

## Topics in Globalization Summer Assignment 2011

Welcome to Topics in Globalization. This summer you will read or listen to professors, economists, journalists, and novelists that will introduce you to various perspectives on globalization. Before you begin, consider what you know about globalization. How would you personally define this concept? Based on what you know, are there examples of globalization around you? For example, if you are reading this on a computer, where was that computer made? Where did you buy it and how did it get to the store? As you will discover, globalization works on many scales, both large and small. We've narrowed this complex subject down to four essential questions, around which we center the course:

- What does it mean to be a global citizen?
- What is the U.S.'s role in the world? And how does the world see the U.S.?
- Why is the gap so big between developing and developed nations? Does it matter?
- How will globalization personally affect me beyond June 2012?

Keep your questions as well as the essential questions in mind as you read, listen, and take notes.

We will discuss these readings as soon as we get back in September. Additionally, in the first quarter, you will research and write about your position on one of the essential questions. Information from these sources will help you make a strong case for your viewpoint.

Non-fiction Reading – The assigned chapters can be found at the links below. You may also find the entire books in libraries or at Google Books.

1. Friedman, Thomas. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, chs. 1 and 3
2. Sachs, Jeffrey. *The End of Poverty*, ch.1
3. Zakaria, Fareed. *The Post-American World*, chs. 1 and 5
4. Weber, Steven and Bruce Jentleson. *The End of Arrogance: America in the Global Competition of Ideas*, Preface and ch. 5

### Viewing and Listening

1. "Hans Rosling on Global Population Growth." Ted Talk. July 2010.  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/hans\\_rosling\\_on\\_global\\_population\\_growth.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_on_global_population_growth.html) (Rosling is a professor of global health at Sweden's Karolinska Institute.)
2. "Dambisa Moyo." Ted Talk. Nov. 2009.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjiiM4jhbK&feature=relmfu> (Moyo is a Zambian economist and author of *Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa*.)

Fiction Reading – We believe literature is a unique way to gain insight about culture and history. Choose one of the following novels:

- *The Space Between Us* by Thrity Umrigar, which is set in Mumbai, India.
- *The Septembers of Shiraz* by Dalia Sofer, which is about Iran.
- *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez, which is about the Dominican Republic

Consider these questions as you read the novel: what view of the world does it offer? What are you learning about setting (time, place, culture) that is interesting, intriguing, or troubling? What aspects of the novel give rise to your responses?

Current Events – Finally, we believe that preparation for this class includes following the news on a daily basis. We encourage you to read newspapers or periodicals such as *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *The Week* either in print or online. Keep track of news stories that interest you and questions you have.