Session 2: What is globalization?

Date: January 21

**Topic:** Globalization is a word that is often used in academia and the public discourse. Everyone seems to know what it means and it is seldom defined. However, there are different definitions of globalization and it has different aspects (economic, political, cultural), there is disagreement when globalization started and how to study it. This sessions serves as an introduction into globalization and as an exchange about our prior knowledge about globalization.

**Guiding Questions:** How is globalization defined and which definition is most suitable for our course? How did economic globalization develop over time? What are the parameter of the globalization debate? What does it mean to study globalization from a critical perspective?

**Literature/Media**:

Jones, Andrew. “Introduction: Thinking about Globalization.” In *Globalization: Key Thinkers*, edited by Andrew Jones, 1–18. Cambridge, UK; Malden, Mass.: Polity, 2010.

Steger, Manfred B. 2020. *Globalization*. 5th ed., 59-79. New York: Oxford University Press.

Brown, Sydney. *Globalization Theories*. Video. Accessed February 27, 2019. <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat/society-and-culture/demographics/v/globalization-theories>.

George, Susan. “If You Want to Be Relevant: Advice to the Academic from a Scholar-Activist.” In *Critical Globalization Studies*, edited by Richard P. Appelbaum and William I. Robinson, 3–9. New York: Routledge, 2005.

Session 3: Managing the global economy: The World Trade Organization and its critics

Date: January 28

**Topic:** The World Trade Organization (WTO) is a controversial organization that promotes free trade in the world that was envisioned after World War II but only established in 1994. Due to the Trump administration’s blockade of internal elections of positions, it is currently not functional. How did the WTO develop and which impact does it have on the global economy?

The WTO (and other organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank) have been criticized for being instruments through which the hegemony of the system of global capitalism is maintained. These institutions, so the critic from the Global South, serve the promotion of the primacy of the states and economic interests that mainly benefit from global capitalism. While looking into how Bello justifies this claim, we can get an insight into the power dynamics between the Global North and the Global South.

**Literature/Media:**

Baldwin, Richard. “The World Trade Organization and the Future of Multilateralism.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 30, no. 1 (February 1, 2016): 95–116.<https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.30.1.95>.

Bello, Walden. *Deglobalization: Ideas for a New World Economy.* Chaps. 3 and 4. London: Zed Books, 2004.

Session 4: ***The European Union and regionalization: Aspects of European economic and political integration***

Date: February 4

**Topic:**The European Union is a highly integrated political and economic union. We will look into how global capitalism fosters Europe’s economic integration. How do political and economic integration go hand in hand? We will discuss different developments within the EU in terms of differentiated economic integration.

**Literature:**

Ryner, Magnus, and Alan W. Cafruny. *The European Union and Global Capitalism: Origins, Development, Crisis*. The European Union Series. Chaps. 3 and 6. London: Macmillan Education, Palgrave, 2017.

Alternative: Apeldoorn, Bastiaan van, Jan Drahokoupil, and Laura Horn, eds. *Contradictions and Limits of Neoliberal European Governance*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

Session 5: ***Group Work Session I***

Date: Feb 11

**Topic:** At least two groups will present their [group work](https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/mod/assign/view.php?id=472977) outcome.

**Literature:**Each group will assign a reading of about 10pp.

READING WEEK: ***February*** 15 - 19

Week 7: No class

Date: February 25

I’m participating in a conference this week, which was scheduled last summer but postponed due to COVID-19. Please use the time to work on your first assignment and the [group work](https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/mod/assign/view.php?id=472977).

