

**AMST 212: "CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN GLOBAL ISSUES"**

Fall 2009

**Syllabus**

**Time:** Tuesday/Thursday 10:30am to 11:45am (Section 1) 12:00pm to 1:15pm (Section 2)  
**Instructor:** Miguel Llorca, Department of American Studies  
**Office:** Moore Hall 302  
**E-mail:** llorca@hawaii.edu  
**Office Hours:** MW from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. I am also available by appointment.

**Course Description:** This course is an exploration of contemporary global issues and attitudes within their historical contexts. It will track the influence of American values and institutions in the world and analyze the effects of US foreign policy from Asia to the Middle East. Our topics will take into account the diversity of American values and perspectives. These will include, but will not be limited to, foreign policy, the economy, the environment, national security, international diplomacy, and war. Concurrently, we will discuss the present role of the US in the world. Although we will be primarily looking at these issues within their historical context, the course is designed to draw on a variety of materials including film, literature, newspapers, documentaries, current news reports and other primary source material such as government documents.

**Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact on campus the KOKUA Program at (808) 956-7511 located at the Student Services Center on the ground floor, Room 013 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.**

**Grading:**

Attendance and Class Participation	20%
Quizzes and in-class writing assignments	20% (4 @ 5% each)
Writing Assignments (reaction papers)	60% (4 @ 15% each)

**Required Reading:**

Klein, Naomi. *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. New York: Picador, 2008  
 And a collection of articles that will make up an accessible and free **Online** Course Reader

**Attendance and Participation:** Your attendance and participation are an important component of the course and forms, along with attendance, 20% of your grade. Should you miss a class for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to make up missed assignments and readings. It is highly encouraged that you exchange email or telephone numbers with other students. **In the event that you missed a class and need to know that day's assignment, contact a fellow student for the information.** The 20% "Attendance and Participation" is broken down to include: 10% Attendance, 5% summary/presentation on a meeting/topic, and 5% one page write-up of your summary/presentation.

There will be several short in-class writing assignments and quizzes on your readings. In addition to the assigned texts, periodically we will discuss current news events and topics that are not covered on the syllabus. You will be responsible for these readings or I will provide them for you.

**Writing:** This is a writing intensive (W) course. As such, 80% of your final grade will consist of writing assignments. These are as follows:

Reaction/review papers: Four, 4-5 page reaction/review papers **due every 4<sup>th</sup> week (see dates below)**

In class writing assignments: Four, short answer quizzes **every 4<sup>th</sup> week (see dates below)**

**Note on the format for the formal writing assignments:** All material must be submitted typed, double-spaced in 12-point Times or Times New Roman font. Your name, the course number, date, and assignment name should appear on the top-left or right corner of the paper. Also, please number all the pages of the written assignments. Papers and other assignments must be submitted on the assigned date. Late and emailed papers will only be accepted in emergency circumstances.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):** The Department of American Studies has established SLOs for undergraduates in the program. The department's goal is to ensure undergraduates in AMST courses are able to reach these outcomes through courses such as this. The department's SLOs are:

1. **Substantial knowledge of American history, society, and culture, as well as a basic appreciation of different scholarly approaches to American Studies.**
2. **Critical thinking skills necessary to analyze a variety of cultural artifacts (literature, primary documents, film, music, etc.), as well as historical and present-day sociopolitical issues.**
3. **Competence in scholarly writing and oral communication.**
4. **Basic research skills, including advanced research skills in one area of specialization (majors only).**

This course is designed to contribute to these SLOs through a critical analysis of primary documents, films, and monographs on a variety of topics that engage contemporary American issues as they relate to the rest of the world. As it is also a Writing Intensive (W) course, it will contribute to the University of Hawaii's SLOs for written communication.

