The crux of the current capitalist system is the “trinity” of capital-nation-state. The elements of this system — capital (economic domain), nation (social and cultural domain), and the state (political domain) — are heterogeneous and contradictory by their origins and natures, but they got linked as a seemingly unified entity only recently through some historical flukes. As Parkinson argues, “perfection of planned layout is achieved only by institutions on the point of collapse,” this system may be falling into ruin just as it becomes complete. Globalization is conceived as a process (or set of processes) which embodies a transformation of this trinity of capital-nation-state. As such, our central question throughout the course is: “If globalization is transformative and inexorable, what will be (should be) a new politico-economic social system?”

In searching for an answer, we need to understand this phenomenon in terms of political, economic, and social/cultural transformations. This upper-level undergraduate course has two main purposes: to equip students with a solid understanding of the origins, developments, and consequences of the so-called globalization, and to understand current debates on globalization.

**READINGS**

Each student is expected to read (before class) all the required readings for each session (see the reading assignments below). Required books are:


There are additional readings from journal articles and book chapters. These readings are posted on Moodle. All students should have a LSU account for access to Moodle through the PAWS desktop.
REQUIREMENTS

Basically, classes will involve lectures and discussions of the reading materials assigned for each session. But, I will introduce and explain some issues and concepts that are not in the readings, so attendance is crucial. This means that a significant amount of material on the examinations will come from class lectures presenting information not discussed directly in the text and other readings. Participation from students is important and will count toward the final grade.

There will be class participation, midterm/final exams, and three reaction papers.

1) Attendance and participation (20%): Since class meets only once in a week, it is extremely important to come to class. It is virtually impossible for you to receive a satisfactory grade if you miss several classes. Attendance will be taken for each session. Students may earn credit for their attendance at each class session, while repeated and unexcused absence will cause deduction in student’s total grade. In addition to attending class, students are highly encouraged to ask and answer questions, and to make appropriate comments on issues covered in class.

2) In-class midterm and final exams (25% each): The emphasis is on important concepts and competing explanations.

3) Three reaction papers (10% each, total 30%): You will write a reaction paper on Polanyi, Rodrik, and Cowen. You will write total three reaction papers in this course. A reaction paper is a short paper (no longer than two double-spaced pages), discussing some aspect of the reading(s). In the reaction paper you must briefly summarize the reading(s) and evaluate some central aspect of its discussion. Note: “evaluate” means that you must identify some central aspect of the author(s)’ analysis, explain why you think this aspect is interesting/important, and present your evaluation of the author(s)’ position (note that you must try to make an argument, simply asserting your agreement or disagreement will not be sufficient). The reaction papers are due in class on the date scheduled for discussion of the readings (or, put it in my mailbox before 6:00 pm on the due date if you have to miss a class). You should submit a hard copy. Since we will discuss the readings, late papers will not be accepted.

GRADING SCALE

A: 90~100; B: 80~89; C: 70~79; D: 50~69; F: 0~49

NOTICE: If you do not take any of the examinations, or if you do not submit any of the reaction papers, you will automatically receive an F. No “make-up” examinations will be given for any reason. No late reaction papers will be accepted for any reason.

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class midterm exam</td>
<td>Thursday, October 06</td>
<td>6:10 – 9:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class final exam</td>
<td>Thursday, December 08</td>
<td>8:00 – 10:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Reaction paper</td>
<td>Thursday, October 20</td>
<td>In class</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Reaction paper</td>
<td>Thursday, November 03</td>
<td>In class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Reaction paper</td>
<td>Thursday, November 17</td>
<td>In class</td>
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**READING ASSIGNMENTS AND SPECIFIC TOPICS**

**Week 1 (08/25) Introduction**  
Scope and roadmap of the course.

**Week 2 (09/01) What Is Globalization?**  

Held et al., Introduction

**Week 3 (09/08) Modern-Nation State System and Its Transformations**  

Held et al., Chapter 1 – 2


**Week 4 (09/15) Global Markets: Trade Openness and Financial Globalization**  

Held et al., Chapter 3 – 4


**Week 5 (09/22) Capital as Power, Societal Forces, and Cultural Shift**  

Held et al., Chapter 5 – 7


**Week 6 (09/29) Global Inequality and Global Environmental Flows**

Held et al., Chapter 8 and Conclusion


**Week 6 (10/06) Midterm Exam, 6:10 – 9:00 pm**

**Week 7 (10/13) Fall Holiday, No Class**

**Week 8-9 (10/20 – 10/27) Polyanian Market-Society Dynamics**

Polanyi, The Great Transformation

**Week 10-11 (11/03 – 11/10) Political Trilemma of the World Economy**

Rodrik, The Globalization Paradox

**Week 12 (11/17) Globalization as Cultural Destruction?**

Cowen, Creative Destruction

**Week 13 (11/24) Thanksgiving Holiday, No Class**

**Week 14 (12/01) Conclusion**
Capital, social force, and political power; and, the transformation of the trinity revisited. “One world.” Blueprints: desirability, feasibility, transformability, and sustainability. Blueprints and actual conditions.


**Week 15 (12/08) Final Exam, 8:00 – 10:00 pm**