.
- To assist students in carrying out research and writing that is accessible for a broad global studies audience.

To achieve these goals by the end of the semester students should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What is global studies in your definition and whose definition of this field is closest to yours?
2. What is the threshold for the global for different perspectives?
3. What are the chronologies of the global?
4. How did the concept of the global emerge? For what ends? By whom?
5. What are some of the critical perspectives that have been brought to bear on "the global"?

6. What are some of the key concepts for global studies?
7. What are some examples of global studies scholarship?
8. What is the difference between a comparative and a global approach? Is a particular reading using one or the other? Would this topic be better addressed using one or the other?
9. How does the study of the United States and of what the U.S. academy labels "area studies" fit into global studies?
10. How do nations and nationalism intersect with global studies?
11. How have scholars studied "the global" within particular disciplines?
12. How have scholars studied "the global" across various disciplines?

In addition to these general questions about global studies students should routinely ask the following guiding questions of texts and class discussions.

Guiding Questions

1. Must a global studies approach cross various regions, such as north/south, east/west, urban/nonurban? How would our understanding of this topic be affected by using such an approach?
2. How do the concepts of geography and scale affect our understanding of this issue? Would the explicit inclusion of these concepts have enhanced our understanding?
3. How can a global studies approach help me with my research?
4. What do scholars in other disciplines and geographic areas have to offer to my research topic?
5. What is the unit of concern in this reading (individuals, small collectives, nations, something else)? How would shifting or expanding the unit of concern affect our understanding of the subject?
6. How does this reading characterize the relationship (and its directionality) between local-national-global? Does one or another scale seem more or less powerful in this reading than in others? How does this affect our understanding?
7. How does this reading construct the definition of the local or global? What is the political stake in this definition? What is the political stake in defining something as a local, national, or global issue?
8. Does the vantage point of this reading make the global more or less visible than it would have been if the author had chosen another vantage point?

Course Requirements:

- Reading all assigned texts by the class period indicated in syllabus. For example, readings listed under week 1 should be read before the first class.
- Selecting one week to lead the class discussion (may be shared)
- Checking course webpage daily for new links, instructions, study questions, etc.
- Thoughtful, focused, and respectful contributions to discussion in class as well as online through weekly reading response assignments (part of your class participation grade)
- Completing a problem paper (see description in appendix)
- Completing the final research paper proposal (see description in appendix)

Grade Composition:

Leading discussion	10%
Problem paper	25%
Research paper proposal	30%
Class Participation	15%
Journal Analysis	20%

ASSIGNMENTS

Global Studies Journal Analysis Assignment

The aim of this assignment is to analyze the research topics, methods, audience, and disciplines represented within a specific journal from the field of Global Studies.

There are three separate parts:

1. analysis of the conventions, language, audience, intent, and content of the journal
2. the analysis of an article of your choice from the journal,
3. conclusion - a discussion of what you believe it takes to be published in the journal.

This assignment is intended to raise your consciousness and get you thinking more critically about the types of writing currently being published in global studies.

To complete the assignment, select one of the journals listed in the Global Studies Research Guide that are found here: <https://guides.library.illinois.edu/c.php?g=1209966&p=9969166>

ANALYSIS - THE JOURNAL

The following general questions will guide your inquiry and organization for the first part of the assignment – general analysis.

- What is the purpose of the journal and do the articles match the stated purpose? If there is a difference – discuss whether this indicates a separate purpose.
- What types of articles does this journal publish and what methods are generally employed?
- What type of writer is generally published in this journal?
- What type of people serve on the editorial board?

ANALYSIS - AN ARTICLE

- Examine one specific article from the journal. What question or problem does the author of the article address?
- What is the article's title and thesis?
- What research methodology is used in the article?

- Where (if at all) does the article fit within Global Studies in your opinion?
- What assumptions (about the subject, culture, reader, etc.) does the author make?
- Are there problems or contradictions?
- What is the article's main conclusion and is it backed up by the research?

CONCLUSION

Lastly, explain what you believe it takes to be published in this journal. Consider the questions above in relation to what appears in the journal. What types of writing does it value or publish? Who is the audience? What are the publication guidelines? How do your conclusions regarding publication in this journal relate to the conclusions drawn from the above analysis?

Look over your answers to the questions above. What patterns emerge? What does this publication as a whole suggest about the Global Studies? What would it take for you to join in that conversation?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- 4-6 pages
- Typed, normal font, normal margins, double spaced

Problem Paper

- This paper should be three to four pages, maximum, double spaced, 12 point font, with page numbers at the bottom of each page, starting at least by page two.
- Choose a monograph or Ph.D. thesis related to your research interest.
- In your paper, you should identify the problem(s) it grapples with, identify its discipline and/or subdiscipline and summarize its argument.
- Apply some of the guiding questions listed at the beginning of the syllabus and assess how this analysis would benefit from a global studies approach.
- Conclude by suggesting a particular global studies framework and/or methodology to analyze this topic or research.

