Course Description
The purpose of this course is to explore the theological and ethical dimensions of globalization as a contemporary phenomenon marked by a massive expansion of global economic and technological networks. The course seeks to engage in a critical reflection and analysis of the theological, ethical, cultural, political, and economic impact of globalization in today’s culture. Radical shifts from an industrially centered economy to an informational and technologically driven economy has signaled new theological realities that urge creative responses and approaches to questions of justice, reconciliation, public policy, domestic and international trade policy, and fundamental issues of identity and difference. Students will reflect on the ways in which globalization emerges as a religious reality with its own distinctive practices, symbols, and deities. The class will also examine the church’s teachings on economics and the persistent realities of poverty.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course participants should be able to do the following:

- Understand the meaning(s) of globalization
- Understand the historical development and contemporary expansion of globalization
- Reflect theologically on the concept of a global economy
- Identify the implications of a global economy for societies
- Assess the implications of globalization for the Church

Academic Honesty
All work you submit in God and Globalization is expected to be yours. Any quotations of the words of others must be clearly indicated, and all direct indebtedness must be acknowledged by citation of author and source. Students unfamiliar with issues related to academic honesty or general citation procedures can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center and
should make use of the available resources at an early date, since violations of Seminary policy on academic honesty can lead to a failing grade for the course.

**Inclusive Language**
The use of inclusive language in course work is a policy of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. In your writing, avoid language for people that leave out part of the population or perpetuate stereotypes. Avoid gender specific pronouns when gender is unknown. Gender specific pronouns should generally be avoided when referring to God unless you are quoting from a theological text or a translation of the Bible that uses them.

**Requirements**
(1) Attendance and informed participation (15%)
(2) Short paper [5 pages, double spaced, (35%)]. Students will write a short paper that explicates and evaluates core themes of the Stackhouse text. The paper should not simply be an outline of the author’s points. Rather, they should demonstrate your understanding of the reading, paying close attention to key arguments, and ability to engage in theological reflection. The paper is due March 7.
(3) Final Paper [10 pages, double spaced, (50%)]. Students will write a final paper that integrates their readings around a topic of their choice, and brings together the theological, ethical, economic and political dimensions of the subject or theme investigated. Students are expected to identify a contemporary challenge of globalization and offer normative guidance. A draft of this paper should be emailed to the class no later than Wednesday, April 30. Papers will be read and discussed in class on May 2, 7, and 9. Students are expected to provide constructive feedback on each paper. Final papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade if the author fails to provide written constructive feedback to each presenter by May 9. Feedback should be emailed to the student and copied to the professor. The revised paper is due May 12.

**Required Texts:**
(3) Additionally, you should read 2 books (and/or chapters, essays, etc.) that will inform your research.
Bibliography


Zdravko Mlinar: *Globalization and Territorial Identities* (Vermont, Avebury, 1992)


Victor Segesvary: *From Illusion to Delusion: Globalization and the Contradictions of Late Modernity* (San Francisco, International Scholars Publications, 1999)

Caroline Thomas and Peter Wilkin: *Globalization and the South* (New York, St. Martin's Press, 1997)


**Globalization and Social Justice**


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**Course Outline and Themes**

**February**

**Theology, Ethics and Globalization**

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26 American Socialism
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28 American Socialism
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April

2 Economic Globalization
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4 Rethinking Economic Democracy
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Neoconservatism and American Empire

9 Neoconservatism
EDE, 10 & 11

11 American Empire and Exceptionalism
EDE, 12 & 13

The Politics of Difference

16 The Feminist Difference
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Easter Recess, April 18

23 Katie Cannon and Womanist Ethics
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25 Religious Pluralism
Social Ethics in the Making

May

Student Working Papers
*Please read papers in advance of class*

2 Review of Papers, #1-#4

7 Review of Papers, #5-#8

9 Review of Papers, #9-#12

12 Revised Papers Due @ 5pm