

**AI 236 One World: Globalization in Literary,
Historical, and Philosophical Perspective**
Winter Quarter, 2005

Campus: Oak Forest

Dates: Mondays 6:30-9:30; 1/5 – 3/9.

Credit Hours: 4

Competencies: A4, H5, A3X, S3X, FX.

Faculty: David Simpson received his PhD in English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University and has served on the faculty in English and humanities at Columbia and Northwestern. His academic interests include classical and Renaissance literature, media studies, American culture, professional communication, and intellectual history. A former member of the Chicago Board Options Exchange, he has served as a consultant in business writing and technical stock-market analysis and has written articles and reviews on topics ranging from jazz and cinema to slang and cyber-culture. He has served on the visiting faculty at SNL since 1990.

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Course Description: *Globalization* continues to be the monster buzzword (and indeed one of the great sources of political anxiety) of our day. The term has even spun off its own formidable sub-vocabulary (including hardly pronounceable, pseudo-psychiatric labels like “globaphobia” and “globaphilia”), and it has inspired heated demonstrations both pro and con worldwide. But what exactly does the mighty polysyllable *globalization* signify? How did the idea of an international community, of a literal *cosmopolis* or world-state originate and evolve? Most importantly, where is this controversial concept of a unified, integrated planet, which continues to gain increasing impetus in real-world events, likely headed in the years to come?

In this course we will review the history of the idea of a united, confederated, or culturally interconnected world-community – tracing it from its earliest beginnings in ancient myth, prophecy, and imaginative literature to its current practical incarnation in the form of the world as we know it today: a world of free-trade treaties, international corporations, instant communication, increasing cultural homogeneity, rapid transportation, and an edgy, suspicious opposition between traditional cultures, each anxious about preserving its identity in the new global order. The course will conclude with a modest attempt to glimpse and assess the likely future path and consequences of globalization while maintaining a primary focus on the moral, economic, and political issues at stake.

Competence Statements:

A4. Can analyze a problem using two different ethical systems.

H5. Can analyze issues and problems from a global perspective.

Note: the following are sample statements. You may use them as guides or templates for your own customized statements.

A3X. Can analyze the theme of globalization in literature and film.

S3X. Can analyze the likely future development and global impact of science and technology.

FX: Can forecast and analyze a long-term business, financial, or economic trend.

Criteria for demonstrating competence:

A3X. Option 1: a 6-8 page essay analyzing the theme of globalization in literature or film. Option 2: A take-home exam.

A4. Option 1. a 6-8 page essay comparing the perspectives of two different philosophers or religious writers on the trend towards globalization. Option 2. A take-home exam.

H5: A 6-8 page paper analyzing a current geo-political or global economic issue.

S3X: A 6-8 page essay analyzing the likely global impact of a recent scientific development or technological trend.

FX: A 6-8 page report analyzing the likely longer-term global consequences of a current business, economic, or consumer trend.

Note: All assignments are due by Week Nine of the term (March 2).

Student-led Discussions, Presentations: In addition to their essays or exams, students are required to give a 10-15-minute in-class presentation on a topic or theme related to the course material and appropriate to their competence area. Presentations will be delivered in class during weeks seven, eight, and nine. **Note:** these assignments will not be graded. However, presentations that are judged to be of particularly high quality may qualify for special credit.

Assessment: Students are expected to attend regularly and be prepared to participate fully in class discussions. Written projects will be evaluated on the basis of interest and accuracy of content, depth of understanding, quality of research, force of argument, and overall organization, readability, and style.

Grade of IN: A grade of IN (incomplete) can be an administrative headache and should be considered a decidedly unattractive option. In any case, it is open only to students who have attended class regularly and completed the bulk of their course responsibilities, but who, owing to an illness or emergency, are unable to meet the deadline for their final paper or exam. Students seeking a grade of IN must notify the instructor and submit an official request form before the last class meeting.

DePaul Policy on Academic Integrity: All students enrolled in this course are responsible for knowing and upholding the university's policy on academic integrity as outlined in the [DePaul Student Handbook](#).

Format: Informal seminar with student-led discussions and weekly lecture presentations by the instructor.

Required Texts:

Singer, Peter. *One World: The Ethics of Globalization*. New Haven, CN: Yale University Press, 2004.

Recommended Texts:

Bacon, Sir Francis. *The New Atlantis*.

Bhagwati, Jagdish. *Free Trade Today*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003.

-----, *In Defense of Globalization*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Cavanaugh, John, et. al. *Alternatives to Economic Globalization*. Berrett-Kohler, 2002.

Derrida, Jacques. *Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness*. New York: Routledge, 2001.

Fukuyama, Francis. *The End of History and the Last Man*.

Held, David and Anthony McGrew. *Globalization/Anti-Globalization*. 2002.

Hopkins, A.G. *Globalization in World History*. Norton: 2002.

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*.

O'Meara, Patrick (ed.). *Globalization and the Challenges of the New Century: A Reader*. Indiana University Press, 2000.

Stiglitz, Joseph E. *Globalization and its Discontents*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2003.

Wilson, Edward O. *The Future of Life*.

Films

Metropolis (1926)

Things to Come (1936)

The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951)

Dr. Strangelove (1964)

2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)

Planet of the Apes (1968)
Colossus: The Forbin Project (1970)
Soylent Green (1973)
Blade Runner (1982)
Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)
Twelve Monkeys (1995)
Tomorrow Never Dies (1997)
The World Is Not Enough (1999)
The Day after Tomorrow (2004)

Schedule of Class Meetings and Discussion Topics

Week One. January 5.
“One World”: The Idea of Globalization in Ancient Literature and Myth.

Week Two. January 12.
The Idea of Globalization in Modern Literature, History, and Philosophy.

Week Three. January 19.
Science, Technology, and the Idea of Progress.

Week Four. January 26.
Cosmopolitanism and The Ethics of Globalization: Socrates to Singer.

Week Five. Feb 2.
Poverty, Economic Justice, and the Free Trade Debate.

Week Six. Feb 9.
Global Perspectives in Modern Fiction and Film.

Week Seven. Feb 16.
Student presentations and discussion.

Week Eight. Feb 23.
Student presentations and discussion (continued).

Week Nine. March 2.
Student presentations and discussion (concluded).
Globalization vs. Anti-globalization: Pro or Con?

Week Ten. March 9.
Summary and Review.