



**Integrative Studies 231b,  
Capitalism and Globalization**

**Fall 2013, Michigan State  
University**

**Prof. Christian Lotz**

**Tentative Schedule (last UPDATE: November 19, 2013)**

NUMBER	DATE	TOPIC	READING	MEDIA	SUMMARY	ASSIGNMENTS
<b>Introduction: Capitalism and Global Problems</b>						
1	Aug 28	Introduction	Introduction			
2	Sep 2	holiday	holiday			
3	Sep 4	Money+Consumer	Robbins, The Cuture of Capitalism, chapter 1			
4	Sep 9	Laborer	Robbins, The Cuture of Capitalism, chapter 2	Documentary, China Blue		Film assignment
5	Sep 11	Nation-State, Militarism	Robbins, The Cuture of Capitalism, chapter 4			
6	Sep 16	Population Growth	Robbins, The Cuture of Capitalism, chapter 5			
7	Sep 18	Film (TA)	Robbins, The Cuture of Capitalism, chapter 6	Documentary, Why we fight (TA)		Film assignment
8	Sep 23	Hunger and Poverty	Robbins, The Cuture of Capitalism, chapter 6			
9	Sep 25	Environment	Robbins, The Cuture of Capitalism, chapter 7			
10	Sep 30	Film	Robbins, The Cuture of Capitalism, chapter 6	Documentary, The End of Poverty		Film assignment
<b>A Marxian Theory of Globalization</b>						
11	Oct 2	Neoliberalism	Smith, Globalisation, chapter 2			
	Oct 7	Q&A with Prof. Smith, 3pm-3:50pm				
12	Oct 7	Neoliberalism	Smith, Globalisation, chapter 2			
13	Oct 9	Film (TA)	Smith, Globalisation, chapter 5, section 1-5 Smith, Globalisation, chapter	Documentary, Let's Make Money (TA)		Film assignment

14	Oct 14	The World Market	5, section 1-5		
15	Oct 16	The World Market	Smith, Globalisation, chapter 5, section 1-5		
16	Oct 21	State and World Market	Smith, Globalisation, chapter 6		
17	Oct 23	Film (TA)	Smith, Globalisation, chapter 6	Documentary, The Big Sellout (TA)	Film assignment
18	Oct 28	Film (TA)	Smith, Globalisation, chapter 6	Documentary, Masters of Money - Marx (TA)	Film assignment
19	Oct 30	State and World Market	Smith, Globalisation, chapter 6		

### Globalization and its Discontents

20	Nov 4	Immigration	Sassen, Globalization and its Discontent, chapter 2+3		
21	Nov 6	Women under fire	Sassen, chapter 6+7		
22	Nov 11	Electronic space and power	Sassen, chapter 9	Benkler, TED talk	
23	Nov 13	Electronic space and power	documents sent out by email	Benkler, Interview	
24	Nov 18	Film	documents sent out by email	Documentary, We are Legion	Film assignment

### Alternatives to Economic Globalization

25	Nov 20	Differing World-Views	Alternatives, chapter 1-3		
26	Nov 25	Democracy and Economy	Alternatives, chapter 4		
27	Nov 27	no class (Thanksgiving)	no class (Thanksgiving)		
28	Dec 2	Commons	Alternatives, chapter 5		
29	Dec 4	Alternatives	Alternatives, chapter 7 or chapter 8		Final assignment
	Dec 12, 3pm				Final assignment due in class between 3 and 5pm

#### Class Meetings:

Days: M+W  
 Time: 3:00 PM - 4:50 PM  
 Place: 146 Giltner Hall

#### Office:

Phone: 517.355.4490 [dept.]  
 Place: 518 S. Kedzie Hall  
 Hours: W: 5:30pm-6pm, TH 4-4:30pm

#### Other Contact:

E-mail: [lotz@msu.edu](mailto:lotz@msu.edu)  
 Home Phone: please ask  
 Webpage: <http://christianlotz.wordpress.com>

#### Box

You will find my box in the front office of the philosophy department (always leave your stuff in an envelope)

**Teaching Assistant:** Alex Neitzke - email: [neitzkea@msu.edu](mailto:neitzkea@msu.edu) appointments by email

## Course Description

In this class, we will critically explore our social environment by critically investigating the nature of capitalism, capitalistic culture, and its global consequences. We will first discuss general problems and issues of a process of globalization driven by capitalism; we will then deal with a fundamental reconstruction of what globalization is from a Marxist point of view. Finally, we will discuss alternatives to globalization. The challenging texts selected for this class will be accompanied by several high quality documentary films that are counted in this class as an art form. Be aware that this class will be challenging, especially if you tend to hold unreflected opinions and beliefs.

