

ST 4203 Globalization and Inculturation
T. H. Sanks, sj
Spring, 2006

Goal: To understand the multiple processes involved in globalization and their implications for the life of the Christian community as it attempts to mediate the Gospel to diverse cultures in the 21st century.

Content: The seminar will examine the various dimensions of globalization--political, economic, technological, and cultural-- and the debate they have engendered. The main focus will be on the cultural aspect and how globalization complicates the understanding of culture and how the increased dynamism and complexity of cultures, in turn, makes the Christian project of inculturation more problematic. We will also address the possible Christian responses to the issues of inequality and social justice posed by globalization.

Method: The seminar will require regular reading and participation in discussions. In order to prepare for the discussions, each student should write a one or two-page paper (typed, double-spaced) covering: 1) points of simple clarification, e.g., technical terms, words in foreign languages, etc.; 2) the major issues raised in the readings; and 3) your own questions stimulated by the reading.

Grade: In addition to the brief weekly papers, a final paper (15 - 20 pages) on a topic mutually agreed upon will be required. Final grade will be based both on the written work and the quality (not quantity) of oral participation.

Required Readings:

T. Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*
R. Robertson, *Globalization: Social Theory and Global Culture*
D. Held & A. McGrew, *The Global Transformations Reader*
J. Nederveen Pieterse, *Globalization or Empire ?*
U. Hannerz, *Cultural Complexity*
J. Tomlinson, *Globalization and Culture*
L. Magesa, *Anatomy of Inculturation*
M. Amaladoss, *Beyond Inculturation*
J. Sacks, *The Dignity of Difference*

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Weekly Assignments:

Feb. 3 Introductory Class

Feb. 10 T. Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree* (Stories of Globalization)

Feb. 17 R. Robertson, *Globalization: Social Theory and Global Culture* (Comprehensive historical and sociological overview); T. H. Sanks, Globalization and the Church's Social Mission, @ *Theological Studies*, Dec. 1999, 60, pp. 625 -651.

Feb. 24 Held & McGrew, *Global Transformations Reader*, pp.1 - 190 (Pros and Cons on concept of globalization itself and changes in political power and organization)

Mar. 3 Held & McGrew, *Global Transformations Reader*, pp. 191 - 338 (Debate on culture, the media, and the economy)

Mar. 10 Held & McGrew, *Global Transformations Reader*, pp. 339 - 467 (Debate on global inequality and a new world order)

Mar. 17 J. Nederveen Pieterse, *Globalization or Empire ?* (Recent U. S. imperial behavior and globalization)

Mar. 24 Spring Break

Mar.31 U. Hannerz, *Cultural Complexity*, (Power relations and social distribution of culture)

Apr. 7 J. Tomlinson, *Globalization and Culture* (Deterritorialization and the media)

Apr. 14 L. Magesa, *Anatomy of Inculturation* (Recent experience of inculturation in Africa and future possibilities)

Apr. 21 M. Amaladoss, *Beyond Inculturation* (Problematic nature of inculturation and need for dialogue)

Apr. 28 J. Sacks, *The Dignity of Difference* (Religious responses to globalization)

May 5 Summary and Evaluation

May 19 Final papers due