Research Proposal

This paper should take the form of a research proposal rather than an actual research paper that analyzes your finding. The purpose of this assignment is to ready you for your research and to practice the format of thesis prospectus and grant proposals. This paper should be seven to nine pages, maximum, double spaced, 12 point font, with page numbers at the bottom of each page, starting at least by page two.

The framework of the assignment contains the following:

1. A title that evokes the conceptual, geographical, and temporal scope of your project
2. The identification of the conceptual problem or question that your paper will grapple with. Be sure to state the merit of studying this issue.

3. A review of the existing secondary literature that sets up your project by identifying the strengths you wish to build on and the limitations that motivate your research.
4. A discussion of your primary source base that explains why these sources and how they relate to the problem you have identified.
5. An explanation of the methods you will use to build an argument from your sources. This includes any theoretical or interdisciplinary approaches that will figure largely in your research paper.
6. A work plan. You should plot out when you will consult your primary sources, read secondary sources, create an outline, and write up your findings.

You should write your paper in cohesive essay form, rather than as a series of numbered sections. The exception to this rule is #6 – this information may be provided in calendrical form.

Discussion Forums

You will be required to post once a week a reflection on the readings. These are due by 5pm on the day of class – Monday. Please keep your posts between 200-300 words. You will also be expected to respond to two of your classmates' posts to help inspire conversation. Replies are expected to be around 100 words.

What is Global Studies?

Further Reading about Global Studies:

Academic Network: Global Studies Consortium

<https://globalstudiesconsortium.org/>

Journals

Global-e – created by U of Illinois, U of Wisconsin, and U of North Carolina, Global-e is now maintained by University of California at Santa Barbara.

<https://www.21global.ucsb.edu/global-e/december-2019/uc-press-launches-global-perspectives>

Glocalism: a journal for a globalized world

http://www.glocalismjournal.net/issues/hybridity/editorial/editorial_on_hybridity.kl

Global Perspectives – newly launched in 2020.

<https://online.ucpress.edu/gp>

Encyclopedia of global studies @

International and Area Studies Library

https://vufind.carli.illinois.edu/vf-uiu/Record/uiu_6965122

Oxford Handbook of Global Studies

https://vufind.carli.illinois.edu/vf-uiu/Record/uiu_8925652

Schedule – Please refer to course Canvas Site for definitive schedule as some readings may change and be updated over time.

Week 1 Introduction to Global Studies

Concepts:

- nation state
- world system (core, periphery, semi-periphery)
- universalism
- scales
- international vs. global vs. transnational vs. translocal
- area studies
- globalist

Required Readings:

1. Cooper, Frederick. 2001. “What is the concept of globalization good for? An African Historian’s Perspective.” *African Affairs*. 100: 189-213.
2. Steger, Manfred. 2019. “What is Global Studies.” *Handbook of Global Studies*. Oxford.
3. Jones, Andrew. 2010. “Introduction: Thinking About Globalization.” In: *Globalization: Key Thinkers*. Polity Press. 1-18.

Background and Optional Readings:

1. Nussbaum, Martha (1993) Social Justice and Universalism: In Defense of an Aristotelian Account of Human Functioning. *Modern Philology*, 46-73.
2. Enders, Jurgen (2004) Higher Education, Internationalization, and the Nation-State: Recent Developments and Challenges to Governance Theory. *Higher Education*, 47(3): 361-382.

Week 2 Methods for Global Studies Research and Library Week

Concepts:

comparisons (cross-national vs. relational)
global epistemology
multi-sited research
historical research methods

content and visual analysis
international statistical databases
methodological nationalism
Abyssal Thinking

Required Readings:

1. Amelina, Anna, Nergiz, Devrimsel D., Faist, Thomas, and Nina Glick Schiller, eds. (2012) "Methodological predicaments of cross-border studies." *Beyond Methodological Nationalism: Research Methodologies for Cross-Border Studies*. Routledge. Chs TBA
2. Collyer, Fran. (2018). "Global patterns in the publishing of academic knowledge: Global North, global South." *Sociology and Social Policy* 66(1).
3. Bamyeh, Mohammed (2019). "Global Epistemology." In *Oxford Handbook of Global Studies*.
4. De Sousa Santos, B. (2007). Beyond Abyssal Thinking: From Global Lines to Ecologies of Knowledges. *Review (Fernand Braudel Center)*, 30(1), 45-89. Retrieved January 18, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40241677>

Background and Optional Readings:

1. Appadurai, Arjun. (2000). "Grassroots Globalization and the Research Imagination." *Public Culture* 12(1).
2. Baber, Zaheer. (2003). "Provincial Universalism: the landscape of knowledge in an era of globalization." *Current Sociology*. 51(6).
3. Castells, Manuel. (2007). "Communication, Power and Counter-power in the network society." *International Journal of Communication*.

Week 3 Globalization in historical perspective: what is new, what isn't?

