

Globalization INTA 6306
Globalization through the lens of Modernization
Spring 2025

Instructor: Amanda Meng (a.meng@gatech.edu)

Class Time: Wednesdays 8:00 – 10:45 AM, Location: Klaus 3100

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00 – 3:30 PM, online or Klaus 3333

Summary:

This seminar for graduate students and advanced undergraduates is devoted to the study of the global project of modernization and the role of the state. We will begin with reading that explore the beginnings of modernity as a state project and then explore specific examples and stories of modernity projects across the globe.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students should have improved upon: 1) their knowledge and understanding of the origin, processes, theory, and actors contributing to modernization as a global project; 2) understanding of the implications of global modernity for diverse groups affected by them; 3) development of analytical tools to understand how modernization shapes the current global life; 4) public speaking and communication skills targeting diverse audiences and awareness of how these skills are affected and oriented by worldview.

The primary student learning outcomes for this course include:

- Demonstrate an understanding of modernization as a formative theory and practice of both statehood and globalization.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics of modernization and its implications.
- Synthesize, analyze, and critique processes underpinning historic and current system of modernization
- Interpret, analyze, and evaluate cases and issues in the global modernization project; make analytical arguments supported with evidence; and identify and discuss counterarguments and policy implications
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences in written and oral formats relevant to the study of the global project of modernization

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments in a timely manner. **Readings should be completed in advance of the class meeting for each week,** and students should come to class prepared to ask questions and engage in discussion and analysis.

Assignments and Grading:

Jan 8	Introduction to the Course
Jan 15	Scott, James. <i>Seeing Like a State</i> . Chapter 1 Rostow, W.W. Stages of Economic Growth, Chapters 1-3
Jan 22	Polanyi, Karl. <i>The Great Transformation</i> . Chapters 2-6, 14
Jan 29	Polanyi, Karl. <i>The Great Transformation</i> . Chapters 15, 19-21
Feb 5	Berman, Marshall. <i>All that is solid melts into air</i> Part I + II
Feb 12	Scott, James. <i>Seeing Like a State</i> Chapter 3 Mitchell, Timothy. Rule of Experts: Egypt, Technopolitics and Modernity. Chapter 3
Feb 19	Foucault, Michel. Governmentality Cullather, Nick. <i>The Hungry World</i> . Ch 4. We Shall Release the Waters
Feb 26	RightsCon - No Class
March 5	Simone, Abdoumalig. <i>City Life from Jakarta to Dakar</i> . 3-6 p68-333
March 12	Mitchell, Timothy. 2005. The work of economics: how a discipline makes its world. Archives of European Sociology 46: 297-320; In class we will watch the film: Chicago Boys
March 19	Spring Break - No Class
March 26	Slater, Don. <i>Modernity and Technology</i> - Chapter 5 - Modernity Under Construction - Building the Internet in Trinidad; In class we will watch the film: Manakama
April 2	Povinelli, Elizabeth. <i>Economies of Abandonment</i> Intro, Chapter 3
April 9	Povinelli, Elizabeth. <i>Economies of Abandonment</i> Chapters 4-5 and Conclusion
April 16	Coates, Ta-Nehisi. <i>The Message</i> . Part II: On Pharaohs and Part IV: The Gigantic Dream
April 23	Final Presentations

- 30% - Participation - Full, informed, and regular participation in class discussions will be expected of all students taking or auditing the course.
- 30% - Weekly Presentations - Each student will submit a short, ~300 - 500 word essay each week that relates the current readings for the week to an external topic of their choice (current event, poem, journal article, book, etc.) Students will provide an oral presentation of these thought exercises. Visual aids are not required. Additionally, students will sign up to present on the background of the author for that week. This presentation will illuminate the worldview of that author. No visual aid or written work is required for this presentation.
- 40% - Final Project & Presentation - Individuals or Groups will research a specific theme of their choice that cuts across at least 3 of the class readings and relate it to specific contexts (countries, people, projects). Groups will submit and present an outline as works in progress for feedback during the final two weeks of the semester. The final project will result in a script with

visual aids, a class presentation, an annotated bibliography, and a recorded podcast.

Grading Rubric for Class Participation:

- 100-90: Actively participates (in some form) during almost every class. Demonstrates excellence in grasping key concepts; ability to critique readings and ideas; stimulates discussion; consistently provides evidence from class readings for support of opinions.
- 89-80: Participates during most classes. Demonstrates understanding of most major concepts; often supports ideas with evidence.
- 79-70: Minimal participation in class. Demonstrates shallow understanding of course material; does not support claims with evidence.
- <70: No participation in class. Does not engage with material or classmates.
- 0: No participation in class and has missed more than 2 lectures without a previously discussed excuse.