

ENGL/GEOG 316H – Spring 2010

Crossing Boundaries: Globalization

Monday 3:00 – 5:50 P.M. O’Connell 239

Dr. Andrea Lerner

Office: SSKU 127

Phone: 898-5452

Email: alerner@csuchico.edu

Office hours: Tues. 11:00 a.m. – noon

Thurs 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. or by appt.

Dr. LaDona Knigge

Office: Butte 533

Phone: 898-5881

Email: lnigge@csuchico.edu

Office hours: Mon. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

T/Th: 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. or by appt,

NOTE: Syllabus subject to change. Effective date: January 25, 2010

Course Description:

Increasingly we are confronted with references to living in an era of globalization; increasingly in education we are tasked with appeals to become global citizens aware of the intricate ways in which our life choices and inheritances connect us with people in every corner of the world. But how do we understand a term like globalization? How do we approach the demands of increasingly complex cultural awareness and understanding?

This semester Crossing Boundaries will lead us on a two pronged exploration of the issues surrounding globalization. Drawing upon social science we will examine a variety of relationships with a special attention to the interrelationships between people and places, the interdependence between the global and the local and the ways that globalization has produced very different results between and within regions at all scales. We will explore these relations through a focus on the legacy of colonialism and slavery, issues of economic development including the production of food, and by examining household/family relations.

Our readings from the social sciences will be complimented by readings of literary texts. Surely one way of knowing the world or understanding its people is to study the stories they tell, their narratives which reveal perspectives and insights at once foreign yet so often reflective of those dreams and fears humanity holds in common. We will sample a growing body of contemporary writing including immigrant/migrant histories, memories of exile and refuge as well as the fiction of imagined homelands. While one goal in reading across culture is to gain a better understanding of ‘the other,’ ultimately it is our hope to gain a more complex understanding of our own cultural paradigms.

Honors Program Goals and Objectives for Theme Classes

- To engage Students in an interdisciplinary studies experience in an interactive setting.
- To invite students to think reflectively about course connections
- To explore the interrelationship of roles as local, national and world citizens
- To give students an understanding of the modern global community
- To allow students to pursue their own research interests within the framework of interdisciplinary studies.

Course Goals and Objectives

- To analyze & synthesize a variety of materials reflecting different cultures
- To sharpen writing and oral presentation skills
- To become familiar with the basic concepts of social science concerning the functioning of gender relations and families, immigration, the construction of identity, and the interrelationship between people and places
- To better appreciate how different cultures within the US and around the world have responded to and been affected by the challenges of globalization

Required Texts:

- Roy, Arundhati. *The God of Small Things*
- Rivoli, Pietra. *Travels of the T-shirt in the Global Economy*
- Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*
- Jin, Ha. *Waiting*
- Akpan, Uwem. *Say You're One of Them*
- Assorted shorter readings on Electronic Reserve (ERes) & Vista

Policies:

Attendance is mandatory. Anyone who misses more than one class meeting will likely not make sufficient progress to earn a passing grade. Similarly, please come to class on time and do not plan to leave early. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified date. Unless an extension has been granted, papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for each day they are late. There will be no extensions (barring catastrophic circumstances) during the last two weeks of the semester.

We expect a high standard of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty, generally, is taking credit for work which is not your own or attempting to receive credit or improve a grade through fraudulent or deceptive means. Examples include taking information from or providing information to another student, plagiarism, etc. Please consult the guide on *Ethical Standards and Disciplinary Procedures* for complete definitions. Answers to additional questions regarding academic honesty may be obtained from the office of Student Judicial Affairs. If you plagiarize your work, you will receive an "F" in the course and may also suffer university discipline which could result in your being suspended or expelled.

Assignments:

Reading Journals

Each week students will write a one page journal in response to their reading. Topics will be assigned early in the semester; as we go on we will have open topics.

Projects (overview)

Students will complete four class projects for the class and should be prepared to share an overview of any/all projects in an informal oral presentation. In lieu of a Final exam, the fourth class project requires that students will assemble a formal paper of at least six pages as well as share their work in a class presentation.

Project 1: Current Events

Due dates:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Feb 8 th | Option 1: India | March 29 th | Option 3: China |
| March 8 th | Option 2: Slavery | April 26 th | Option 4: Africa |

Collect at least three newspaper or magazine articles pertaining to your selected option. You will present your findings to the class. You may prepare an oral report or a visual presentation (PowerPoint, photos, collage or video). Be prepared to spend about five minutes sharing your observations with the class and reflecting on key concepts we have studied throughout the semester. Turn in a digital or hard copy of your results.

