

Syllabus: ECON 199 - FYS: Aspects of Globalization: Fall 2012

This course is made possible through the generous support of David Tarr and Gisèle Chevretils.

Instructor: Isabel Galiana (Isabel.galiana@mcgill.ca)

Office: Leacock 437

Office Hours: after class or by appointment

Course meeting times: Leacock 424, Mondays 8:35-11:25

With international trade, financial transfers, and foreign direct investment, the economy is increasingly internationally interconnected. This seminar provides a guided discussion of the many and varied aspects of economic globalization. It is a non-technical course for students with little or no background in economics.

In particular, we will examine the various forms of international integration (foreign trade, direct foreign investment, capital flows, technology diffusion, etc.) and their consequences (developmental, equity, environmental). We will explore the role of Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank; International Monetary Fund), the World Trade Organization and the anti-globalization movement that opposes them.

A detailed reading list will be posted on Web-CT and should be checked regularly for updates. All readings will be available as chapters of e-books (through the library) or journal / magazine articles.

Learning objectives:

- 1) To understand the fundamentals of global economic integration.
- 2) To be able to discuss and understand the arguments pro and anti globalization.
- 3) To understand the role of the many institutions associated with globalization.
- 4) Also, as this is a freshman seminar, we will learn to use the many resources available through McGill (library, date sets etc.) and to reference and correctly cite a research paper.

Evaluation:

Participation (15%) – you are expected to complete each week's assigned reading before class and to be prepared for class discussions. You may be asked to briefly summarize the week's readings.

Term Paper (40%) – see below for topics

Term paper outline and references (10%) – to be discussed in class

Mid-term (35%) – November 19th.

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

Term Paper:

Please write a research paper on one of the two topics below. Other topics are possible but must be approved.

- 1) Evaluate the effects of globalization on a chosen issue in a particular region. Ex: the effects of globalization in job creation in the U.S. or the effect of globalization in environmental degradation in Brazil. Issues to consider are inequality, economic growth, unemployment and job creation, development, environment, and agriculture. Analyze how globalization has affected changes in this area and the role of the main international institutions.
- 2) Discuss the pro and anti globalization arguments. Who is for free trade and for capital mobility? Who opposes them? Do the positions on free trade and capital flows depend mainly on their economic interests? Ex: does agriculture and manufacturing support trade barriers while finance oppose them? Or if some other factors are more important in determining positions on trade and capital markets - what are they? Which "other factors" might matter in explaining support or opposition? Ex: McWorld argument.

Tentative schedule...

LEC. #	DATE	TOPICS	KEY DATES
1	Sept. 10	Introduction and Overview	
Part I: International trade			
2	Sept. 17	International trade	Add-drop deadline Sept 18 th
3	Sept. 24	International trade cont.	
4	Oct. 1	Trade agreements - NAFTA etc.	
Part II: International finance			
5	Oct. 15	Global Capital Flows	Term paper outline due. Withdraw deadline Oct. 16 th
6	Oct. 22	Institutions - IMF/World Bank/WTO	
7	Oct. 29	Globalization and the economic crisis	
Part III: The Consequences of Globalization			
8	Nov. 5	Income inequality and poverty	
9	Nov. 12	Unemployment and Inequality	
10	Nov. 19		Mid-Term
11	Nov. 26	Patented medicine / Agriculture/ Special and differential treatment	
12	Dec. 3	Environment and climate change	Term Paper due
13	Dec. 4	Review and summary	