

IPS 625: Economic Justice & Globalization
Loyola University, Chicago
July 6-19, 2009
Pamela K. Brubaker, PhD
brubaker@clunet.edu

This course examines approaches to and dynamics of globalization, its impact on human communities and the earth, and its challenges to Christian faith and ethics. We will explore various Christian responses to globalization as an economic justice issue, including Roman Catholic Social Teaching and the work of the World Council of Churches. The course will focus on the impacts of globalization in the U.S. and abroad and include resources and strategies for how individuals and groups can respond. Assignments include a course journal, book review, class debate, and a reflection paper /action project.

Course Objectives:

1. To enable students to reflect on our current situation, with particular attention to economic globalization and its impact – increasing poverty, growing inequality, social dislocation, ecological devastation, and the global financial/economic crises.
2. To engage students in a critical examination of theoretical and practical approaches to these issues and to enable their own moral reflection and response.

Required Texts:

Alternatives to Economic Globalization, Second Edition, John Kavanaugh and Jerry Mander, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2004.

Globalization at What Price, Updated and Expanded, Pamela Brubaker, Pilgrim Press, 2007.

Globalization, Spirituality and Justice, Daniel Groody, Orbis Books, 2007.

The Field Guide to the Global Economy, Revised Edition, The New Press, 2005. (recommended)

Course grades:

25% - class participation, including presentations and debate;
25% - course journal;
15% - Four-to-five page book review;
35% - Ten-to-twelve page reflection paper/action project.

Pre-class assignments:

Attend, if possible, one or more days of the Globalization for the Common Good conference at Loyola, May 31-June 4. Include notes and discussion of events you attend in your course journal.

I will be at the conference and would be glad to meet with you to discuss the course, if you like. E-mail me – brubaker@clunet.edu to set up an appointment.

Information at <http://www.globalisationforthecommongood.info/2008/08/07/eighth-annual-conference-chicago-2009-official-announcement/>.

Read the Introduction and chapters 1-3 in Globalization at What Price?; the Introduction and chapters 1-3 in Alternations to Economic Globalization; and chapters 1-4 in Globalization, Spirituality and Justice.

Keep brief summaries and responses of these readings in your *course journal*. Present the main ideas of the reading, respond to a few of the discussion questions in Brubaker and Groody, and discuss strengths and weaknesses, areas of agreement and disagreement of each assigned text. List questions for clarification and/or discussion during class sessions. Also prepare a glossary of key terms and organizations – World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization, etc – from the readings to include in your journal

Sample recommended books from list. Choose one to review (at least 100 pages, so you could combine two WCC documents), or suggest one to me. Write a *4-5 page review*, summarizing the central argument and offering a critical response. This will be due the second week of the course.

Pick a day or two to *track the origins of the goods and services* you “consume.” List and map them in your journal. We will discuss this during the first class session.

Assignments and activities during class weeks:

Discussion of pre-class readings and activities; read chapters 4-5 of Globalization at What Price.

Students will select chapters in Globalization, Spirituality and Justice and Alternatives to Economic Globalization to read and present to the class.

Students present book reviews, and facilitate discussion of the book.

Debate on globalization and poverty – causes and strategies to reduce with a focus on the Millennium Development Goals.

View related videos, including “Global Village or Global Pillage,” “Life and Debt,” “Stolen Childhoods,” “Black Gold,” and “Argentina: Hope in Hard Times.”

Reflection paper/action project on globalization and economic justice:

This assignment will be due within two weeks of the end of class. Students will meet with professor to discuss their interests and plans, as a basis for developing a specific paper/project. The purpose of this assignment is to enhance and deepen your understanding of globalization and economic justice issues and/or to design an action project engaging an economic justice issue that will be useful for the work you do. Some ideas are economic justice issues of Chicago Olympic bid; free trade agreements - fair trade; illegitimate and/or ecological debt; interviews,

Some Recommended Books:

[A Caring Economy: A Feminist Contribution to Alternatives to Globalization](http://www.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/documents/p3/ACaringEconomy_FeministPerspectivesonAGAPEweb.pdf), Athena Peralta, World Council of Churches, 2005, www.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/documents/p3/ACaringEconomy_FeministPerspectivesonAGAPEweb.pdf

[AGAPE: A Background Document](http://wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/agape-new.pdf), Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2005, <http://wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/agape-new.pdf>.

