Course Overview: Since all economic activity depends on the integrity of the natural world, it is paramount that we understand the forces shaping the global economy and what the ecological implications are of this economic activity. This analyzes and critiques the international economic regime known as “globalization.” Rather than focusing exclusively on history, theories of globalization and free trade agreements, we will view globalization in its contested framework with regard to the environment. We will look at four areas of concern: land, water, energy and climate and evaluate globalization’s actual and potential effects on them.

Things to Consider: Globalization is a very controversial topic that elicits passionate emotions on both sides. So there are some concepts to keep in mind throughout the course:

1) Scale – Environmental degradation is not spatially or temporally equal.
2) Periphery vs. Center – No one disputes that there are winners and losers under a globalized economy. How did this come to be? And how does this situation contribute to environmental degradation?
3) Globalization of what? – Is globalization of trade also about spreading environmental protection through wealth accumulation (Kuznets curve)? Why or why not?
4) Environmental Sustainability? – What does it mean to you? Can it be achieved under a globalized world economy? Through which trade mechanisms (if any) can it be accomplished? Can the environmental regulations of nation-states be effective in the face of this trade regime? Why or why not?

Course Goals:

1) To help students develop a deeper understanding of history, key concepts, trends and issues regarding globalization’s effect on the environment.

2) To motivate students to evaluate all sides (or as many as possible) of the globalization argument, to think critically from an environmental studies/science standpoint and to form well-reasoned opinions.

3) To encourage students to formulate possible solutions to environmental problems in a globalized world.

4) To inspire students to actively engage with the world around them through scholarship AND participation in public debate over globalization.
Learning Objectives:

By the end of the term students should be able to:

1) Identify and name the specific major institutions involved in globalization and their functions.

2) Describe, in general, the different claims made by neoliberal economists, fair trade advocates, and “anti-globalization” activists.

3) Knowledgeably discuss the environmental impacts of various trade policies using examples/case studies.

4) Predict, using arguments presented in the readings and lectures, how a specific trade policy might affect one or all of the four study areas.

5) Demonstrate an understanding of the interconnections of the globalized economy with human society and the natural environment.

7) Articulate a coherent and informed opinion of globalization’s impact on environmental systems.

Required Text:


Available at: Black Sun Books
467 Hilyard St, Eugene.
Phone: 541.484.3777
Hours: Tues-Fri 10.00am - 5.00pm
Sat. 10.00am - 4.00pm

Course Requirements & Grading Criteria:

1) Attendance

Attendance will accounts for 10% of your grade while participation will account for 15% of the final grade.

Please respect the following requests:

- Turn off your cell phone and close your laptop
- Listen respectfully to other students
- Respect other students' points of view
- Do not monopolize the discussion
2) **Quizzes:** I will give five quizzes worth 15% throughout the term that will be on the reading material only. We will discuss the format of the quizzes in class.

3) **Group Activities:** You will have the opportunity to do a seminar presentation during the term that is worth 20% of your grade. You will be given areas to research that incorporate the readings and your group's exploration of the topic to discuss in class.

4) **Critical Responses**
   Please read the course material before the class and understand the main concepts. You are required to prepare two three page written response on one or more of the readings. The responses are due at the beginning of the first class of the week and will be 10 pts/each. The readings will be posted to Canvas, under "Files."

   Response papers should contain a summary of the main ideas/issues raised in the article and your critical response to the information presented in the article. The response writings should be a maximum of 3 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins.

5) **Midterm:** The open book midterm will be worth 15% of your grade and will consist of short answer and essay questions.

6) **Oral Conference:** This will be a short consultation with me about the issues we covered in class. This is not a test or a debate. This is your time to tell me individually your views on globalization and what you found useful about the course, what concerns you, etc. This will be worth 5% of your grade.

7) **Final:** The take home final will be worth 15% of your grade and will consist of short answer and essay questions. We will discuss in class whether a test or a final project will work best for students.

8) **Grading**

   10%  Attendance (20 days) - 0.5/day
   15%  Quizzes (5) - 3pts/quiz
   20%  Seminar Presentation - 20pts
   20%  2 Reading Reviews (3 pages each) - 10pts/paper
   15%  Midterm Exam - 15pts
   5%   Oral Conference - 5pts
   15%  Final (take home) - 15pts

10) **Policies**
   • **Course Expectations:** As mentioned, I expect each of you to do assigned readings before class, and turn in all responses on time.
   • **Attendance Policy:** I expect you to attend class regularly and participate in the class discussion. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a fellow student.
Sue Dockstader, Columbia 254A  
Office Hours: 9.00am - 10.00am M,W

- **Academic Integrity:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. You may check the University Catalog and/or the Schedule of Classes for definitions. Plagiarism software “Vericite” provided by University of Oregon, will be used to ensure compliance.

**Due Dates/Make Up Work:** Examinations must be taken as scheduled. Make-ups will be allowed only if you have contacted me **before** the scheduled date.

**Readings**

I may modify the reading list as I find more up-to-date, interesting articles. But I will give you a week’s notice and replacements will not longer than originals.

**Week 1 Capitalism/Imperial Beginnings and Results**

**28 March**  

**30 March** *(Guest Lecturer: Julie Bacon on Settler Colonialism)*  
2) Fred Magdoff and John Bellamy Foster. (2011). (pp. 37-60)

**Week 2 What is Globalization?**

**4 April**  
1) Fred Magdoff and John Bellamy Foster. (2011). (pp. 61 - 76)

**6 April**  


**Week 3 - Forests**

**11 April**  
1) Fred Magdoff and John Bellamy Foster. (2011). (pp.77-82)

31April


Week 4 - Agriculture

18April


20April


Midterm

Week 5 Water (Freshwater Privatization)

25April


27April
  3) "Fast Track for Trade Deals Would Expand Privatization of Public Services"


Week 6 Freshwater/Oceans

2May
Sue Dockstader, Columbia 254A  
Office Hours: 9.00am - 10.00am M,W

4May

Week 7 Fossil Fuel Energy
9May


11May


Week 8 Technology/Alternative Energies
16May


18May


Week 9 Climate Change
23May


**Week 10: Student Interviews/Final**