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The crux of the current global capitalist system is the “trinity” of capital-nation-state. The critical
elements of this trinity are capital/market (economic domain), nations/society (sociocultural domain),
and the state/inter-state system (political domain). These elements are heterogeneous by their origins
and fundamentally contradict with each other. But they got linked as a seemingly unified entity only
recently through a series of historical flukes. They became complementary to each other, making
“creative destruction” of the world. In this course, we go beyond the conventional approach and take
globalization as a set of processes which embodies both expansion and transformation of the “trinity”
of capital-nation-state. As Parkinson argues, “perfection of planned layout is achieved only by
institutions on the point of collapse,” and this system may be falling into ruin just as it becomes
complete. As such, our central question throughout the course is: If globalization is transformative and
inexorable, what will be (should be) a new sociopolitical economic system?

In searching for an answer, we need to understand this phenomenon in terms of political, economic,
and social/cultural transformations. This upper-level undergraduate course has two main purposes: to
equip students with a solid understanding of the origins, historical developments, and consequences of
the so-called globalization, and to understand current debates on globalization.

READINGS

Each student is expected to read (before class) all the required readings for each session (see the reading
assignments below). Required books are:

1) Marx, Karl and Fredrick Engels. 2012[1848]. The Communist Manifesto. Modern edition with Eric
Hobsbawm’s Introduction. London and New York: Verso.
2) Osterhammel, Jürgen, and Niels P. Petersson. 2009. Globalization: A Short History. Princeton:
Princeton:

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REQUIREMENTS

Basically, classes will involve lectures and discussions of the reading materials assigned for each session.
I will introduce and explain some issues and concepts that are not in the readings, so attendance is
crucial. Participation from students is important and will count toward the final grade.

There will be class participation, midterm/final examinations, and five reaction papers.

1) Attendance and participation (20%):
Since the subject matter is extremely important and hard, it is imperative to come to class. It is virtually
impossible for students to receive a satisfactory grade if they miss several classes. Attendance will be
taken for each session. Students may earn credit for their attendance at each class session, while
repeated and unexcused absence will cause deduction in student’s total grade. In addition to attending
class, students are highly encouraged to ask and answer questions, and to make appropriate comments
on issues covered in class.

2) In-class midterm and final examinations (20% each, total 40%)
The format of the exams will be explained in class.

3) Five reaction papers (8% each, total 40%): Students will write total five reaction papers on Marx &
Engels, Osterhammel & Petersson, Rodrik, Pieterse, and Singer. A reaction paper is a short paper
(around three double-spaced pages), discussing some aspect of the book. Students must briefly
summarize and evaluate the book. Note that “evaluate” means that one must identify some central
aspect of the author’s analysis and discussion, explain why one thinks this aspect is
interesting/important, and present one’s evaluation of the author’s position. Students must try to make
an argument, simply asserting their agreement or disagreement will not be sufficient. The reaction
papers are due in class on the dates scheduled for discussion of the books (or, put it in my mailbox
before 10:00 am on the due date if students have to miss a class). Students should submit a hard copy.
Since we will discuss the book in class, late papers will not be accepted.

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall Holiday Thursday, October 6 No class meeting
Presidential Election Day Tuesday, November 8 No class meeting
Conference Tuesday, November 22 No class meeting
Thanksgiving Holiday Thursday, November 24 No class meeting

Midterm exam Thursday, October 13 10:30 am – noon
Final exam Monday, December 5 10:00 am – noon

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 paper on Marx & Engels Tuesday, August 30 In class
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 paper on Osterhammel Thursday, September 8 In class
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 paper on Rodrik Tuesday, September 27 In class
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 paper on Pieterse Tuesday, October 25 In class
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 paper on Singer Tuesday, November 15 In class

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PART III. GLOBALIZATION AS BREAKING UP THE TRINITY

WEEK 6 (09/27-29) CLASS COMPROMISE UNDER “THIN” GLOBALIZATION
The state and market revisited. Transaction costs. Social insurance. Efficiency thesis vs. compensation
thesis. Free market fundamentalism. Importance of social capabilities. World trade regime. Exchange
rate regimes. Gold standard. Bretton Woods compromise. GATT and WTO. IMF and the World Bank.

Rodrik, The Globalization Paradox, Chapter 1-4.
Reaction paper due in class on Tuesday, September 27.

WEEK 7-8 (10/04-11) “THICK” GLOBALIZATION rad
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