Project 2: Personal Migration & Meditations on “Home”

Due: February 22

Interview your parent(s) and/or at least two other older relatives about your family’s origins. How did they end up in California or wherever your family currently calls home? Talk about your family’s roots and cultural heritage/lineage? What motivated them to migrate? Were your family’s migrations due to conflict, war, or other hardships? Has your family maintained any elements of their cultural heritage/lineage from their homeland? Feel free to include photographs, artwork, maps etc. Your project should be 12 to 15 pages.

Or

Tell a story of home

What is the place (city, state, other) you consider home? Are you living there now? What is your personal historical relationship with this place? Tell us about the history of the place—first occupants, settlements, development, etc. Discuss your sacred place(s). Are they in the same place that you consider home? Do you plan to return “home”? Why or why not? Given the mobility we experience today, what does it mean to be at home someplace (i.e. to belong)? Reflect on your thoughts about “home.” Feel free to include photographs, artwork, maps etc. Your project should be 12 to 15 pages.

Project 3: Commodity Chain

Due March 8th (See VISTA assignments for complete instructions)

Select one of the following options:

1. Take an item out of your closet or an object you use daily. It might be generic (i.e. bread, shampoo, a piece of jewelry, running shoes), or brand specific, as in Oroweat Buttermilk Bread or Pantene Pro-V shampoo, Asics Running Shoes

Or

2. Select a product from a local company. Some examples of local companies include Lundberg Family Farms, Sierra Nevada Ale, Fanno Saw Works, Knudsen Great Harvest Bakery, Klean Kanteen, Smuckers Jam, Massa Organics, Mary’sGoneCrackers, Pendrozo Dairy and Cheese Company, Chico Bag, Sunsweet Growers, Inc., etc.

For complete guidelines for this project, see Commodity Chain Assignment on VISTA.

Your completed project will be shared in an oral presentation of approx 5 minutes, and you will turn in a written report on your work.

Project 4: Aspects of Globalization in my Field

Due May 17

Over the course of the semester, we have examined Globalization from numerous contexts: geography, art (including literature), socio-economics, gender, consumption, migration, etc. Think about how any of these issues we have discussed in class relate to your major field of study or career aspirations. Explore some aspect where globalization intersects your topic, and prepare a paper on your topic of choice. For example, if you are in nursing, you might explore a global health epidemic, etc. A music-major might look at the fusion of Brazilian and Caribbean music, etc. Or your project might include a visual representation or performance. Be creative! You will present an oral version of your paper during the last few weeks of the semester. Your paper should be at least six pages.

Grades & Evaluation:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Reading Journals | 15% |
| Project #1 Current Events | 10% |
| Project #2 Migrations/Home | 20% |
| Project #3 Commodity Chain | 20% |
| Project #4 Globalization in My Field | 25% |
| Attendance/Participation | 10% |

Grading will be based upon the following scale:

| Percent | Letter Grade | Percent | Letter Grade |
|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| 95-100 | A | 74-76 | C |
| 90-94 | A- | 70-73 | C- |
| 87-89 | B+ | 67-69 | D+ |
| 84-86 | B | 64-66 | D |
| 80-83 | B- | 60-63 | D- |
| 77-79 | C+ | <60 | F |

Tentative Schedule

Week 1: January 25 Course Introduction

Introductions, course overview, key concepts

Week 2: February 1 Geography, Globalization & Intro to India

- Arundhati Roy: *The God of Small Things* (through Chapter 10)
- Knox & Marston: Ch 2 pg 41-45,47-49
- Pulsipher: Ch 8 South Asia pg 401-405, 445-447

Week 3: February 8 Colonialism, Post Colonialism and Intro to India

- Arundhati Roy: *The God of Small Things* (finish)
- Knox & Marston: Ch 2 pg 64-68 (Organizing the Periphery)
- Pulsipher: Ch 8: pg 410-420

[Current event assignment: India option](#)

Week 4: February 15 State Budget Closure Day – No Class

Week 5: February 22 Colonialism & Slavery & Intro to Global Economics

- Pietra Rivoli: *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy* (Part I through page 24)
- Toni Morrison: *Beloved* (Part I – through page 195)
- K&M Ch 2: 53-59,62-64 (Industrialization of the World's Core Regions)
- McDowell, Linda (1999) "Home, Place and Identity" in *Gender, identity and place*, pg 71-95.
(Readings continued on next page)

Week 5 (Continued)

- Lawson, Victoria (2007) "Geographies of Care and Responsibility" in *Annals of Association of American Geographers*, 97(1), pg 1-11.

