Course Description: The term “Globalization” was hardly used as recently as the 1970s or 1980s – and yet it has become one of the most popular or ubiquitous terms since that time. This introductory course examines the discourse of Globalization and analyzes some of the most prominent ways in which that term has been used as a way of understanding the social, economic, political and cultural phenomena that are often coalesced under that term. Since the word is used in widely different ways by a variety of scholars and commentators, reading a representative and influential sample of such works might be a useful way of gaining some understanding of the term.

At an everyday level, Globalization refers to a perceived acceleration in the quantity and intensity of economic, cultural, and social interactions between the different nations and regions of the world. This acceleration is seen as having been enabled by technology, specifically the personal computer, the Internet, mobile phones, containerization, and the rapid increase in air and other forms of travel. The economic liberalization and opening up of giant economies like China (from about 1977), Russia and the former communist East bloc (after 1991) and India (post-1991), and their dismantling of protectionist barriers to international trade and foreign investment is a critical component of globalization discourse. To put it in a commonly used phrase, the world is seen as having undergone an intense time-space compression in the post-1980 period and Globalization is a term used to characterize this.

In this introductory course, we will in turn look at the economic, political, social and cultural meanings of Globalization. While these meanings are obviously deeply integrated and hard to separate out analytically, it will be helpful to try and do so as otherwise the term seems to be too vast and complex to capture at any depth or understanding. We will begin with some of the seminal works that constitute some of the unstated assumptions that underlie popular understandings of Globalization before we turn out attention to more contemporary central texts and critical essays that have sought to describe the phenomenon in its various forms.

Course Expectations: Students are expected to come to class having done the readings assigned for that day, and prepared to discuss the material with their colleagues. As per Yonsei University rules, attendance will be taken every class, and those students who are absent for more than a third of the course will automatically receive an F. There will be 3 quarterly examinations, scheduled for July 14th, July 24th, and August 7th. These will comprise multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay-length questions. They are non-cumulative in the sense that each Quarterly test will be only on materials covered in the prior meetings. Together they will account for 90% of your final grade and the remaining 10% of the grade will be based on your attendance and class participation.

Course Readings: The course will be structured around a reading package available for purchase at the Copy Center on the Ground Floor of Widang Hall (the College of Liberal Arts building). The readings are arranged on a week-by-week basis: please consult this syllabus to make sure you know what the assigned reading for the next class is and be
prepared for the same. I emphasize the importance of doing the readings prior to the class meetings.

**Grading Policy:** I define an “A” as representing excellent work, combining mastery over the materials with originality and clarity in your exams, and engaged, constructive class-participation. “B” is good and competent, but not exceptional, work both on the exams and in the classroom. “C” is average work, showing a reasonable amount of effort and understanding. “D” is poor and barely adequate, and “F” is unacceptably shoddy and inadequate work. The top third of the class can expect to get A’s while the next third will get B’s. The bottom third of the class will mostly get C’s and a sprinkling of D’s and F’s. A six-week course with full college credit is, by necessity, densely packed and highly demanding. I urge you to stay abreast of the readings and participate fully from the beginning. There simply is not enough time in such a short course to fall behind and then hope to catch up or recover lost ground through a frantic last-minute burst of work.

Instructor Profile: See [http://www.politicalscience.hawaii.edu/4-faculty/krishna.html](http://www.politicalscience.hawaii.edu/4-faculty/krishna.html) for more information.

**Class Schedule:**

**Week One**

**July 1:** Introduction to the course; readings; expectations; grading; self-introduction by participants.

**July 2:** Approaches to understanding the world in political and economic terms: the theoretical precursors of Globalization.


**July 3:** How does the world look if you are from a rich country or a poor one? A common sense approach to understanding the world’s political economy.

**Read:** V. Spike Peterson, “How is the world organized economically?” from Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss (eds.), *Global Politics: A New Introduction*.

**Week Two**

**July 7:** The foundational texts of contemporary Globalization. We will read excerpts from Adam Smith and Karl Marx-Friedrich Engels, and a recent essay on the political economy of globalization.

**Read:** Adam Smith, excerpts from “An Inquiry into the Wealth of Nations” (1776).

**July 8:** A very influential contemporary work based on a very (selective) Smithian understanding of the world.

**Read:** excerpts from Thomas Friedman, “The Lexus and the Olive Tree.”
July 9: One of the most influential political tracts ever written – and a completely different take on Globalization in comparison with Smith.


July 10: One of the most important factors in the bifurcation of the world into a developed west and an impoverished east was colonialism. What is colonialism and how does it work?


Week Three

July 14: First Quarterly Exam (in class) today.

July 15 and 16: A classic from the mid-20th century – a work that contextualizes the emergence of Market society and examines the ethical precedents and consequences of thinking about our world using the market metaphor:


July 17: Critiques of the contemporary globalization discourse that draw, in part, on the ideas of Polanyi.


Week Four

July 21: Watch Kevin Bales’ documentary on *Global Slavery* and discuss in relation to Polanyi’s work.

July 22: What are some of the basic assumptions of Globalization when it comes to economic growth and poverty? What are the implicit models sustaining them?

Read: C.K. Prahalad, “The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid,”

July 23: In the same vein, Read: Goldman Sachs, ‘Dreaming with BRICS.”

July 24: Second Quarterly Exam (in class) today.

Week Five

July 28: Critiques of these models and their assumptions.

July 29: Continuing the critique of consumption-based definitions of globalization, growth and poverty:

Read: Amit Bhaduri, “Predatory Growth” and Ananya Roy, “Risk Capital.”

July 30: An alternative history of capitalism and globalization.

Read: Chang, Ha Joon, Bad Samaritans.

July 31: Watch video documentary: Naomi Klein’s Shock Doctrine.

Week 6:

Aug 4: Discuss Chang Ha Joon, Bad Samaritans alongside Naomi Klein’s Documentary.

Aug 5 and 6: An alternative history of the emergence of the contemporary global order


August 7: Third and final quarterly exam.