

Victims of Progress: Grassroots Responses to Globalization Anthropology 205

MWF 11-11:50

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Globalization often invokes images of Coca-Cola and Wal-Mart and fear of increasing global sameness. Proponents celebrate free trade, affordable goods, and the luxury of eating foods both out of place and out of season, while detractors cite such broad concerns as environmental destruction, human rights abuses, and loss of cultural heritage. The popular rhetoric of globalization portrays governments and corporations as its primary agents, while individuals are depicted as passive victims, and of these, communities in the so-called developing world are often assumed to be its most silently subjugated. But grassroots campaigns against globalizing efforts have been gaining momentum throughout the world. We will begin by exploring political and economic motivations behind globalization as well as thoughtful criticism from both within and outside the movement. From there we will turn our attention to detailed ethnographies and case studies focusing on the environmental face of globalization, women-centered strategies for remedying some of the blows globalization has dealt, and even the globalization of religion. We will carefully weigh the merits and costs of globalization by grappling with readings on policy, theory, and ethnography, while considering our own place in the globalized scheme.

Required Texts:

The Globalization Reader, Frank Lechner & John Boli

Trouble in Paradise: Globalization and Environmental Crises in Latin America, J. Timmons Roberts

Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection, Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing

Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply, Vandana Shiva

Plenty: One Man, One Woman, and a Raucous Year of Eating Locally, Alisa Smith & J.B. MacKinnon

Assignments:

Daily:

- **Q&A:** Come to each having completed the day's reading and responded to the day's question on Moodle. This will be the starting point for our seminar discussion. Late responses will not be accepted. You may skip 3 question responses during the semester.

Weekly:

- **Trendspotting:** Choose a country, region, or aspect of globalization and watch the action unfold. Keep a log of the goings-on with your topic that is emailed weekly. You may skip 1 entry, for a total of 10 log submissions.

Midterm:

- **Harper's Index™**: create a statistical index about your topic as it relates to globalization, in the spirit of the original: <http://www.harpers.org/subjects/HarpersIndex>

Final:

- **Term Paper:** 7-10 page paper using your trendspotting data, the sources from your Harper's Index™, and at least 3 sources from *The Globalization Reader* not used in class.

Grade Breakdown

Participation	20%
Moodle Responses	20%
Trendspotting Log	10%
Harper's Index™	25%
Term Paper	25%

Philosophy and Expectations:

Throughout this course we will grapple with globalization not as an abstract and faraway concept or occurrence but as a set of policies, decisions, and ideologies that have day-to-day impact on the lives we lead. The position guiding this course is not that we are hapless victims or opportune recipients of the effects of globalization, but that the choices we make determine our own place as agents for or against globalization. (And of course our positions can shift depending on the aspect of globalization we are considering or additional knowledge we glean.) Consistent with this philosophy, daily participation is expected of everyone. You will be expected to be present and punctual. Arriving to class late 3 times will be counted as the equivalent of one absence. Missing more than 3 class meetings will adversely affect your overall grade. Our class is a seminar in which everybody's voice is equally important. You will be expected to respect each others' insights and questions and to learn from each other. This class is a Safe Zone. That means that we will make every effort to create an intellectual climate in which everyone feels safe regardless of political, cultural, ideological, or personal differences. But we will not shy from grappling with difficult and inflammatory concepts where they might advance our understanding of the course materials. If you anticipate having trouble meeting these expectations you should speak with me immediately.

Trendspotting:

This weekly exercise will allow you to get a sense of how a region or issue develops and unfolds over the span of several months, what the stakes are, and who the players may be. For example, attention to global news on Peru over two months in 2007 revealed a fascinating link between rising copper prices and the U.S. government "fast-tracking" a free trade agreement with Peru. On the other side of the world, Australia griped about Peruvian tangelos suddenly nudging the Australian citrus fruit off U.S. supermarket shelves. All these pieces are connected.