Session 6: ***The negotiations of Africa – EU trade relations***

Date: March 4

**Topic:**The European Union is currently negotiating with African states about new trade relations. Due to the colonial past, the relationship is complicated to say at least. Past agreements (the Lome and COTONU agreements) provide former colonies with a preferential access to the European market. However, they were also criticized for a neo-colonial character and for continuing a subordination of African countries to European priorities and exploitation of African resources. Among the bones of contention is the inclusion of political conditionality in trade agreements, which means that African countries have to implement human rights and democratic reforms. Will the negotiations bring any changes? What is the character of the negotiation? Who pursues which interests? In this session we want to simulate the debate between the EU and the African negotiators. Students will take different positions on the negotiating table, which they have to prepare in advance. The academic reading provides a theoretical insight into Africa-EU relations from a postcolonial perspective.

**Literature/Media:**

Deutsche Welle, Deutsche. “Are Negotiations for a New Cotonou Agreement at the Finish Line?” DW.COM, July 27, 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/are-negotiations-for-a-new-cotonou-agreement-at-the-finish-line/a-54327841>.

Fox, Benjamin. “Tensions Simmer over EU-Africa Trade Relations.” [*Www.Euractiv.Com*](http://Www.Euractiv.Com) (blog), November 16, 2020.<https://www.euractiv.com/section/botswana/news/tensions-simmer-over-eu-africa-trade-relations/>.

Sebhatu, Rahel Weldeab. “Applying Postcolonial Approaches to Studies of Africa-EU Relations.” In *The Routledge Handbook of EU-Africa Relations*, edited by Toni Haastrup, Luís Mah, and Niall Duggan. London: Routledge, 2020.

Session 7: [Group Work](https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/mod/assign/view.php?id=472977) Session II

Date: March 11

**Topic**: At least two groups will present their [group work](https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/mod/assign/view.php?id=472977) outcome.

**Literature:**Each group will assign a reading of about 10pp.

Session 8: Research session: Trade agreements and globalization: The case of ***CETA (and TTIP)***

Date: March 18

**Topic:** CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) entered into force provisionally on 21 September 2017, meaning most of the agreement now applies. How are the Canadian government and the EU presenting the trade agreement to their citizens? What are the effects of the agreement? What are the critics saying? What are the likely outcomes for Canadians and Europeans?

**Literature/Media:**

Government perspective:

Canada, Global Affairs. “About CETA.” GAC, April 25, 2016. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/ceta-aecg/about_ceta-propos_aecg.aspx?lang=eng>.

European Commission. “CETA - EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.” Trade - European Commission. Accessed January 6, 2021.<https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/ceta/index_en.htm>.

Critical NGOs, Think Tanks Perspective:

Corporate Europe Observatory. “The Great CETA Swindle,” 2016. <https://corporateeurope.org/sites/default/files/attachments/great-ceta-swindle.pdf>.

Powershift, and Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives. *Making Sense of CETA*. 2nd ed. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2016.<http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/200/300/cdn_centre_policy_alternatives/2016/making-sense-ceta/Making_Sense_of_CETA_2016.pdf>.

Sinclair, Scott, and Stuart Trew. *Taking Stock of CETA: Early Impacts of the EU – Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement*. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 2019.

Session 10: ***Group Work III***

Date: March 25

**Topic:**At least two groups will present their [group work](https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/mod/assign/view.php?id=472977) outcome.

**Literature:**Each group will assign a reading of about 10pp.

Session 11: “Sub-imperialism”: How to make sense of BRICS in economic globalization?

Date: April 1

**Topic:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa are (or were?) considered as a potential trading bloc that could challenge the US and EU hegemony in economic globalization. What can we expect and how to analyze the BRICS? Would be a rising BRICS result in a more just economic world or will it just complicate a neo-imperialist world?

**Literature**

Bond, Patrick. “BRICS within Critical International Political Economy.” In *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical International Political Economy*, edited by Alan Cafruny, Leila Simona Talani, and Gonzalo Pozo Martin, 351–68. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2016. <https://doi.org/10.1057/978-1-137-50018-2>.

Robinson, William I. “The Transnational State and the BRICS: A Global Capitalism Perspective.” *Third World Quarterly* 36, no. 1 (2015): 1–21.<https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2015.976012>.