

SYLLABUS

Seminar in Political Science: Politics and Society in a Flat World

POLS 675 B

Spring 2006

Mundane Details

Meeting time:	6:30 to 9:20, Thursdays	
Meeting place:	Stroup 105	
Instructors:	Dr. Larry Gould Dr. Paul Faber	
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	Dr. Faber	628-4234
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Office hours:	By appointment	
Web-site:	blackboard.fhsu.edu (this is the blackboard home page; there you will have to sign in)	

Goals of the class

“The world is flat,” proclaims the title of an important contemporary book by Thomas Friedman. Though it is clear that “flat world” is a term for globalization, what does that mean? What does it mean for us? This seminar will bring together students and faculty who want to think about contemporary globalization and its implications.

More specifically, we will try to accomplish these things:

- Understand the nature of contemporary globalization, the causes of globalization, and the probable and possible effects of globalization.
- Evaluate some of the main competing theses about the nature, causes, and effects of globalization and the evidence offered in support of these theses.
- Come to some tentative conclusions about action we may want to undertake or should undertake in response to globalization.

Prerequisites

A willingness to contribute to an intensive effort to meet the goals of this class is required. No specific course or student status is a prerequisite.

Required text

The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century, Thomas L. Friedman (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005).

Other required materials may be posted on the web site.

Tentative outline of topics and schedule

“TWIF” refers to *The World is Flat* by Thomas Friedman

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Responsible person</u>
Jan 12	Introduction to the class	Chris Crawford Steve Williams
Jan 19	TWIF, chapter 1, While I Was Sleeping FHSU and the flattening of the world	Larry Gould Paul Faber
	TWIF, chapter 2, The Ten Forces that Flattened the World-- flatteners 1, 2, and 3	Cindy Elliott
Jan 26	TWIF, chapter 2, flatteners 4, 5, and 6	Larry Gould
Feb 2	TWIF, chapter 2, flatteners 7, 8, 9, and 10	Dennis King
Feb 9	TWIF, chapter 3, The Triple Convergence	Chris Crawford
Feb 16	TWIF, chapter 4, The Great Sorting Out	Deb Mercer
Feb 23	TWIF, chapter 5, America and Free Trade	Chris Crawford
March 2	Exam 1	
March 9	TWIF, chapter 6, The Untouchables	EAC team
March 16	TWIF, chapter 7, The Quiet Crisis, and responses	Tom Jackson
March 23	Spring vacation—no class	
March 30	TWIF, chapter 8, This Is Not a Test, and responses	John Ross
April 6	TWIF, chapter 9, The Virgin of Guadalupe	Art Morin
April 13	TWIF, chapter 10, How Companies Cope	Steve Williams
April 20	TWIF, chapter 11, The Unflat World	Bill Shanahan

April 27	TWIF, chapter 12, The Dell Theory of Conflict Prevention	Jeff Briggs
May 4	TWIF, chapter 13, 11/9 Versus 9/11 Tying up and wrapping up	Paul Faber Larry Gould
May 11	Final exam	

Requirements and grading

1. There will be two essay exams; they are tentatively scheduled for March 2 and May 11, 2006. Each will require approximately two hours to complete. Exams will be graded on the accuracy and clarity of information you provide, the depth and breadth of understanding you display, and the cogency of arguments you present. An important part of each question or assignment will be your own evaluation or argument. A prospectus for each exam will be distributed no later than one week before the scheduled exam time. Each of the essay exams will constitute 25% of your final grade.
2. Enrolled students will be required to lead at least one hour of the seminar. If enrollment necessitates it, this may become the responsibility of students in groups. The group will consist of two or three students. Non-student participants will also be requested to join in leading individual or group sessions. Your performance in leading the seminar group will constitute 15% of your grade.
3. Class participation—including successful completion of assignments during the course of the semester—will constitute 10% of your final grade.
4. Enrolled undergraduate students will write a 12- to 15-page paper. These papers will have two components to them: expository and argumentative. The first part of the paper will explain some aspect or consequence of globalization in a depth that goes beyond our in-class treatment. And the second part of the paper will argue for some or against some response to this. Your own argument will also include your response to a couple of the best objections to your position. Details of this assignment will be distributed no later than February 10, 2006. Enrolled graduate students will write a 2- to 4- page book report, and the above assignment will be expected to be 18 to 20 pages. Your performance on this assignment will count for 25% of your class grade.

Policies

1. **Attendance:** Regular attendance, having prepared all assigned work, is expected of each student.

2. **Make-up work:** In the case of quizzes missed due to excused absences, make-up work will be scheduled at a time mutually agreeable to the instructor and student. In the case of quizzes missed due to unexcused absences, the quiz cannot be made up.
3. **Incompletes:** We adhere to the FHSU definition of an “T” (incomplete), which is “work of otherwise passing quality incomplete for adequate reasons, usually beyond the student’s control.”
4. **Academic honesty:** All members of the university community are expected to present only their own work as their own. Please see also “Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures” in the student handbook.
5. **Students with special needs:** Students are reminded of the FHSU policy on students with special needs, which can be found in the FHSU Catalog. Students with disabilities will be provided assistance in obtaining reasonable accommodations to meet their academic needs.
6. **Civility:** In all its classes FHSU expects students and faculty to treat each other with respect and civility. Disagreements and discussions of ideas is expected and encouraged; personal attacks and any sort of sexual or ethnic harassment are out of place.