Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Siena
Course Code / Title: (SN/GSGS 3100) Critical Conceptions of the Global
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Global Studies / Anthropology, Sociology
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

This course examines leading schools of thought in Global Studies from a critical perspective. Students engage with foundational political, social, and cultural concepts that underpin contemporary economic, cultural, and political institutions of power. The course brings together material from anthropology, political theory, and cultural studies.

Through readings and assignments—and their Sienese and Italian context—students examine the human condition and the sheer complexity of human interconnectedness, tackling actual "global" problems through teamwork. This course challenges basic assumptions about being human, relating to one another, and effecting change. It also invites students to question Western-centric singular narratives of globalization and modernization by approaching themes with global implications from multi-centric and plural perspectives.

Objectives

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- Approach questions of global human interconnectedness from a variety of theoretical perspectives.
- Articulate critiques of assumptions inherent in dominant understandings of globalization and interconnectedness.
- Analyze and compare different disciplinary perspectives on major themes around global human interconnectedness.
- Integrate theoretical insights with real-life cases and contexts.
- Collaborate with fellow students within and across tracks and disciplines.
- Discover and develop strengths and skills in tackling new knowledge and practical problems through developing writing and oral skills in a creative manner.

Course Requirements

Active participation is essential in this course. Students are expected to attend each class and field-based course component, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Students are expected to read all assigned materials before the relevant class session and come prepared to participate thoughtfully in class discussions. Graded assignments include:

- In-class group assignments: Students engage in graded in-class group exercises. All groups create a mental map on "personhood," prepare and participate in a debate on human rights, and work on a "rethinking the global" poster.
- Peer-reviewed paper: Although writing can be a solitary endeavor, good writing is a collaborative effort. For this project, students mimic the process of writing and submitting a journal article around the general theme of "improvement." In a step-by-step sequence and in close collaboration with two peers, students turn a topic that excites them into a 5-page academic paper.
- Portfolio: The culminating individual project consists of a portfolio of work that students collect and revise throughout the semester. It includes material related to 1) course content, 2) reflection, and 3) personal growth. Students work on the portfolio before, after, and often during every class. Students hand it in to be graded at the end of the course.
- Group project: Students form an interdisciplinary research team that is trying to get funding to investigate an urgent problem related to development, global health, security and justice, or environment and sustainability. Each group must identify a compelling problem with global implications, collect relevant background information to situate the problem, draw on course-related and other academic sources to buttress the group's claims, and present a pitch in a creative and innovative manner.

Grading
The final grade is determined as follows:
- In-class group assignments: 15%
- Peer-reviewed paper: 30%
- Portfolio: 25%
- Group project: 30%

Readings
Appadurai, Arjun. "Disjunction and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy." In *The Anthropology of Globalization: A Reader, 2nd edition,* edited by Jonathan Xavier Inda and Renato Rosaldo, 47-65. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.

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Appel, Hannah, Nikhil Anand, Elif Babul, Robert Samet, and Rania Sweis. "The Anthropology of Global Productions: Producing and Critiquing the Global." Anthropology News 47, no. 16 (2011).

Besnier, Niko. "Transgenderism, Locality, and the Miss Galaxy Pageant" *American Ethnologist* 29, no.3 (2002): 234–266.

Boellstorff, Tom. "Dubbing Culture: Indonesian Gay and Lesbi Subjectivities in an Already Globalized World" American Ethnologist 30, no.2 (2003): 225–242.

Bubandt, Nils and Rane Willerslev. "The Dark Side of Empathy": Mimesis, Deception, and the Dark Side of Alterity" Comparative Studies in Society and History 57, no. (2015): 5–34.

Campbell, Jeremy, Nikhil Anand, Adam Henne, Amelia Moore and Shaila Seshia. "New Work on Environmental Science Friction" Anthropology News 47, no. 6 (September 2006).

Chakrabarty, Dipesh. *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000.

