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## ***God and Globalization***

**Spring 2011**

**[CORE THEOLOGY COURSE]**

### **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 (10%), including an oral presentation on two or three articles from the **Annual Editions** text. The presentation will be five minutes per article, and will reflect your ability to explicate the author's argument. The articles for which you are responsible and your presentation date will be distributed on the first day of class.
- (2) Write two short papers (5-7 pages, double spaced) (40% total) that explicate and evaluate core themes of (1) the Stackhouse text and (2) a theological reflection on selected themes from the **Annual Editions** text. The papers 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. Paper #1 due: March 3<sup>rd</sup>; Paper #2 due: March 29<sup>th</sup>. Papers will be returned within three weeks of receipt.
- (3) Final Paper (40%). Students will write a final paper (12-15 pages, double spaced) integrating the readings around a chosen topic, and bringing together the theological, ethical, economic and political dimensions of the subject or theme investigated. In the final paper, students are expected to identify a contemporary challenge regarding the intersection between God and economics in today's world, and offer normative guidance. Due no later than May 20<sup>th</sup> at noon (May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5pm for seniors).

### **Required Texts:**

- (1) [WF] Thomas Friedman, *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*, Version 3.0 (Picador USA, 2007).
- (2) [AE] Robert M. Jackson, editor, *Annual Editions: Global Issues 10/11*, volume 26 (McGraw-Hill, 2010).
- (3) [GG] Max Stackhouse, Peter Paris, *God and Globalization (volume 1): Religion and the Powers of the Common Life* (Trinity Press International, 2000).
- (4) [MGW] Joseph Stiglitz, *Making Globalization Work* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2007).

## E Reserve (CAMS)

- (1) *Alternative Globalization: Addressing Peoples and Earth (AGAPE)*, A Background Document
- (2) *Resolution on Just Globalization: Justice, Ownership, and Accountability*, document of the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 2006
- (3) Martin Luther King, Jr., "The World House" in *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1991). Originally published in 1963.
- (4) Leonardo Boff, *Liberation Theology and Globalization* (1999)

## Bibliography<sup>1</sup>

Samir Amin: *Capitalism in the Age of Globalization: The Management of Contemporary Society* (London, Zed Books, 1997)

Richard Barnet and John Cavanagh: *Global Dreams: Imperial Corporations and the New World Order* (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1994)

Zygmunt Bauman: *Globalization: The Human Consequences* (Cambridge, Polity Press, 1998)  
Oliver Boyd-Barrett and Terhi Rantanen: *The Globalization of News* (London, Sage, 1998)

Sandra Braman and Annabelle Sreberny-Mohammadi: *Globalization, Communication and Transnational Civil Society* (New Jersey, Hampton Press, 1996)

Jeremy Brecher and Tim Costello: *Global Village or Global Pillage: Economic Reconstruction From the Bottom Up* (Boston, South End Press, 1994)

Lowell L. Bryan and Diana Farrell: *Market Unbound: Unleashing global capitalism* (New York, John Wiley, 1996)

Michel Chossudovsky: *The Globalisation of Poverty: Impacts of IMF and World Bank Reforms* (London, Zed Books, 1997)

Ian Clark: *Globalization and Fragmentation: International Relations in the Twentieth Century* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1997)

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<sup>1</sup> Global Policy Forum, <http://www.globalpolicy.org/globaliz/bibliog.htm>

Susan E. Clarke: *The Work of Cities* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1998)

William Greider: *One World, Ready or Not: The Manic Logic of Global Capitalism* (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1997)

Satya Dev Gupta: *The Political Economy of Globalization* (Boston, Zed Books, 1997)

Jeff Haynes: *Religion, Globalization, and Political Culture in the Third World* (New York, St. Martin's Press, 1999)

Andrew Herod, Gearoid O Tuathail, and Susan M. Roberts: *An Unruly World? : Globalization, Governance, and Geography* (New York, Routledge, 1998)

Ankie M.M. Hoogvelt: *Globalization and the Postcolonial World: The New Political Economy of Development* (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997)

R.J. Holton: *Globalization and the Nation-State* (New York, Macmillan press, 1998)

Jeffrey James: *Globalization, Information Technology and Development* (New York, St. Martin's Press, 1999)

Ray Kiely and Phil Marfleet: *Globalisation and the Third World* (New York, Routledge, 1998)

Mark Lewis: *The Growth of Nations: Culture, Competitiveness, and the Problem of Globalization* (England, Bristol Academic Press, 1996)

Priyatosh Maitra: *The Globalization of Capitalism in Third World Countries* (Westport, Praeger, 1996)

James H. Mittelman: *Globalization: Critical Reflections* (Boulder, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1996)

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

Proshanta K. Nandi and Shahid M. Shahidullah: *Globalization and the Evolving World Society* (Boston, Brill, 1998)

Roland Robertson: *Globalization: Social Theory and Global Culture* (London, Sage, 1992)

Saskia Sassen: *Globalization and Its Discontents* (New York, New Press, 1998)

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

Gary Teeple: *Globalization and the Decline of Social Reform* (New Jersey, Humanities Press, 1995)

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

Malcolm Waters: *Globalization* (New York, Routledge, 1995)

### **Globalization and Social Justice<sup>2</sup>**

Abreu Hernández, Viviana M. "Globalization, Neoliberalism, and Popular Resistance: the Case of Latin America." Diss. Purdue University, 2002.