Concepts:

- modernity/modernization, postmodernity
- globalization vs. development
- colonialism
- imperialism
- neoliberalism
- free trade
- protectionism
- flexible accumulation
- scapes
- commodity, supply and/or value chains
- supranational organizations and key treaties
- de-centering Europe

Required Readings:

1. Middell, M. (2019). Introduction: European Perspectives in Global History? Recent Development in Practicing Global History across the European Continent. In *The Practice of Global History: European Perspectives* (1st ed., p. 27). London: Bloomsbury.
2. Sachsenmaier, Dominic. (2019). "Global History" in *Oxford Handbook of Global Studies*.
3. Said, Edward." 1995. (1987). "Orientalism." Bill Aschcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin (Eds.) *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*. London: Routledge. 87-91.

Background and Optional Readings:

1. McMichael, Philip. 1996. "Globalization: Myths and realities." *Rural Sociology*. 61(1):25-55.
2. Loomba, Ania. 2005. *Colonialism, Postcolonialism*. "Defining the Terms." Routledge. 7-22.
3. Spring, J. (2008). Research on globalization and education. *Review of Educational Research*, 78(2), 330-363.

Week 4

Finance and Trade from transnational perspectives

Concepts:

finance capital/financialization
privatization/land grabs
global public goods

Required Readings:

1. Kaul, Inge. 2012. "Global Public Goods: Explaining their Underprovision." *Journal of International Economic Law*. 15(3): 729–750.
2. Kobrin, S. J. (2020). How globalization became a thing that goes bump in the night. *Journal of International Business Policy*, 3, 280-286. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1057/s42214-020-00060-y>
3. Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities. (2021). Economic Impact. In *How COVID-19 is changing the world: A statistical perspective Volume III*. Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities.

Background and Optional Readings:

1. De Schutter, O. (2011). The Green Rush: The Global Race for Farmland and the Rights of Land Users. *Harvard International Law Journal*, 52, 504-559.

Week 5

Migration

Concepts:

transnationalism/transmigration

Required Readings:

1. Suhardiman, D., Rigg, J., Bandur, M., Marschke, M., Miller, M. A., Pheuangsavanh, N., . . . Taylor, D. (2021). On the Coattails of globalization: Migration, migrants and COVID-19 in Asia. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 47(1), 88-109. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2020.1844561>.
2. Richards, Eric. 2018. "The Migration Mystery." *The Genesis of International Mass Migration: the British case, 1750-1900*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
3. PAUL, A.M. and YEOH, B.S.A. (2021), Studying multinational migrations, speaking back to migration theory. *Global Networks*, 21: 3-17. <https://doi.org/10.1111/glob.12282>

Week 6 Global and local spaces and scapes: Global Environmental Problems

Concepts:

Global Cities

Scapes

De and re-territorialization

Scales

Required Readings:

1. Hamilton (2018) in *The Oxford handbook of global studies*. Oxford University Press.
2. Sassen, S. (1995). The State and the global city: Notes towards a conception of place-centered governance. *Competition & Change*, 1(1), 31-50.
3. Kumar, A., Singh, P., Raizada, P., & Hussain, C. M. (2022). Impact of COVID-19 on greenhouse gases emissions: A critical review. *Science of The Total Environment*, 806, 150349.

Further:

Miraftab, F. (2014). Displacement: Framing the global relationally. Framing the global: Entry points for the search, 37-50.

Appadurai, A. (1990). Disjuncture and difference in the global cultural economy. *Theory, culture & society*, 7(2-3), 295-310.

Week 7 Global and local spaces and scapes: Global Health Problems

Required Readings:

Lal, A., Erondy, N. A., Heymann, D. L., Gitahi, G., & Yates, R. (2021). Fragmented health systems in COVID-19: rectifying the misalignment between global health security and universal health coverage. *The Lancet*, 397(10268), 61-67.

Health, T. L. G. (2021). Global health 2021: who tells the story?. *The Lancet. Global health*, 9(2), e99.

Atte, F. (2020). The moral challenges of health care providers brain drain phenomenon. *Clinical Ethics*, 1477750920946614.

Haffeld, J. B., Siem, H., & Röttingen, J. A. (2010). Examining the global health arena: strengths and weaknesses of a convention approach to global health challenges. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 38(3), 614-628.

Further:

Tseng, P. C. (2020). Framing the Material Global: The Grounded Politics of HIV Testing Scale-Up. *New Global Studies*, 14(3), 353-371.

Bhui, K. S., & Kapilashrami, A. (2020). A Global COVID-19 Pandemic Needs an Integrated Global Response. *World Social Psychiatry*, 2(2), 84-87.

Week 8 Cultures, Identities, Citizenship

Concepts:

Cosmopolitanism

Citizenship

Multiculturalism

Imagined communities

Global consciousness

Globality

Required Readings:

Sadiq, K. (2017). Postcolonial citizenship. In *The Oxford handbook of citizenship*.

Tan, K. C. (2017). Cosmopolitan citizenship. *The Oxford Handbook of Citizenship*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 694-714.

Kahn, H. E., & Gille, Z. (2020). Un-framing and re-framing the global: An introduction. *New Global Studies*, 14(3), 221-236.

Further:

Surak, K. (2021). Millionaire mobility and the sale of citizenship. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 47(1), 166-189.

Abizadeh, A. (2008). Democratic theory and border coercion: no right to unilaterally control your own borders. *Political theory*, 36(1), 37-65.