

University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras Campus
College of Humanities
Department of English
Undergraduate Program

2018/2019 Academic Year (Semester I: August – December 2018)

Title: Literature and Contemporary Issues of Globalization and Power

Code: ENGL 4046

Hours/Credits: 45 hours/3 credits

Pre-Requisite: NONE

Professor: Dannabang Kuwabong, PhD

Office: Edificio Pedreira, Sotano #6A

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 2:30 PM – 3:50 PM.

Course Description:

An interdisciplinary course that examines essays, short stories, novels, plays, poems and documentaries, drama, films that address—from a variety of perspectives—contemporary issues in globalization, power and development.

Objectives:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- 1) Explain fundamental aspects of a variety of literary genres that address globalization and its cultural impact
- 2) Describe the history and current trends in globalization as depicted through the literature and theory
- 3) Recognize and employ argumentative strategies from a number of genres that illustrate history and cultural manifestations of globalization
- 4) Identify basic literary devices and terms as well as globalization theories in classroom discussions and presentations, as well as written reports and papers.
- 5) Formulate critical arguments on the materials and themes covered to support extended discussions.
- 6) Demonstrate understanding and an ability to utilize research sources in the fields covered, which would include bibliographic research sources, electronic data bases and web-based research sources
- 7) Provide a cross-disciplinary exercise in reading and writing about global issues in literature
- 8) Write critical essays that engage with the theoretical and literary debates in world literatures

Schedule:

Week One (August 21 & 23, 2018): Introduction to course and key concepts of globalization and political (dis)empowerment.

Week Two (August 28 & 30, 2018): **Economics and politics of globalization**, Naomi Klein, *No Logo Brands, Globalization and Resistance* Documentary; Lecture by Thomas Friedman on *The World is Flat* (a lecture given at Yale University, April 29, 2009) YouTube.

Week Three (September 4 & 6, 2018): **Joseph Stiglitz and Kenneth Rogoff discuss** *Globalization and Its Discontents* (June 28, 2002) and *Free Trade, Flaws of a Market Economy, International Monetary Fund*: Joseph Stiglitz (2006) *Globalization is Good: A Documentary* by Johan Norberg. YouTube

Week Four (September 11 & 13, 2018): **Globalization, Social Theory, and Global Culture**: Excerpts from *Literature and Globalization*, Edited by Liam Connell and Nicky Marsh. (David Harvey "Time-Space Compression and the Postmodern Condition" ; Arjun Appandurai "Disjuncture and Difference" 28-36; J. K. Gibson-Graham, "Queering Globalization," 37-48; Anna Tsing "The Global Situation," 49-60; George Yúdice, "Free Trade and Culture," 68-73; Simon Gikandi, "Globalization and the Claims of Postcoloniality," 109-120; Jacques Derrida, "Globalization, Peace, and Cosmopolitanism," 121-131). Excerpts from *National Culture and the New Global System* by Frederick Buell; *Globalization and Culture* by John Tomlinson.

Week Five (September 18 & 20, 2018): **Global interventions and mal-development migrations**: The IMF, World Bank and the underdevelopment of Caribbean and African nations. *Bamako* (English) by Abderrahmane Sissako (Mali), 2006. **Globalization, the IMF, World Bank, Free Trade, Tourism and Caribbean Economies**: Class discussions on *Life & Debt & Bamako*.

Week Six (September 25th, 2018): **Globalization, the IMF, World Bank, Free Trade, Tourism and Caribbean Economies**: Class discussions on *Life & Debt and Bamako*

Week Six (September 27, 2018) First Midterm Exams

Week Seven (October 2nd & 4th, 2018): **Reading and discussing** excerpts from *The Chosen Shore: Stories of Immigrants* edited by Ellen Alexander Conley.

Week Eight (October 9th & 11th, 2018): Globalization, Money Markets, Migration, Labor, Technology and cyber-cultures. Selected readings from *Literature and Globalization*, edited by Liam Connell and Nicky Marsh. (Tim Woods, "Giving and Receiving: Nurudin Farah's Gifts or The Postcolonial Logic of Third World Aid", 202-217; Padmaja Challakere, "Aesthetics of Globalization in Contemporary Fiction: The Function of the Berlin Wall," 218-230; Rita Raley, "eEmpires", 231-243; Bruce Robbins, "The Sweat Shop Sublime", 267-281; Sue-Im Lee, "'We are not the World': Global Village, Universalism, And Karen Tei Yamashita's Tropic of Orange," 315-331).

