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Fall 2018

# STS 308-001: Technology and Global Development

David Rothenberg

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**STS 308-001**

T Th 1-2:30  
FMH205

**GLOBALIZATION?**

Prof. David Rothenberg  
tel. 596-3289. terranova@highlands.com  
office hours by appointment, Cullimore 318

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will investigate the issues and problems inherent in the globalization of technology, economics, and culture in this new century. Countries and economies are becoming more entwined in each others identities and economies, and cultural diversity is both threatened and proliferating at one and the same time. How much can the world's markets continue to grow and connect? How does the spread of information change what we know about one another? Should we be afraid of progress? Does the world understand the United States? Do we understand the world? How can 'growth' or 'development' be sustained? Can we remain a leading nation in an uncertain economy? Is globalization an idea whose time has come and gone?

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

A course reader of 925 pages which may be downloaded here:

<http://tinyurl.com/ycx87ocg>

and is also on our course Moodle page.

Jonathan Porritt, *The World We Made*, (Phaidon, 2013)

(this book you need to buy, get it now, before the bookstore sends all the copies back)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Class attendance and participation in discussion is required. One five page research paper on an assigned topic. One substantial ten page research paper from a series of topics suggested by me just after the midterm (Honors students will need to write fifteen pages). Honors students will need to lead at least one class discussion, for others this is recommended but optional. Both papers will be expected to be based on original, thoughtful research, not just a collection of facts gleaned from a quick web search. Midterm exam. Final exam. Final grade is a fair combination of the above.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

- Sep. 5           What is globalization? pp. 4-62.
- Sep. 7           The roots of inequality, pp. 63-129
- Sep. 12          Europe and the world. pp. 130-165.
- Sep. 14          The invention of development. Rist, Spence. pp. 166-192.
- Sep. 19          Jihad vs. McWorld. Revolution 2.0. pp. 193-231.
- Sep. 21          Revolution 2.0 and what happened next. pp. 232-251. **First paper assigned.**
- Sep. 26          Development as freedom. How economists try to help the poor. pp. 252-284.
- Sep. 28          *film: Inside Job*
- Oct. 3           The big vs. the small solutions. Sachs vs. Easterly. pp. 285-349.
- Oct. 5           How have we dealt with poverty today? pp. 350-392.
- Oct. 10          Empowering the disenfranchised, pp. 393-443.
- Oct. 12          Sweatshops and smartphones. pp. 444-519. **First paper due.**
- Oct. 12          Climate change, pp. 520-585.
- Oct. 17          More on climate. pp. 586-645. **Take home midterm handed out.**
- Oct. 19          *Film: Before the Flood, Time to Choose, or The Age of Consequences*
- Oct. 24          **Midterm exam due** China, pp. 646-663
- Oct. 26          More on China, pp. 664-704.
- Oct. 31          Africa the Bright Continent, pp. 705-760.
- Nov. 2          The WTO and its legacy, pp. 761-797. **Final paper assigned.**
- Nov. 7          What's happening to global trade now? pp. 806-820.
- Nov. 9          GMOs pro and con, pp. 821-849.
- Nov. 14          Kalle Lasn, *Meme Wars*, pp. 850-898. **Paper topics due.**
- Nov. 16          Paul Mason, postcapitalism, pp. 899-950
- Nov. 21          *The World We Made*
- Nov. 23          NO CLASS, Thanksgiving
- Nov. 28          *film: Life and Debt?*
- Nov. 30          *film: The Economics of Happiness?*
- Nov. 29          *The World We Made*
- Dec. 5          *The World We Made*
- Dec. 7          *The World We Made*
- Dec. 12          **Last day of class. Final papers due. Take-home final exam handed out.**

**The Rise of Inequality**

Nikil Saval, "Globalization: The Rise and Fall of an Idea" <i>Guardian</i> , July 14, 2017	4
Oliver Burkeman, "Is the World Really Better Than Ever?" <i>Guardian</i> , July 28, 2017	25
Suzy Hansen, "Unlearning the myth of American innocence," <i>Guardian</i> , August 8, 2017	42
Paul Krugman, "For Richer," <i>New York Times Magazine</i> , Oct. 20, 2002	63
"The 10 Best Countries to Live in Around the World," <i>Tech Insider</i> , Dec. 17, 2015	91
Dierdre Phillips, "Can Globalization Overcome Nationalism?" <i>USNews.com</i> , Aug. 15, 2016	103
Robin Phillips, "Global Citizenship: A Poll," <i>Globescan</i> , Apr. 27, 2016	108
Homi Kharas, "How a Global Middle Class Could Save the World's Economy" <i>Pew Trusts Magazine</i> , Summer 2016	118
Giles Merritt, "The Myths Hastening Europe's Decline," <i>Slippery Slope</i> , Oxford, 2016	130
Michael Lewis, "Wall St. on the Tundra," <i>Boomerang</i> , NY: Norton, 2011	145