## IAH Course Goals

Integrative Studies at MSU seeks to assist students to become more familiar with ways of knowing in the arts and humanities and to be more knowledgeable and capable in a range of intellectual and expressive abilities. IAH courses encourage students to engage critically with their own society, history, and culture(s); they also encourage students to learn more about the history and culture of other societies. They focus on key ideas and issues in human experience; encourage appreciation of the roles of knowledge and values in shaping and understanding human behavior; emphasize the responsibilities and opportunities of democratic citizenship; highlight the value of the creative arts of literature, theater, music, and arts; and alert us to important issues that occur among peoples in an increasingly interconnected, interdependent world.

## Note

Real learning is not properly measured by multiple-choice tests; especially since in the humanities there is no specific content of a sort that may be covered well in standardized examinations, which every student in the humanities should be expected to master. Instead, you will - hopefully - come to recognize that this class is about a general intellectual reflection on what we are and the world we live in. The class deals with your dignity as human beings and with your intellect and reason, which is best expressed in a form of learning that is based on understanding and insight, and not mere learning by heart. It is hoped that the class will stimulate the view that intellectual activity (and therefore human reality) has to do with the passion of thinking, and the passion of understanding our world. Intense confrontation with texts and documentary material is the center of this class.

## Specific Course Goals

This lecture class should students introduce to

- critical analysis of society and our social environment
- globalization as a process of capitalism
- problems that this process produces (poverty, environment, gender, military)
- a theoretical outlook on capitalism and globalization, especially the fundamental role of money

## Required Texts (Bookstore)

- Smith, Globalisation. A Systematic Marxian Account
- Robbins, The Culture of Capitalism
- Sassen, Globalization and its Discontents
- Alternatives to Economic Globalization

## Course Organization

The course will be organized such that, ideally, each class period will include [i] "interactive" lecture, [ii] discussion time or [iii] response time. Students will be asked to intensively prepare a certain text or part of a text for the next class period. There will be assignments in connection with the films.

## Course Requirements

- Daily reading and studying (around 70 pages per week)
- 5 response sheets
- final take-home exam
- short film reaction papers
- reading quizzes

## Note

The class and my lectures are solely based on the texts selected for class and require a thorough study and preparation of the material. I will primarily lecture on the readings, which will help you to more fully understand the texts. Therefore it is not sufficient for students to come to class without having prepared the texts. And indeed, in your papers and in the exam you have to demonstrate whether you have appropriately prepared the readings selected for each lecture.

## **Make-Up Assignments**

I will only accept official doctor notes (no faxes, no emails) or letters from other professors if you want to make up reading quizzes, unannounced class assignments, or the exam.

## **Class Attendance**

I hope and strongly encourage that students attend all lectures. However, I will not require attendance, as I think that college students should manage their own class attendance decisions. Nevertheless, please be aware that you should not make me responsible for a failure that results out of your decision. You should be aware that chances to master this class are minimal, if you do not show up for class or if you do not prepare the readings (=studying).

## **Response Sheets**

Every student is asked to submit "response sheets" at the end of class. Every student can submit up to 5 response sheets over the course of the semester. You determine the date, but you can't turn in more than one response sheet for one session.

[Click here to download the response sheet](#) (Word document).

I will only accept responses that are given on this form. You are not allowed to turn in response sheets on "film days." In addition, I will return response sheets only in cases in which a student did not earn full points for the response sheet.

## **Response Time**

Selected response sheets will be addressed at the beginning of each class. This procedure will help you and me to clarify problems, reflect on topics, and to find answers to questions that came up during the lecture.

## **Film Response Papers**

Up to five selected documentary films shown in class will be accompanied by short writing assignments (550-650 words). I will let you know at the end of a "film day" whether it will indeed be accompanied by an assignment. The documentary film selected for this class are all high quality films that will demand your attention and challenge your critical judgment. The assignment will be passed out in class. These assignments *cannot* be made up, unless you show medical documentation. Accordingly, if you do not come to class on "film days," then you might lose the points for the assignment. I will *not* accept submissions by email. If you do not come to class, then you need to bring your assignment to the front office of the philosophy department (503 South Kedzie) and put it into my box. Please use an envelope.

## **Final Assignment**

There will be one *text related* final take-home essay assignment passed out on the last day of class. It is due on the day of the final exam.

## **Unannounced and Announced Assignments**

There will be - from time to time - unannounced and announced reading quizzes. Students who do not attend class (and have no medical documentation) lose all points. Quizzes *cannot* be made up.