Armbruster-Sandoval, Ralph. *Globalization and Cross-Border Labor Solidarity in the Americas: The Anti-Sweatshop Movement and the Struggle for Social Justice*. New York: Routledge, 2005.

Lommerud, Kjell Erik, Frode Meland, and Odd Rune Straume. *Globalization and Union Opposition to Technological Change*. London: Centre for Economic Policy Research, 2005.

Jakobsen, Kjeld A.; Howells, B. W., transl. "Rethinking the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and its Inter-American Regional Organization." *Antipode* [Great Britain] 2001 33(3): 363-383.

Mandle, Jay. "The Anti-Sweatshop Movement: Limits and Potential." In Ferleger, Lou., and Mandle, Jay R., eds., *Dimensions of Globalization*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2000.

Méndez, Jennifer Bickham. *From the Revolution to the Maquiladoras: Gender, Labor, and Globalization in Nicaragua*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2005.

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<sup>2</sup> Cornell University ILR School, Globalization and the Workplace Project,  
<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/globalPortal/SocialJustice/JusticeBibliography.html>

Schalit, Joel. *The Anti-Capitalism Reader: Imagining a Geography of Opposition*. New York: Akashic Books, 2002.

Quaranta, Luke. "Globalization and its opposition." Diss. Warren Wilson College, 2001.

Munck, Ronaldo. *Labour and Globalisation: Results and Prospects*. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2004.

Bandy, Joe, and Jackie Smith. *Coalitions Across Borders: Transnational Protest and the Neoliberal Order*. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005.

Batliwala, Srilatha, and L. D. Brown. *Transnational Civil Society: An Introduction*. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press, 2006.

Berg, John C. *Teamsters and Turtles?: U.S. Progressive Political Movements in the 21st Century*. Lanham, Md.; Oxford, England: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.

Brooks, David, and Jonathan Fox. *Cross-Border Dialogues: U.S.-Mexico Social Movement Networking*. La Jolla, Calif: Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, 2002.

Duchrow, Ulrich, and World Alliance of Reformed Churches (Presbyterian and Congregational). *Faith Communities and Social Movements Facing Globalization: International and Interfaith Colloquium 2000 on Faith-Theology-Economy*. Geneva: World Alliance of Reformed Churches, 2002.

John, Steve, and Stuart Thomson. *New Activism and the Corporate Response*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire; New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

Munck, Ronaldo. *Globalisation and Labour: The New "Great Transformation"*. London; New York: Zed Books, 2002.

Nielsen, Kai. *Globalization and Justice*. Amherst, NY: Humanity Books, 2003.

Opel, Andy, and Donnalyn Pompper. *Representing Resistance: Media, Civil Disobedience, and the Global Justice Movement*. Westport, Conn: Praeger, 2003.

## Course Outline and Themes

### February

#### **Theology, Ethics and Globalization**

- 10 Introduction to the course
- 15 **The Tasks of Theological Ethics and Theological Views of Globalization**  
GG, Introduction and chapter 1
- 17 **Prospects for a Universal Ethics**  
GG, 2
- 22 **Responsibility in the World of Mammon**  
GG, 3
- 24 **Violence and Globalization**  
GG, 4

### March

- 1 **Faith, Feminism and Family**  
GG, 5
- 3 **Public Theology and Hope**  
GG, 6  
**Paper 1 due.**

#### **Global Issues in the Twenty-First Century**

- 8 **An Overview of Global Issues, Population and Food Production**  
AE, articles 1-11
- 10 **The Global Environment: Natural Resources, and Political Economy**  
AE, articles 12-22

- 15            **Political Economy and Conflict**  
 AE, articles 23-33
- 17            **Cooperation, Values, and Visions**  
 AE, articles 34-44
- 22            *\*Research and Study break. Keep up with the reading.\**
- 24            *\* Research and Study break. Keep up with the reading.\**

### **Globalization and the Flattening of the World**

- 29            **How the World became Flat**  
 WF, chapters 1 & 2 (51-136)  
**Paper 2 due.**
- 31            **Forces that Flattened the World**  
 WF, chapter 2 (137-199)

### **April**

- 5            **Convergence and Balance**  
 WF, 3 & 4
- 7            **America and the Flat World**  
 WF, 5-7
- 12           **America and the Flat World**  
 WF, 8 & 9
- 14           **Developing Countries, Companies, and the Flat World**  
 WF, 10 & 11
- 19           **You and the Flat World**  
 WF, 12-14
- 21           *\* Easter break. Keep up with the reading.\**

26            **Geopolitics, and Conclusion**  
              **WF, 15-17**

### **Restructuring Economic Globalization**

28            **The promise of Development**  
              **MGW, chapters 1 & 2**

**May**

3             **Fair Trade, Patents, and Profits**  
              **MGW, 3 & 4**

5             **Saving the Planet**  
              **MGW, 5 & 6**

10            **The Multinational Corporation and the Burden of Debt**  
              **MGW, 7 & 8**

12            **Democratizing Globalization**  
              **MGW, 9 & 10**