Week Nine (October 16th & 18th, 2018): Globalization, Deterritorialization, Migrations, Disposable Bodies, and Borderlands: Movie: *Dirty Pretty Things*

Week Ten (October 16th & 18th, 2018): Don Delillo, *Cosmopolis*.

Week Eleven (October 23, 2018): *Cosmopolis*

Week Eleven & Twelve (October 25 & 30, 2018): Viewing & Discussing of *EndGame: Blue Print for Global Enslavement*.

Week Twelve (November 1, 2018): Exam II

Week Thirteen (November 6th & 8th, 2018): Group Seminar Workshops: Globalization, Cultural Leveling and Refashioning: Zadie Smith's novel, *White Teeth*, Globalization and Immigration. Dionne Brand. *What We All Long For*; David Edgecombe. *Kirnon's Kingdom*.

Week Fourteen (November 13th and 15th, 2018): Group Seminar Workshops: Globalization, Cultural Leveling and Refashioning: Zadie Smith's novel, *White Teeth*, *The Circle*, by Dave Eggers Globalization and Immigration. Dionne Brand. *What We All Long For*; David Edgecombe. *Kirnon's Kingdom*

Week Fourteen (November 20th, 2015): Group Seminars Presentations: Globalization and Immigration. Dionne Brand. *What We All Long For*. Globalization, Cultural Leveling and Refashioning: Zadie Smith's novel, *White Teeth*; David Edgecombe. *Kirnon's Kingdom*.

Week Fifteen (November 27th & 29th, 2018): Presentations

Week Sixteen (December 4th & 6th, 2018): Presentations

Teaching Strategies:

Lectures, guided discussions, work groups, oral presentations. **Also 11.25 hours of the course will be taught through one of the following modalities: PBWORKS or GOOGLE GROUPS, OR MOODLE, Documentaries, YouTube, movies.**

Evaluation Factors:

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| - | 2 essay tests | 60% |
| - | 1 group presentation on a literary text | 30% |
| - | Attendance and participation | 10% |

A differential evaluation system is available for students with special needs

Grade system: A, B, C, D, F

Those students who receive services from Vocational Rehabilitation should communicate with the professor at the beginning of the semester to plan the reasonable accommodation and the necessary equipment according to the recommendations of the Ofician de Asuntos par alas Personas con Impedimentos (OAPI) of the Office of the Dean of Students. In addition, those students with special needs that require some type of assistance or accommodation should communicate with the professor.

Required Texts:

Brand, Dionne. *What We All Long For*.

Smith, Zadie. *White Teeth*

Edgecombe, David. *Kirnon's Kingdom*.

Delillo, Don. *Cosmopolis*.

Conley, Ellen Alexander, editor. *The Chosen Shore: Stories of Immigrants*.

Excerpts from:

Buell, Frederick. *National Culture and the New Global System*.

Tomlinson, John. *Globalization and Culture*.

Connell, Liam and Nicky Marsh, editors. *Literature and Globalization. A Reader*.

Gupta, Suman. *Globalization and Literature*.

Documentaries/Videos/On-Line Lectures:

Klein, Naomi. *No Logo Brands, Globalization and Resistance*.

Friedman, Thomas. *The World is Flat*.

Rogoff Kenneth. *Globalization and Its Discontents*

Sitglitz, Joseph. *Free Trade, Flaws of a Market Economy, International Monetary Fund*.

Norberg, Johan. *Globalization is Good: A Documentary*.

Dirty Pretty Things (movie) directed by Stephen Frears, Screenplay by Steven Knight.

Bamako (Docudrama, English) directed by Abderrahmane Sissako.

Life & Debt, directed by Stephanie Black, written and narrated by Jamaica Kincaid.

EndGame: Blue Print for Global Enslavement directed by Alex Jones.

