Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

Debates on Globalization and Development
Don Kalb

Fall Semester 2012
4 credits, 8 ECTS
MA level

This is a four-credit graduate course that consists of weekly seminars and lectures (4 hours). It aims to give a wide introduction to ‘the great globalization debate’, with a special focus on issues of development and inequality, the world system, governance, differing regional experiences, civil society and social movements. The emphasis, in particular in class if not in the literature, will be on understanding global structures and assumptions in their interaction with local histories and realities: in other words the local/global dialectic, and the differentiating and contingent outcomes that flow from it. Throughout, the implications for anthropology and sociology will be discussed. Seminars are prepared and organized by students; lectures will supplement the readings as well as introduce scientific context and history.

Requirements:
Class participation is mandatory 30%
Initial exam (McMichael) 30%
Four response papers 10%
Book review 30%

On the book review: The great globalization debate of the first decade of this millennium was as much a public debate as a scientific one. Research journalists have played a big role in shaping and expressing public opinion. Their books provide a necessary backdrop to the science debate by providing stories and local insights that are particularly relevant for an approach as taken in this course, one that assumes that local histories and global/local interactions are part of not always predictable outcomes to a more general social process. Journalistic work is divided in the alterglobalist and globalist camps. Students are required to choose one of the following books, read it throughout the semester and write a review:

2) Thomas Friedman, The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century (New York; Farrar, Strauss and Giroux) 2005

On the response papers: students will be given questions related to each week’s readings. Throughout the semester students are expected to write four response papers, discussing one or two (combined) of these questions in max 500 words.

Learning Outcomes:

1) Students will be able to participate in informed ways in the continuing ‘great globalization debate’, both as social analysts and as world citizens, and take articulate positions, while recognizing the logic behind other positions.
2) Students have become sensitive for local/global dynamics through time. This means that they have developed a critical attitude to idiographic anthropologies on the one hand and to universalizing social science on the other.

**Week 1, 18/9**
Introduction

**Week 2, 25/9**
Film “Darwin’s Nightmare”, assignments for the semester, etc.

**Week 3, 2/10**
From Development to Globalization (and back again?)


*EXAM on this book.*

**Week 4, 9/10**
Anthropology of Development

**Week 5, 18/10**
Globalization as current Capitalist Transformation


**Week 6, 23/10**
Holiday

START READING FOR BOOK REVIEW!

**Week 7, 30/10**
Globalization, class polarization and cultural fragmentation
Jonathan Friedman, Globalization, Dis-integration, Re-organization: The Transformation of Violence, in Friedman (ed.), *Globalization, the State, and Violence*, (Walnut Creek, Altamira Press), 2003, pp. 1-34

Terence Turner, Class Projects, Social Consciousness, and the Contradictions of ‘Globalization’, in Friedman, *Globalization, the State and Violence*, (Walnut Creek, Altamira Press), 2003, pp. 35-66

**Week 8, 6/11**
**The Netherworlds of Urban Informality**


**Week 9, 13/11**
**The Precariat**


**Week 10, 20/11**
**Globalization, inequality, and world cities**

Josef F. Gugler (ed.), *World Cities Beyond the West: Globalization, Development Inequality*, (Cambridge, Cambridge U.P.), 2004, pp. circa 100 (Intro, chap. 2, 4, 11, 12)

**Week 11, 27/11**
**The regional experience (with a special focus on Africa)**

James Ferguson, *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*, (Durham and London; Duke University Press), 2006, chaps 1,2,4,8 (pp. 25-68; 89-112; 194-210)

**Week 12, 4/12**
**Resistance and (Global) Justice Movements**

Richard Sandbrook et. al. “Can Social Democracies Survive in the Global South?” *Dissent*, spring 2006, pp. 76-83


Week 13, 11/12
Wrapping up