Guest Speaker: TBA

Project #2 due: Personal Migration & Meditations on "Home"

Week 6: March 1 Colonialism & Slavery & Intro to Global Economics (cont)

- Pietra Rivoli: *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy* Finish Part I – through page 57)
 - Toni Morrison: *Beloved* (Part II – through page 277)
 - Knox & Marston: Ch 2: pg. 68-79
 - Knigge, LaDona (2009) "Intersections between public and private: community gardens, community service and geographies of care in the US City of Buffalo, NY" *Geographica Helvetica, Swiss Journal of Geography*. 64(1): pg 45-52.
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Week 7: March 8

Project #3 Due: Commodity Chain Assignment Students to present in class

Current event assignment: slavery option (fewer slots)

Week 8: March 15 Spring Break No class

Week 9: March 22 Furlough Day – No Class

Week 10: March 29 China & Global Processes

- Jin, Ha. *Waiting*
- Pietra Rivoli: *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy* (Part II & III through page 172)
- Pulsipher: Ch 9: East Asia pg 458-462, 467-477

Current event assignment: China option

Week 11: April 5 Civic Agriculture, Green Revolution & the Industrialization of Agriculture

- Thomas Lyson: "Civic Agriculture and Community Problem Solving" (2005) *Culture and Agriculture* 27(2): pg 92-98.
- Eric Holt-Giménez "Out of AGRA: The Green Revolution returns to Africa"
<http://www.foodfirst.org/files/pdf/Out%20of%20AGRA%202009.pdf>

Guest Speaker(s)

Eric Holt-Giménez - Food First Institute <http://www.foodfirst.org/>

Eric Holt-Giménez, Director of the Food First Institute for Food and Development Policy in Oakland, CA, and author of the book "Food Rebellions: Crisis & the Hunger for Justice", will speak on at 7:00 in PAC 134, preceded by discussion time with student, campus, and community groups/individuals at 5:00-6:45 in BMU 210.

Week 12: April 12 LaDona gone

- Akpan, Uwem. *Say You're One of Them* (Selection of short stories tba)
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Week 13: April 19 Africa & T-Shirt travels to Africa

- Pietra Rivoli: *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy* (Part IV page 173 - 188)
- K&M Ch 9: pg 353-359
- Pulsipher: ERes: Ch 7: pg 344-348, 363-366

Commodity Chain Assignment Presentations

Week 14: April 26

- Pietra Rivoli: *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy* (pg 189 through end)
- Akpan, Uwem. *Say You're One of Them* (selection of short stories tba)

Current event assignment: Africa option

Week 15: May 3 Roundtable

Student presentations

Week 16: May 10 Roundtable

Student presentations

Week 17: May 17 Roundtable

Finals Week meeting time: Mon 5:00 – 6:50 p.m.

Mandated Furlough Days:

As you should be aware, California is in the midst of a budget crisis, which may not be solved for quite some time. Due to extraordinary budget cuts to CSU, fees to students have been increased 32%, many sections have been cut and faculty are required to take nine (9) unpaid furlough days each semester for the 2009-2010 academic year.

On our furlough days, we are not allowed to do any university-related work. We cannot teach on these days, we cannot correspond with students, and we are not to come to campus. We have signed an agreement with the University that we will not do any university-related work on these days and we can be disciplined if we do. These mandated furlough days have necessitated the revision of the course to eliminate some elements that have been included in the past.

Furlough calendar:

| State Budget Closure Days | Dr. Knigge's Furlough Days | Dr. Lerner's Furlough Days |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Fri Feb 12 th | Thur March 4 th | |
| Mon Feb 15 th | Mon March 22 nd | Mon March 22 nd |
| Thur April 1 st | Wed – Fri March 7 th – 9 th | |
| | Wed May 12 th | |
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| | | |

NOTE: Furlough Schedules are subject to approval by Dept. Chair and Deans of College of Behavioral & Social Sciences and may be subject to change.

For more information on furloughs see: <http://www.csuchico.edu/hr/furlough.php>