BBL 7113 – Cultural Studies Research
Cultures of Globalization

Note: This Syllabus is provided for informational purposes regarding the anticipated course content and schedule of this course. It is based upon the most recent information available on the date of its issuance and is as accurate and complete as possible. We reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary and/or appropriate. We will make our best efforts to communicate any changes in the syllabus in a timely manner. Students are responsible for being aware of these changes.

Course Description:
3 hours of credit.
This doctoral seminar will serve as an advanced introduction to contemporary social science theories of globalization. Drawing upon the fields of cultural studies, anthropology, geography, and sociology, it will investigate modern developments in: nation-state boundaries; migration; identity issues; children and families; contexts for language and literacy; and the implications of these in educational settings. Particular attention will be paid to hegemonic issues related to race, class, and gender in the global arena. This investigation, therefore, will lead us to examine different entities “caught up” in globalizing trends, such as: governments, businesses, economic migrants, global workers, protestors, the media/entertainment industry, students, and families.

Required Texts (5):


Course Readings on WebCT.

Course Objectives:
This course has two sets of objectives. The first set deals with the general learning objectives
a graduate student is expected to demonstrate at UTSA, while the second set is specific to your intellectual and conceptual development in the area of globalization studies.

**General Learning Objectives:**
1. Learn fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.
2. Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

**Specific Course Learning Goals:**
1. Demonstrate an understanding of diverse interpretations of globalization.
2. Examine the ways in which diverse transnational communities affect and are affected by the economic, political, cultural, and technological dimensions of globalization.
3. Articulate the experiences of diasporic communities and how immigrant identities shift under globalization.
4. Critically examine the “opportunities” and “discontents” presented by globalization, including the maintenance, dismantling, or transformation of hegemonic relationships.
5. Elaborate on the uneven, unintended, and complex relationship of globalization on education and education systems.
6. Describe how globalization influences or affects your particular field/area of research.

**Course Requirements:**

**25% Readings/Participation**
Your grade in this area is based on your in-class participation as well as your “cyber” participation in discussion board assignments. These include the weekly posting of one quote from our reading with a short response to this quote AS WELL AS a response on your part to a classmate’s post. *You must post a response by Saturday night midnight so that others can respond sometime the following two days.* Please come prepared to class, having completed all weekly reading assignments. In addition, class sessions will include short lectures, partner or small-group conversations, and whole-class discussions based in part on the readings. It is important to not only have good oral participation in class, but also to not dominate discussions but rather demonstrate active listening skills toward others. Please email me ahead of time if you will not be able to attend a particular class session.

**35% Class Facilitation**
Each student will be required to facilitate half a class session on one of the themes covered in this seminar. This will include developing discussion questions and activities and a short presentation on an issue related to that week’s readings. These facilitations can occur in pairs or individually, depending on our class composition.

**40% Seminar Paper or Project**
Your seminar paper or project should relate to the course themes and materials, and chosen from one of the following five options. (These are designed to further the work of students at various points in their academic trajectories). Here are the OPTIONS:
a) Write a seminar paper (15-17 pages) in which you discuss the implications, contributions, and limitations that selected course readings (a minimum of 3) suggest for work you have done or are currently doing in your own current or projected research.

b) Drawing on several of the assigned course readings, write a proposal (12-15 pages) and develop an initial bibliography for an empirical project you would like to pursue which is connected in some way to the themes in this course. Describe the central issue(s) you will pose, the leading theoretical perspectives of your question(s), the methods you will employ, and your rationale and motives for undertaking this research.

c) Drawing on assigned readings from the seminar, compose 4 questions for a Ph.D. qualifying examination in the area of cultural studies (as it relates to issues of globalization). Answer two of your questions in essays of 8-10 pages each.

d) If you are already working on a pertinent paper or project (e.g. an M.A. or Ph.D. thesis), develop it further, drawing on readings and ideas from the course.

PLEASE EMAIL ME TO SPECIFY THE OPTION YOU WILL FOLLOW AND THE THEME(S) YOU WILL PURSUE.

Students will email a draft of the paper. One of your peers and I will comment on the draft and return the paper and comments to you the following week.

Grading System
A = 90-100    B = 80-89    C = 70-79    D = 60-69    F = below 60

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Reading Assignments
Students are expected to prepare for classroom discussions and activities by completing assigned readings PRIOR to coming to class. Such preparation will help them understand the content matter more effectively and prepare them for in-class discussions, activities, and assignments. Therefore, if a student does not read the required readings, s/he will not be able to participate in class and points will be deducted from the final grade for repeated lack of preparedness.

Attendance
Attendance of scheduled classes are essential for the completion of this course. Activities designed for class participation cannot be replicated apart from class sessions. Attendance will be checked at the beginning of each class period. In order to be considered present for the class, the student must arrive on time and remain for the entire class period. Absences should be limited allowed in this course; excused ones include those due to official university business, a conflict with the practice or celebration of a student’s religion, or extreme emergencies. Upon the third unexcused absence of a student, the student will be asked to drop the course. If the drop period has expired, the student will receive a reduction in the final grade by one letter grade. Each additional absence will result in a subsequent reduction of the final grade by an additional letter grade. Tardiness will be considered as absences by
the total minutes missed in each class period. Each 30 minutes of class time that are missed due to tardiness will be equivalent to one unexcused absence. The university professor will then apply the consequences for absences explained above.

**Quality of Assigned Work**
A standard of written English appropriate for doctoral level students will be expected. All written work submitted must be of professional quality, neatly presented, grammatically correct, and free of spelling and punctuation errors. All written assignments should be prepared on a computer with appropriate word processing software. Facilities are available on both campuses for this purpose. To improve readability of assignments, standard print styles should be used (e.g. Times New Roman, Arial, Times, New York). **Font size must be 12 point.** Title pages, including your name, course, assignment topic, and date are required for ALL written assignments. Pages should be stapled together and numbered. **Full credit cannot be earned for work that does not meet these professional standards.**

**Submission of Assignments**
Assignments must be submitted on or before the specified due date. No late work will be accepted unless delay is unavoidable and the student has discussed the situation with the instructor **PRIOR** to the due date. (Legitimate printing problems do not apply.) If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, you should make arrangements to submit the assignment. Assignments must be complete upon submission. No incomplete assignments will be accepted. No resubmission will be allowed unless the professor requests the student to do so.