**Note on Academic Integrity:** This course will deal with controversial issues, and over the course of the semester, we will find that many of us hold different views. This should not stop you from fully expressing your opinions and even challenge your peers. However, please remain respectful of others' viewpoints and avoid mixing intellectual with personal attacks. All of your writing must be your own. Be sure to cite where appropriate the work of others. For an explanation of what constitutes plagiarism, please refer to the section on academic integrity in the UH Manoa catalog (<http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm>). If you have questions concerning citations and other issues in your writing, please contact me by email at any time.

### New World Order

- Week 1: New World Order**  
 August 25: Introduction and Orientation  
 August 27: Huntington, Samuel. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72.3 (1993): pp. 22-49.
- Week 2: Erasing and Remaking the World**  
 September 1: Rothkopf, D., "In Praise of Cultural Imperialism?" in: *Foreign Policy*, summer 1997, pp. 38-53.  
 September 3: \* **Erasing and Remaking the World: Shock Doctrine: pp. 3-25 & 59-87**  
**Film: Edward Said Lecture: The Myth of 'The Clash of Civilizations'**

**FIRST SHORT ANSWER QUIZ**

### American Globalization

#### Americanization, Counter-Culture, Inequality, and Conflict

- Week 3: Globalization**  
 September 8: Freidman, Thomas L. "Globalization 3.0" *Blueprint*; June 2005, Vol. 2005 Issue 2, pp. 36-41., Taibbi, Matt. "Flat N All That." *New York Press*, Wednesday, January 14, 2009., and Taibbi, Matt. "Flathead: The peculiar genius of Thomas L. Friedman." *Tuesday*, April 26, 2005.  
**Film: Wal\*Mart: the high cost of low prices**

September 10: \* **Economic Warfare Replaces Dictatorships: Shock Doctrine: PP. 177-193** and Merry, R.W., "The Great Friedman-Huntington Debate", in: *The International Economy*, Vol. 17:1 (winter 2003), pp. 12-15.

**Week 4: Americanization**

September 15: Van Elteren, M., "Rethinking Americanization Abroad: Toward a Critical Alternative to Prevailing Paradigms", in: *The Journal of American Culture*, 29:3 (September 2006), pp. 345-367.

September 17: Ghani, A. and C. Lockhart, "An Agenda for Harnessing Globalization", in: *The Washington Quarterly*, 29: 4 (autumn 2006), pp. 67-80.

**FIRST PAPER DUE: ANALYTICAL ESSAY**

**Week 5: Counter-Culture**

September 22: Artner, A., "Anti-Globalization Movements: The Developments in Asia", in: *Contemporary Politics*, Vol. 10: 3-4 (September-December 2004), pp. 243-255.

September 24: Hoffmann, S., "Clash of Globalizations", in: *Foreign Affairs*, July/Aug 2002, pp. 104-115.

**Week 6: Inequality and Conflict**

September 29: Stiglitz, J.E., "Globalism's Discontents", in: *American Prospect*, Winter 2002, pp. 16-21.

October 1: Romano, D. and R. Sandbrook, "Globalisation, Extremism and Violence in Poor Countries", in: *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 25(6), pp. 1007-1030.

**Film: The Corporation**

**SECOND SHORT ANSWER QUIZ**

**The Asian Financial Crisis**

**Week 7: The Asian Financial Crisis**

October 6: Prakash, A., "The East Asian Crisis and the Globalization Discourse", in: *Review of International Political Economy*, 8:1 (spring 2001), pp. 119-146.

October 8: Tong, Z., "The Development of China and World Trade", in: *Journal of World Trade*, 40:1 (February 2006), pp. 129-136.

**Week 8: More about the Asian Financial Crisis**

October 13: Stubbs, R., "ASEAN in 2003: Adversity and Response", in: *Southeast Asian Affairs*, 2004, pp. 3-17.

October 15: \* **The Looting of Asia:** Read: **Shock Doctrine: pp.332-354**

**Film: Niall Ferguson: The Ascent of Money**

**SECOND PAPER DUE: INTERPRETIVE ESSAY**

**Iraq**

**The American Empire, Militarism, and the Sorrows of Empire**

**Week 9: American Empire**

October 20: Rothkopf, D., "In Praise of Cultural Imperialism?", in: *Foreign Policy*, Summer 1997, pp. 38-53. Replace with McAlister, Melani. *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East, 1945-2000*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001. Sections TBA.