Chet, Carrie Lane. "Like Exporting Baseball: Individualism and Global Competition in the High–Tech Industry" Anthropology of Work Review 25, no.3–4 (2004): 18–26.

Comaroff, Jean and John Comaroff. *Theory from the South: Or, How Euro-America is Evolving Toward Africa*. New York: Routledge, 2012.

Ewing, Katherine Pratt. "Between Cinema and Social Work: Diasporic Turkish Women and the (Dis)Pleasures of Hybridity" Cultural Anthropology 21, no.2 (2002): 265–294.

Fassin, Didier. "Policing Borders, Producing Boundaries. The Governmentality of Immigration in Dark Times." Annual Review of Anthropology 40 (2011): 213–226.

Ferguson, James and Larry Lohmann. "The Anti-Politics Machine: Development and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho." The Ecologist 24, no.5 (1994): 176-181.

Heidegger, Martin, John Macquarrie, and Edward Robinson. *Being and Time*. New York: Harper Perennial/Modern Thought, 2008.

Li, Tania. "Beyond 'the State' and Failed Schemes." American Anthropologist 107, no.3 (2005): 383–394.

Luvaas, Brent. "Dislocating Sounds: Deterritorialization of Indonesian Indie Pop" Cultural Anthropology 24 no. 2 (2009): 246–279.

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MacLennan, Carol. "Corruption in Corporate America: Enron – Before and After" In Corruption: Anthropological Perspectives, edited by Dieter Haller & Cris Shore, 156-170. London: Pluto Press, 2005.

Moyn, Samuel. *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010.

Ong, Aihwa and Stephen J. Collier. *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

Richards, Patricia. "Decolonizing Globalization studies." The Global South 8, no.2(2014): 139–154.

Robertson, Roland. "Glocalization: Time-Space and Homogeneity – Heterogeneity." In Global Modernities, edited by Mike Featherstone, Scott Lash and Roland Robertson, 25-44. London: Sage, 1995.

Rutherford, Danilyn. "Sympathy, State–Building, and the Experience of Empire" Cultural Anthropology 24, no.9 (2009): 1–32.

Scott, James Seeing Like a State: *How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998.

Smith, B.C. *Good Governance and Development*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2007.

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. "North Atlantic Universals: Analytical Fictions 1492–1945." South Atlantic Quarterly 101, no.4 (2002): 839–858.

Tsing, Anna. "The Global Situation" Cultural Anthropology 15, no.3 (2000): 327-360.

Swart, Koenraad Walter. "Individualism in the Mid-Nineteenth Century 1826–1860" Journal of the History of Ideas 23, no.1 (1962): 77–90.

Ticktin, Miriam. *Casualties of Care: Immigration and the Politics of Humanitarianism in France*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011.

Tidey, Sylvia. "Between the Ethical and the Right Thing: How (not) to Be Corrupt in Indonesian Bureaucracy in An Age of Good Governance." American Ethnologist 43, no.4 (2016): 663–676.

Tsing, Anna. Friction: *An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005.

Zigon, Jarrett. *A War on People*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2018.

Zigon, Jarrett. "Human Rights as Moral Progress? A Critique." Cultural
    Anthropology 28, no.4 (2013): 716-736.

Outline of Course Content
Three to four weeks are spent on each of the below areas.

Topic 1 - Globalization and the global
- Why the "global"?
- Universal universals
- Dislocation
- Hybridization
- Glocality

Topic 2 - Being and being-with
- Sexuality
- Subjectivity
- Transnationalism
- Personhood: Dividual, self, intersectionality, Dasein, perspectives from the
  South
- Relationality: Sympathy, empathy, and letting–be

Topic 3 - Change, progress, and the good
- Environment and the will to improve
- Corruption and good governance
- Human rights or human wrongs?
- Crossing borders/better lives

Topic 4 - Rethinking the global
- Decolonization and global public health
- Situation
- Assemblage
- Friction