1. Choose a region or theme that's interesting enough to track for a few months. If it's a concept and not a place, you should be confident that it is (a) relevant to globalization and (b) active enough as a news issue to generate weekly updates.
2. Set up your news feed by following the instructions in the box below.
3. Record your findings on the trendspotting log. Your complete log will be submitted via email each Friday and should reflect that week's updates as well as all previous entries. These sources will later be cited in your Harper's Index™.

Have stories emailed to you by selecting **news updates** on
<http://news.google.com/nwshp?tab=wn>.

or

Receive real time news updates on your google homepage:

Go to: **www.google.com/ig**

Select: **add stuff**

Select: **news** from left column

Add: **Google news customized**

Go to: homepage and enter a topic (e.g. **biofuel**)

Click: ▼ in the news box to edit your search options. Show at least 5 stories.

Suggestions:

Coffee/Starbucks

Organs/Tissue

Bananas

Chocolate

iPod

McDonalds

Nike

WTO

Zapatistas

Whole Foods

Microsoft

Course Schedule*

Wk.		Monday		Wednesday		Friday
1	1/7		1/9	Course Introduction	1/11	Bring Trend to Spot <i>GR: General Intro, Intro</i>
2	1/14	<i>GR: Ch. 2</i>	1/16	<i>GR: Ch. 4</i>	1/18	<i>GR: Ch. 6</i> Email Trendspotting Log
3	1/21	MLK Holiday	1/23	<i>GR: Ch. 24</i>	1/25	<i>GR: Ch. 49</i> Email Trendspotting Log
4	1/28	<i>F: 1-18</i>	1/30	<i>F: 19-50</i>	2/1	<i>F: 51-77</i> Email Trendspotting Log
5	2/4	<i>F: 81-112</i>	2/6	<i>F: 113-154</i>	2/8	<i>F: 155-202</i> Email Trendspotting Log
6	2/11	<i>F: 205-238</i>	2/13	<i>F: 239-272</i>	2/15	<i>GR: Ch. 31 Happy V-Day!</i> Email Trendspotting Log
7	2/18	<i>TP: Ch. 1</i>	2/20	<i>TP: Ch. 2</i>	2/22	<i>TP: Ch. 3</i> Email Trendspotting Log
8	2/25	<i>TP: Ch. 5</i>	2/27	<i>TP: Ch. 6</i>	2/29	<i>TP: Ch. 7</i> Email Trendspotting Log
9	Spring Break 3/1 – 3/9					
10	3/10	<i>GR: Ch. 41</i>	3/12	<i>GR: Ch. 42</i>	3/14	<i>GR: Ch. 46</i> Email Trendspotting Log
11	3/17	<i>GR: Ch. 47</i>	3/19	<i>GR: Ch. 48</i>	3/21	Easter Break
12	3/24	Harper's Index™ Due Poster Presentation	3/26	Poster Presentation	3/28	<i>SH: Intro, Ch. 1</i> Email Trendspotting Log
13	3/31	<i>SH: Ch. 2</i>	4/2	<i>SH: Ch. 3</i>	4/4	<i>SH: Ch. 4</i> Email Trendspotting Log
14	4/7	<i>SH: Ch. 5</i>	4/9	<i>SH: Ch. 6</i>	4/11	<i>SH: Ch. 7</i> Email Trendspotting Log
15	4/14	<i>P: March, April (1-40)</i> Term Papers Due	4/16	<i>P: May, June (41-84)</i>	4/18	<i>P: July, August (87-126)</i>
16	4/21	<i>P: Sept, Oct (129-171)</i>	4/23	<i>P: Nov, Dec (173-210)</i>	4/25	<i>P: Jan, Feb (213-262)</i>

* Please be sure to respond to the question on Moodle before each class meeting. Late submissions will not be accepted.

GR: The Globalization Reader

TP: Trouble in Paradise: Globalization and Environmental Crises in Latin America

F: Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection

SH: Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply

P: Plenty: One Man, One Woman, and a Raucous Year of Eating Locally