October 22: Berger, S., "Foreign Policy for the Global Age", in: *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2000, pp. 22-39.

**Week 10: Militarism 1**

October 27: Johnson, C., "Sorrows of Empire", in: *Foreign Policy in Focus* (Nov 2003), [www.fpiif.org](http://www.fpiif.org)

October 29: \* **The Rise of the Disaster Capitalism Complex: Shock Doctrine: pp.355-408**

**Film: Why We Fight**

**THIRD SHORT ANSWER QUIZ**

**Week 11: Militarism 2**

- November 3: Wallerstein, I., "The Eagle Has Crash Landed", in *Foreign Policy*, July 2002, pp. 60-68.  
 November 5: Mead, W.R., "America's Sticky Power", in: *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2004, pp. 46-53.

**Week 12: The Sorrow of Empire**

- November 10: Boswell, T., "American World Empire or Declining Hegemony", in: *Journal of World-Systems Research*, X: 2 (Summer 2004), pp. 516-524. and Steger, M., "From Market Globalism to Imperial Globalism: Ideology and American Power After 9/11", in: *Globalizations*, Vol. 2:1 (May 2005), pp. 31-46.  
 November 12: \* **Iraq, Full Circle, Overshock: Shock Doctrine: pp.409-484**  
**Film: No End in Sight**

**THIRD PAPER DUE: ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY**

**America in the World**

**Disaster Capitalism, Gender, the Environment, and the Future**

**Week 13: Disaster Capitalism**

- November 17: \* **Erasing and Remaking the World Redux: Shock Doctrine: pp. 91-120**, and Klein, N. and N. Smith. "The Shock Doctrine: A Discussion." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* Aug 2008, Vol 26 Issue 4, pp. 582-595  
 November 19: Chang, H.J., "Kicking Away the Ladder: The Real History of Free Trade", in: *Foreign Policy in Focus*, December 2003, pp. 1-18.  
**Film: Taxi to the Dark Side**

**Week 14: Gender**

- November 24: Women, Work, and Politics in Hillman, Richard. Ed. *Understanding Contemporary Latin America – 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2005. pp. 273-311  
 December 1: Ravillion, M., "The Debate on Globalization, Poverty, and Inequality", in: *International Affairs*, 79:4 (July 2003), pp. 739-753, and Sachs, J., "The Strategic Significance of Global Inequality", in: *The Washington Quarterly*, 24:3 (Summer 2001), pp. 187-198.  
**Film: China Blue, Señorita Extraviada, or Dual Injustice**

**FOURTH SHORT ANSWER QUIZ**

**Week 15: The Environment**

- December 3: Esty, D., "From Local to Global: The Changing Face of the Environmental Challenge", in: *SAIS Review*, 26:2 (Summer 2006), pp. 191-197, - Diamond, J. and J. Liu, "China's Environment in a Globalizing World", in: *Nature*, Vol. 435 (30 June 2005), pp. 1179-1186, and Goklany, I., "The Globalization of Well-Being", in: *Policy Analysis*, No. 447 (August 2002), pp. 1-20.  
**Film: An Inconvenient Truth**  
 December 8: Ferguson, N., "Sinking Globalization", in: *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2005, pp. 64-77

**Week 16: The Future of America**

- December 10: \* **Losing the Peace Incentive: Israel as Warning: Shock Doctrine: pp.535-589** and Hirst, P. and G. Thompson, "The Future of Globalization", in: *Cooperation and Conflict*, 37:3 (2002), pp. 247-265  
 December 12:

**FINAL PAPER DUE:**

**CHOOSE ONE: ANALYTICAL, INTERPRETIVE, OR ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY on a chapter in *Golden Arches East: McDonalds in East Asia 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition***