

Syllabus: GMU Honors 131 011; CRN 81695; Fall 2017 Semester; (August 28 – Dec 20 2017; Globalization and Its Impact on Institutions, Society, and The Individual: Progress, Problems, and Challenges

Professor Phil Thomas

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Office: 2nd floor Buchanan Hall

Office Hours:

Mon & Weds: 1:00 – 2:45 pm

2nd Floor Buchanan Hall

Course Times and Locations:

Mon & Weds: 3:00 – 4:15 pm
Krug Hall, Room 253

Course Description:

Background: Globalization is a dynamic process that has brought the world's diverse population closer together since the beginning of civilization through the exchange of goods, products, information, jobs, knowledge and culture. Contemporary globalization in the beginning of the Twenty-First Century is the result of dramatic advancements in technology, communications, science, transport and industry. The current global population of 7.5 billion people has become increasingly interdependent. The economic, cultural and political implications of globalization are matters of great controversy and debate. A fundamental question remains unanswered. **Will a smaller technologically enhanced interdependent world produce an environmentally sustainable, safer and more just world?** As we progress toward the year 2050 with the prospect of the global population projected to reach 9.8 billion people, many challenges exist confronting the viability and stability of the global community.

Objectives: In this class we will identify and examine the many issues and challenges affecting globalization in the Twenty-First Century. This course will address a variety of critical issues including:

- The many ramifications of globalization: the individual, the state, and the world.
- A new definition of communication: social media. Is the media the message?
- Population growth, the decline of rural society, and the ascendance of urban sprawl: a major demographic challenge.
- Environmental issues and climate change: What is the planet's future?

- Biotechnology and its impact on global society: uncertainty and disagreement.
- Power elites, democracy and governance: Can democracy survive and flourish?
- Racism, inequality, hunger, poverty, human security and rights: a daunting agenda.
- Conflict and the quest for peace in the new millennium: a post-conflict world?
- The growing crisis of guest workers, displaced persons, refugees, and immigration: no easy answers.
- Religion, the private sector, civil society, the nation state, and international community: conflict, complementarity, and partnerships.
- The changing profile of art, literature, music, and culture in global society: A dynamic new age?
- The role of the individual in the 21st century: freedom and responsibility in an increasingly complex and changing world.

This is a multi-dimensional cross-cutting course designed to provide a comprehensive integrated perspective on globalization as a major challenge to the international community. We will assess why globalization issues are so difficult to resolve despite the multitude of resources available to society. We will attempt to develop constructive solutions responsive to the many challenges presented by globalization in the areas of economic stability and growth, social and cultural change, and relationships involving the individual, private sector, civil society, and governmental institutions. Emphasis will be placed on rigorous and objective evidence based research and analysis. This course emphasizes non-traditional approaches to resolving emerging global problems. **Critical independent thinking and analysis will be stressed.**

Required Texts

- *“Thank You For Being Late: An Optimist’s Guide to Thriving in The Age of Accelerations”*; by Thomas L. Friedman; Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York
- *“Social Media: A Critical Introduction”*; 2nd edition; by Christian Fuchs; Sage, London, 2017 (pbk.)

Recommended (Optional) Readings (Many reading materials are available on line.)

- *“The World Is Flat:3.0: A Brief History of The Twenty-First Century”*; by Thomas L. Friedman; Picador; 2007
- *“Making Globalization Work”* by Joseph E. Stiglitz; Norton and Company, New York; 2007

- *“The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and The Future of the World Economy”*; by Dani Rodrik; Norton and Company, New York; 2011
- *“Prospects and Ambiguities of Globalization: Critical Assessment At A Time of Growing Turmoil”*; edited by James W. Skillen; Lexington Books; 2009
- *“Climate Change 2015: Synthesis Report Summary for Policy Makers”*; United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); 2015
- *“The 17 Great Challenges Of The Twenty-First Century”*; James Martin, Oxford University, Adapted Jan.2007 from *‘The Meaning of the 21st Century: A Vital Blueprint for Ensuring Our Future’*; Oxford University
- *“Towards The 21ST Century: A New Global Security Agenda?”*; by Hussein Solomon, Senior Researcher, Institute for Defense Policy; Occasional Paper No 6 – June 1996.
- *“Ten IT Challenges For The 21st Century”*; Joe Rosberg; Tech Repub.; Jan 2008.
- *“21st Century Technologies: Promises and Perils of a Dynamic Future”*; Organization For Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD); 1998.
- *“The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015: Summary”*; United Nations, New York; 2015.
- *“Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development”*; The United Nations General Assembly; New York; August 12, 2015.
- *“Can A Collapse of Global Civilization Be Avoided?”*; Paul R. Ehrlich & Anne H. Ehrlich; Proceedings of the Royal Society of London: Biological Sciences; January 9, 2013.
- *“NGOS, Social Change And The Transformation of Human Relationships: A 21st-Century Civic Agenda”*; Michael Edwards & Gita Sen; Third World Quarterly, Vo 21, No 4, pp 605 – 616; 2000.
- *“The 21st Century Force Multiplier: Public—Private Collaboration”*; James Stavridis & Evelyn N.Farkas; The Washington Quarterly; Spring 2012.
- *“Globalization, Agency, and Institution Innovation: The Rise of Public-Private Partnerships in Global Governance”*; Liliana B. Andonova, Colby College; Working Paper on Economics; 2006.
- *“17 Ways The Unprecedented Migrant Crisis Is Reshaping Our World”*; Adam Taylor, The Washington Post, June 20, 2015.
- *“Conflict Prevention Strategies In the 21st Century”*; United States Institute For Peace; Washington, D.C.; August 2015.
- *“Women and Violent Extremism: A Growing Threat Demands Concerted Action”*; Fred Strasser; United States Institute For Peace; Washington, D.C.; August 3, 2015.