**What Was Global Development?**

Gilbert Rist, "The Invention of Development,"	166
Michael Spence, <i>The Next Convergence</i> , NY: FSG, 2011	172

**The Legacy of the Arab Spring**

Benjamin Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld"	193
Wael Ghonim, <i>Revolution 2.0</i>	197
Laura Dean, "Young Egyptians Quitting Politics Altogether," <i>New Republic</i> , Nov. 2, 2013	232
Nouri Gana, "I was terribly wrong: Writers look back at the Arab Spring," <i>Guardian</i> , Jan. 2016	236

**Debates on Poverty**

Amartya Sen, "The Perspective of Freedom," <i>Development as Freedom</i> , Knopf, 2000	252
William Easterly, ch. 1 and 2 from <i>The Elusive Quest for Growth</i> (MIT Press 2002)	265
Sachs, <i>The End of Poverty</i> , Penguin, 2005 ch. 15, 17	285
Easterly, <i>Review of Sachs</i>	306
Nina Munk, from <i>The Idealist: Jeffrey Sachs and His Quest to End Poverty</i> , Doubleday 2014	311
Andrew Rice, "How the world bank's biggest critic became its president," <i>Guardian</i> Aug. 2016	350
World Bank, <i>Taking on Inequality</i> , excerpts, 2016	370

**Empowerment of the Disenfranchised**

John Rosenberg, "Business for the Other Billions," <i>Harvard Magazine</i> , Sept. 2015	393
Alec Ross, <i>The Industries of the Future</i> , Simon & Schuster, 2015	404
Oliver Kugler, "Escaping Wars and Waves," <i>Harper's</i> , September 2017	431

**Sweatshops and Smartphones**

William Greider, from <i>One World, Ready or Not</i> , Simon and Schuster, 1997: ch. 15, "These Dark Satanic Mills,"	444
<i>New York Times</i> coverage of Apple and Foxconn	459
Zoe Sullivan, "Foxconn's move to the US is not a reason to celebrate," <i>Guardian</i> , May 2017	510
Steve Lohr, "HotSpot for Outsourcing: The USA," <i>New York Times</i> , July 30, 2017	513

## **Climate Change**

Bill McKibben, "A World at War," <i>New Republic</i> , Aug. 15, 2016	520
McKenzie Funk, <i>Windfall: The Booming Business of Global Warming</i> , Penguin, 2014	532
David Gelles, "Microsoft Leads Movement on Carbon Tax," <i>NYTimes</i> , Sep. 26, 2015	551
Bill Gates, "We Need an Energy Miracle," <i>The Atlantic</i> , Nov. 2015	556
Jeffrey Ball, "Facing the Truth About Climate Change," <i>New Republic</i> , Feb. 3, 2015	574
<i>Beyond Paris: What Was Achieved at COP21</i>	586
"Big Companies Will Still Fight Climate Change," <i>Wired</i> , June 2017	635
"Cities and States Vow to Meet Climate Commitments," <i>InsideClimate</i> , 2017	638

## **China the New Colonial Power?**

Ted Fishman, "The Chinese Century," <i>NY Times Magazine</i> , July 4, 2004	646
Ian Johnson, "Beijing Becomes a Supercity," <i>New York Times</i> , Jul. 19, 2015	657
"Behind China's \$1 Trillion plan to reshape the world economy," <i>New York Times</i> , May 2017	664
Brook Larmer, "Is China the world's new colonial power?" <i>New York Times</i> , May 2017	684
"A Resentful Greece Embraces China's Cash," <i>New York Times</i> , May 2017	696

## **Africa the Bright Continent**

Dayo Olopade, <i>The Bright Continent: Breaking Rules in Modern Africa</i> , HMH, 2014	705
Howard French, "Ghana," from <i>China's Second Continent</i> , 2015	748

## **The WTO**

Debi Barker and Jerry Mander, <i>Invisible Government</i> , IFG Publications, 1999.	761
Ginger Thompson, "Mexican Labor Protest Gets Results," <i>NY Times</i> , Oct. 8, 2001, p. A3.	789
<i>Guardian</i> article on WTO failing developing nations	795
Lydia Pillis, "Everything you need to know about the Trans-Pacific Partnership," <i>Washington Post</i> , Dec. 11, 2013	798
Adam Behsudi, "Trump's Pullout Roils Rural America," <i>politico.com</i> , 2017	806

## **GMOs**

Amy Harmon, "Golden Rice, Lifesaver?" <i>New York Times</i> , Aug. 24, 2013	821
Michael Specter, "Seeds of Doubt," <i>New Yorker</i> , Aug. 25, 2014	826
Danny Hakin, "Doubts About the Promised Bounty from GMO Crops," <i>NYTimes</i> , Oct. 2016	841

## **Hope for the Future**

Kalle Lasn, <i>Meme Wars</i> , NY: Seven Stories Press, 2012	850
Paul Mason, <i>Postcapitalism: A Guide to Our Future</i> , NY: FSG, 2015	899

