

# INTS 2370: Globalization and the Knowledge Economy

Dogus Aktan

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<u>Course Time and Location</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Tuesday / Thursday	hayridogus.aktan@du.edu
TBD	Office Hours: TBD
Room: TBD	

## 1 Course Description and Objectives

This course presents and analyzes key issues in contemporary economy with regards to globalization and knowledge economy. It is designed to provide conceptual and analytical background to understand current issues in the global economy.

Although we will focus on the economy, this is not a course on economics. Instead, we will focus on analyzing the politics underpinning the contemporary global knowledge economy with a focus on distributional consequences.

The primary goal of this course is to provide the students with an analytical toolkit that will help them understand the current issues in the global economy and make students better consumers of information. Students who apply themselves in this course will be able to critically assess their own theoretical and political viewpoints as well as others'.

## 2 Required Text and Readings

There is no textbook for this course. All readings will be available on Canvas or through the university library. All of these readings are required unless

specifically marked “recommended” in the syllabus. You should complete the reading before the class period where it is listed on the schedule to be prepared to discuss it during that class time.

### 3 Grading

Your final grade is based on your performance in three areas: response papers; exams; and class participation. Specific assignments and their relative contribution to your final grade follow:

**Current Events, Class Discussion – 40 %** Every student will have to give a brief overview of the readings (5 to 7 minutes), and lead the class discussions at least once through the quarter. And they will be assigned to present at least one current event topic, and lead the discussion on it.

**Response papers – 40%** Each student has to write two brief (1000 to 1500 words, not including citations) to critically engage the readings assigned in the class. Essays can focus on a particular reading, or a subject covered in the course. Students may choose their own topic with my prior approval.

**Participation - 20 %** Active participation, and not just attending to class is required to get a good grasp of the material involved in this course.

### 4 Assignment and Exam Policy

All assignments and exams must be completed on time in order to pass this course. Make ups will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances such as documented and verified medical or family emergencies. All documentation corresponding to such emergencies should be forwarded to the professor. Personal reasons are insufficient excuses for making up missed assignments, exams, or quizzes.

All assignments must be submitted via Canvas. I do NOT accept assignments via e-mail.

I do not grade on a curve. Each student’s work will be evaluated independently based on its quality. It is possible for every student in the class to get an A. However, getting such high marks will require hard work on your part. Here is how grades should be interpreted, as well as how a letter grade translates to a 0-100 numeric scale.

A (94 and higher) = The student performed far beyond my expectations, displaying a grasp of the analytical and empirical material as well as creativity or insight beyond the material itself.

A- (93-90) = I was impressed by the student's performance. The student has strong analytical, theoretical, and empirical skills.

B+ (89-87) = The student met all of my expectations in the course.

B (86-84) = The student met most of my expectations, but demonstrated weakness in either analytical or empirical skills.

B- (83-80) = The student demonstrated weakness in analytical and empirical skills, but clearly attempted to prepare for assignments.

C (79-70) = The student demonstrated disregard for the course requirements.

D (69-60) = The student demonstrated negligence or disrespect in their assignments.

F (Below 60) = The student violated a class policy, did not attend class, or did not perform to a level that I knew they were attending.

If a student wishes to dispute their grade on an assignment, they must contact me within 48 hours of receiving their grade and set an appointment to discuss it. At this appointment they must bring a typed summary of the reasons why they believe the grade is unfair. I will then reevaluate the assignment on the basis of these reasons. All revised grades are final, and they may be lower than the original grade.

## 5 Class Format and Policy

The class format throughout will combine lecture and discussion, but the balance will hopefully shift from the former to the latter as the students gain familiarity with key perspectives and build confidence. While lectures are necessary, they are far from the best way to encourage and retain learning. Consequently, I expect students to come to class prepared and willing to engage with me, their classmates and the material.

Attendance is required and makes a significant portion of your participation grade. However, showing up to class is not sufficient to get a good participation grade and I expect active participation from all students.

I understand some students might be too shy to speak up in the class

even when they are attentive and interested. For those students, I offer the option of a submitting an extra assignment to demonstrate their understanding of the material. Students willing to take this option must commit before the mid-term exam.

## **6 Disability Services**

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability or medical condition should contact the Disability Services Program (DSP) to coordinate reasonable accommodations. DSP offices are located on the 4th floor of Ruffatto Hall at 1999 E. Evans Ave. Staff are available by calling 303-871-2372 / 2278/ 7432. Additional information is available online at [www.du.edu/disability/dsp](http://www.du.edu/disability/dsp), including the Handbook for Students with Disabilities. If you qualify for academic accommodations because of a disability or medical issue, please submit a DSP Faculty Letter to me in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed.

## **7 Academic Honesty**

All work submitted must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (e.g. ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of violating the Academic Misconduct policy, refer to the University of Denver website on the Honor Code: <http://www.du.edu/honorcode>. See also <http://www.du.edu/studentconduct> for general information concerning expectations of the Office of Student Conduct. Your response paper will be verified using the University of Denver's VeriCite system to evaluate potential acts of plagiarism. Quizzes, the midterm exam, and final exam administered in class will be monitored for violations of the Honor Code and addressed accordingly.

## **8 Policy on Student Questions**

I am always happy to answer student questions during office hours or over e-mail. I will generally reply to e-mails within 24 hours but make sure you send your questions in a timely manner. Keep in mind that most questions you may have (about assignments, policies, etc. . . ) can be answered by simply taking a close look at the syllabus. Every student should read the entire syllabus carefully at the beginning of the class and before sending me a question. When you have

finished reading the syllabus for the first time, send me an e-mail, telling me what your favorite animal is.