[The Bush Agenda: Invading the World, One Economy at a Time](#), Antonia Juhasz, Regan Books, 2006.

[Confessions of an Economic Hit Man](#), John Perkins, Berrett-Koehler, 2004.

[Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism](#), Muhammad Yunus with Karl Weber, Public Affairs, 2007.

[Desire, Market and Religion](#), Jung Mo Sung, SCM, 2007.

[Ecofeminism and Globalization: Exploring Culture, Context, and Religion](#), Heather Eaton and Lois Ann Lorentzen, editors, Rowman and Littlefield, 2003.

[Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability, and Peace](#), Vandana Shiva, South End Press, 2005.

[The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time](#), Jeffrey Sachs, Penguin Press, 2005.

[Gender, Development, and Globalization: Economics as if All People Mattered](#), Lourdes Beneria, Routledge, 2003.

[Globalization and Catholic Social Thought: Present Crisis, Future Hope](#), John Coleman and William Ryan, editors, Ottawa: Novalis, 2005.

[God's Economy: Biblical Studies from Latin America](#), ed. By Ross Kinsler and Gloria Kinsler, Orbis Books, 2005.

[Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God](#), Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Fortress Press, 2002.

[How to Rule the World: The Coming Battle Over the Global Economy](#), Mark Engler, Nation Books, 2008.

[In Defense of Globalization](#), Jagdish Bhagwati, Oxford University Press, 2004.

[In Search of the Good Life: Ethics of Globalization](#), Rebecca Todd Peters, Continuum, 2004.

[Integrating Ecofeminism, Globalization and World Religions](#), Rosemary Radford Ruether, Rowman and Littlefield, 2005.

Less Than Two Dollars A Day: A Christian View of World Poverty and the Free Market, Kent A. Van Til, Eerdmans, 2007.

Life Abundant: Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril, Sallie McFague, Fortress Press, 2001.

Listen to the Women! Listen to the Earth! Aruna Gnanadason, Geneva: WCC Publications, 2005.

Making Globalization Work, Joseph Stiglitz, Norton, 2006.

The Moral Ecology of Markets: Assessing Claims about Markets and Justice, Daniel Finn, Cambridge University Press, 2006.

The New Globalization: Reclaiming the Lost Ground of Our Christian Tradition, Richard Gillett, Pilgrim Press, 2005.

Poverty, Wealth, and Ecology: The Impact of Economic Globalization, Rogate Mshana, World Council of Churches, 2008, http://www.oikumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/2007pdfs/PWstudy_process_background.pdf

Property for People, Not for Profit: Alternatives to the Global Tyranny of Capital, Ulrich Duchrow and Franz J Hinkelammert, WCC Publications, 2004.

Sacred Longings: Ecofeminist Theology and Globalization, Mary C. Grey, SCM Press, 2003.

Shaking the Gates of Hell: Faith-based Resistance to Corporate Globalization, Sharon Delgado, Fortress Press, 2007.

The True Cost of Low Prices: The Violence of Globalization, Vincent Gallagher, Orbis, 2006.

Why Globalization Works, Martin Wolf, Yale University Press, 2004.

Web Sources for Reports on Globalization

Human Development Reports, United Nations Development Program, <http://www.undp.org/>

The Scorecard on Development: 25 Years of Diminished Progress, Mark Weisbrot, Dean Baker, and David Rosnick, Center for Economic and Policy Research, September 2005, www.cepr.net

World Development Reports, World Bank, www.worldbank.org/