## **General Note**

I expect that you come to class having prepared the texts carefully and thoroughly. I will take the liberty to call on students randomly. The reading for the next session, if not clear from the course schedule (below), will be announced at the end of the previous class. "Preparing for class" implies underlining and making excerpts from the text assigned; looking up unfamiliar vocabulary and writing them into a note book (I encourage you to keep a vocabulary booklet for all of your classes). Just reading the text won't be sufficient. You have to study the material. Some vocabulary might not be sufficiently explained in a regular dictionary (this goes especially for philosophical terms), so it is necessary to consult additional sources, and the MSU Library Website is a great resource for nearly all questions in this regard).

## **Attendance**

To get a good grade in this class, regular attendance is required. I will not call roll. Hence, it is up to you to come to class or not. However, if you do not come to class on a regular basis and participate in class, it is impossible for you to achieve a good grade in this class, especially since you won't be able to make up assignments in class. If you choose to attend class, please come on time, turn off cell phones and other electronic devices that interfere with your (and others') concentration, have the reading prepared and be ready to participate. If you are not prepared, do not bother showing up. It is a sign of disrespect to your peers and the instructor to attend class unprepared. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain class notes from a fellow student and to catch up on reading.

## Course Evaluation

You will be evaluated on the basis of:

5 response sheets (5 pts per assignment)	25 points
(un)announced reading quizzes	25 points
final assignment	20 points
5 film response papers (6 pts. per assignment)	30 points
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	100 points

## Grading:

4.0 (=A)	100 - 93
3.5	92 - 87
3 (=B)	86 - 82
2.5	81 - 77
2 (=C)	76 - 72
1.5	71 - 65
1.0 (=D)	64 - 60
0.0	< 60

## GENERIC SYLLABUS (might not be applicable to each class)

### Laptop/Cell Phone Policy

You are not permitted to use laptops and cell phones in class. Please do not text under the table. Cell phones should be removed from tables. Failure to follow this policy will lead to unannounced assignments in class or loss of points (at the digression of the instructor).

### Class Attendance

As mentioned above, I do not employ in my classes a class attendance policy. Having said this, you should be aware that class attendance is very important. When engaging in a philosophical and humanistic dialogue it is necessary to be an active and present participant in the ongoing discussion. If you miss class please do not email me asking if you missed anything important. Every class is important. You should get a study buddy for the class; a student in class who will inform you of what you missed. If you miss a class you can come to my office hours or make an appointment to discuss the material, providing you have read the material and you simply want to see if your understanding of the material is on target. Time in office hours will not be used to repeat the class lectures.

### Grading Criteria

Check out [this page for grading criteria, example of assignments, etc.](#)

### Helpful information about oral presentations, paper writing and plagiarism

[Click here to find help on your presentations and your writing](#)

### Online Research Sources

Unfortunately, some people think that the internet as such is a reliable source of information. If you decide to use online sources for additional information or your paper then do not just use one of the common internet search engines, such as Google; rather, use reliable academic sources, such as Britannica Online, or the [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#). The [Internet Eyclopedia of Philosophy](#) isn't very good, but still acceptable. Check out MSU's [library resources](#)! And, as with other sources, you must cite any

online sources to which you refer in your essay.

### **Course Evaluation:**

Michigan State University takes seriously the opinion of students in the evaluation of the effectiveness of instruction, and has implemented the SIRS (Student Instructional Rating System) process to gather student feedback. This course utilizes the "online SIRS" system, and you will receive an e-mail sometime during the last two weeks of class asking you to fill out the SIRS webform at your convenience. This course is enrolled in the "SIRS Pilot" project and, as a reminder to be sure to fill out the SIRS evaluation form, the final grade for this course will not be accessible on STUINFO during the week following the submission of grades for this course unless the SIRS online form has been filled out. You have the option on the online SIRS form to decline to participate in the evaluation of the course – we hope, however, that you will be willing to give us your frank and constructive feedback so that we may instruct students even better in the future.

### **Writing Center Information**

MSU's writing center offers excellent help on all matters regarding writing and learning. Check the website at <http://writing.msu.edu> for an overview and hours. For more information, please call 517.432.3610 or send an e-mail to [writing@msu.edu](mailto:writing@msu.edu).

### **Integrity of Scholarship and Grades (Plagiarism)**

The following statement of University policy addresses principles and procedures to be used in instances of academic dishonesty, violations of professional standards, and falsification of academic or admission records, herein after referred to as academic misconduct. [See General Student Regulation 1.00, Protection of Scholarship and Grades.]: [download document](#) (pdf)

### **Academic Honesty**

Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the (insert name of unit offering course) adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu)) Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Students who violate MSU rules may receive a penalty grade, including but not limited to a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html>)

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities should contact the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to establish reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor, call 353-9642 (voice) or 355-1293 (TTY)

### **Drops and Adds**

The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is (see Academic Calendar). The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is (see Academic Calendar). You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.

### **Note on Attendance**

Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.

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