## 9 Class Outline

### Week 1

- Session 1 - Introduction, Overview, Logistics
- Session 2 - Primers on Globalization
  - Hirst, Thompson & Bromley, Globalization in Question. Chapter 1.
  - Dicken, Global Shift. Chapters 1& 2.

### Week 2

- Session 1 - Distributional Consequences of Globalization
  - Kapstein, Winners and Losers in the Global Economy.
  - Ha-Joon Chang, Once Industrialized, Preach Free Trade.
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- Session 2 - Knowledge Economy
  - Powell & Snellman, The Knowledge Economy.

### Week 3

- Session 1 - Winners and Losers of Knowledge Economy
  - Hope & Martelli, The transition to the knowledge economy, labour market institutions, and income inequality in advanced democracies
  - Iversen & Soskice, Democratic Limits to Redistribution: Inclusionary versus Exclusionary Coalitions in the Knowledge Economy
- Session 2 - Knowledge Economy and COVID: A Concrete Look at Distributional Consequences
  - Anthony D. So, WTO TRIPS Waiver for COVID-19 Vaccines.
  - Drahos & Braithwaite, The University-Industrial Knowledge Complex: The Importance of the Publicness of Knowledge.
  - Thompson, Winners and Losers of the Work-From-Home Revolution.
  - Yi xioazhun: Today's thriving knowledge economy is the result of 25 years of TRIPS Agreement.

### Week 4

- Session 1 - Finance (and Other Services)
  - Dicken, Global Shift. Chapter 16.
  - Epstein & Juan, Overcharged: The High Cost of Finance
- Session 2 - “Knowledge”, Information, and Finance: The Case of Gamestop
  - Tufekci, It’s all Rigged.
  - Thompson, The Whole Messy, Ridiculous GameStop Saga in One Sentence.

## Week 5

- Session 1 - Data Economy
  - McKinsey Global Institute, Digital Globalization the New Era of Global Flows.
  - Opendatasoft, Everything you need to know about the data economy.
  - Chakravorti, Bhalla, & Chaturvedi , Which Countries are Leading the Data Economy?
  - Claus, Social Media Poses Risk to Humanity, Scientists Warn.
  - Tufekci, More Data Don’t Necessarily Help You Make Small Decisions.
  - Tufekci, YouTube’s Recommendation Algorithm Has a Dark Side.
- Session 2 - Gig Economy, and Labor Relations
  - Petriglieri, Ashford, & Wrzesniewski, Thriving in the Gig Economy.
  - Frazer, How The Gig Economy Is Reshaping Careers For The Next Generation.
  - Studer, Gig economy: Employment Relations and why it is important.
  - Akhil & Adavi: Book Review: The Gig Economy: A Critical Introduction by Jamie Woodcock and Mark Graham
  - Livingston, F\*ck Work.
  - Nordfors, The future of work is 5 billion customers looking for a good job.
  - Greenstein, The Economics of Digitization

## Week 6

- Session 1 - Global Knowledge Economy and Inequality

- Iversen & A. Wren Equality, Employment and Budgetary Restraint.
- Kenworthy & Pontusson, Rising Inequality and the Politics of Redistribution in Affluent Countries.
- Session 2 - Why Care about Inequality?
  - Hobbes, Millennials Are Screwed.
  - Kight, Being 30 then and now.
  - Stiglitz & Bilmes, The 1 Percent's Problem.
  - Strenely, How equality slipped away.
  - Korostoff, Wealth shown in scale.

## Week 7

- Session 1 - Improving or Fixing the Global Economy?
  - Vogel & Toole , Two and a Half Cheers for Conscious Capitalism.
  - Stiglitz, Progressive Capitalism Is Not an Oxymoron
  - The Economist, If capitalism is broken, maybe it's fixable.
  - Sitaraman, To rescue democracy, we must revive the reforms of the Progressive Era.
  - King, Why Companies Should Engage with Activists.
  - Hobbes, The Myth of the Ethical Shopper.
- Session 2 - New Tools, Opportunities and Challenges.
  - Dash, NFTs Weren't Supposed to End Like This.
  - Barber, NFTs Are Hot. So Is Their Effect on the Earth's Climate.
  - Sigalos, Bitcoin's wild price moves stem from its design — you'll need strong nerves to trade it.
  - Bovaird, Bitcoin Price Volatility Reached Its Highest In A Year During May.

## Week 8

- Session 1 - Development and Industrialization in Global Economy
  - Reslinger, Asian model of technological emergence?
  - Hanson, The Rise of Middle Kingdoms: Emerging Economies in Global Trade.
- Session 2 - Bonus Time For Student Interest



- TBD

## **Week 9**

- Session 1 - Multinational Corporations
  - Oatley- Multinational Corporations in the Global Economy
  - Jensen - Democratic Governance and Multinational Corporations: Political Regimes and Inflows of Foreign Direct Investment
- Session 2 - Multinational Corporations cont.
  - Oatley - The Politics of Multinational Corporations
  - Duhigg & Kocienizewski, How Apple Sidesteps Billions in Taxes
  - Duhigg, & Bradsher, How the U.S. Lost Out on iPhone Work

## **Week 10**

- Tuesday - Future of the Global Economy
  - Oatley - The Achievements of and Challenge to the Global Capitalist Economy
- Thursday - Review and Recap
  - Readings TBD