- *“Advancing Global Food Security In The Face of a Changing Climate”*; The Chicago Council on Global Affairs; May 2014.
- *“The Future: Six Drivers of Global Change”*; Al Gore; Random House; New York; 2013.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. Attendance, Readings and Discussion (35%). Students are expected to attend all class meetings. I recommend that students attempt to complete each week’s reading in its entirety before the first meeting of that week. Students should come to class prepared to engage in a lively discussion of key globalization issues and readings assigned for the week. Throughout the semester students will be expected to actively participate in a variety of in- class projects involving role playing, debating, and other forms of creative interaction addressing a variety of critical globalization issues.

2. Midterm (20%) A short take-home mid-term will cover material from the first half of the course.

3. Research Paper (35%): Each Student will submit a ten-page research paper addressing a 21st Century key globalization issue of his or her choice. The research paper will be an objective evidence-based analysis which includes findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

4. Final Examination (10%) In lieu of a traditional final examination, we will meet to allow each student to orally summarize their research paper’s issue, findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the class.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1	Topic	Readings
Aug 28 – Sep 1	Intro & Overview of a New Age	Friedman: pp 1-18
Week 2	(No Classes Monday September 4, Labor Day)	
Sep 4 - 8	Accelerating: What The Hell’s Happened	Friedman: pp 19-84
Week 3		
Sep 11 - 15	Supernova, The Market, Mother Nature	Friedman: pp 85-186

(In class role-playing exercise)

Week 4

Sep 18 – 22 Innovating: Speed, AI, Control vs. Chaos Friedman: pp 187-297

(RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSALS DUE IN CLASS the week of Sept 24– 29)

Week 5

Sep 25-29 Mother Nature, Politics, & Religion Friedman: pp 298-357

Week 6

Oct 2-6 You Can't Go Home Again & Anchoring Friedman: pp 358-453

Week 7

(No class Monday, Oct 9; Class meets Tuesday, October 10)

Oct 9-13 Implications of Growing Interdependence Recommended Readings

(In Class debate: Pros/Cons)

Week 8

Oct 16– 20 Review & Discussion of globalization Friedman: pp 1-453

(In Class discussion)

(TAKE-HOME MID-TERM DUE October 23)

Week 9

Oct 23–27 Social Media: A critical Introduction Fuchs: pp 1-30
(Is The Media The Message?)

Week 10

Oct 30 – Nov 3 Social Media, Participatory Culture Fuchs: pp 31-84

Week 11

Nov 6 - 10 The Power & Political Economy of Social Media Fuchs: pp 85-182

(Google, Facebook, Twitter & Democracy)

Week 12

Nov 13-17 WikiLeaks, Transparency, & Twitter Fuchs: pp 183-250

Impressions and Alternatives (in class debate)

(RESEARCH PAPER DUE IN CLASS Wednesday November 15)

Week 13 (Thanksgiving Recess: Wed Nov 22 thru Sunday Nov 26)

Nov 20-24 Power, Ideology, Social Struggles in Chinese Cap. Fuchs: pp 251-282

Week 14

Nov 27-Dec 1 Wikipedia: A New Dem Form of Collaboration Fuchs: pp 283-356

Week 15

Dec 4--8 **(Review of Key Globalization Issues)**

(ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH IN LIEU OF FINAL EXAM; Nov 15 – Dec 8)

INSTRUCTOR

Phil Thomas is currently a Research Fellow at George Mason University's School of Policy, Government and International Affairs where he leads a Global Food Security Project addressing the causes and effects of global hunger. He is a member of a number of Washington, D.C. International food security working groups focusing on the elimination of global hunger. He is also an adjunct professor in George Mason University's Honors College where he teaches classes on global food security and globalization. Phil is a retired international affairs specialist and Assistant Director with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, where he directed numerous reviews of U.S. International Food Assistance and global food security programs, and United Nations operations resulting in many management reforms. He travelled extensively in Europe, Africa, and Central America while with GAO. Phil was elected to the Falls Church, Virginia City Council in 1990 and served through 1994. He was Vice Mayor from 1992-1994, and served on a variety of local government social service and development committees. Phil did undergraduate work at the University of Virginia and has an M.A. and B.A. in International Affairs from California State University in Sacramento. He is also a Navy Veteran serving from 1963 to 1966 as a Chaplain's Assistant in San Diego, Annapolis, Norfolk, the Caribbean, and Naples, Italy.

